

TRANSFORMED

Willie and Lisa J., Parents

Who could imagine that a shy and somewhat clumsy five-year-old would blossom into an outgoing, graceful young lady? We believe that Linda Wade and her team do more than imagine it, they help make it happen every day. Their encouragement, guidance, and godly leadership helped transform our daughter, Tori, a 16-year-old senior who has been involved at Above the Clouds more than half her life.



Photo by Tyler Mejer

No longer shy, Tori joyfully ministers through dance. She loves working with younger children. Understanding the importance and joy of giving back, she volunteered as the assistant dance teacher for the Level 1/2 Ballet Class with Mrs. Brunner for two years. It was her turn to encourage others.

Under the tutelage of Kim Brunner, not only has Tori's dance vocabulary increased, but her carriage, performance, and style have grown more graceful. This poised young lady who not only floats beautifully across the stage, but also lights up the theater as an actress, is a far cry from the little girl who used to bump into the walls as she raced from room to room.

We don't know where the Lord will lead Tori after she graduates in May. She has been accepted to universities both in and out of town. However, if she stays in Milwaukee, we know that she will want to continue to be involved at Above the Clouds.



Students and Parents Attend The NUTCRACKER

More than 55 students and parents attended the Milwaukee Ballet's production of "The Nutcracker" thanks to our board member Sarah Kasdorf and the Milwaukee Ballet. Participants from Above the Clouds also had an opportunity to take a ballet class prior to the performance. *What an amazing experience!*



Our Level 6/7 ballet students were invited once again to dance at a Milwaukee Bucks game.

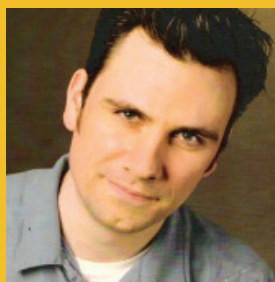


ATC Level 6/7 ballet students had an opportunity to **dance at an opera** called "Amahl and the Night Visitors," thanks to our own board member and director of opera Diane Stewart.

ATC FAMILY FOCUS

There isn't any doubt that teaching for Above the Clouds has transformed our lives. We first came to Above the Clouds in 2007, shortly after we moved to Milwaukee from the Los Angeles area. Lori grew up in the Milwaukee area, but Ryan hailed from Portland, Oregon. Upon relocating to Milwaukee, it was clear to us that Milwaukee had become a struggling city, suffering from the negative effects of poverty, segregation, crime, violence, and the disintegration of city neighborhoods that were once thriving. Our hearts were drawn to serve the city any way we could, and shortly after that a friend mentioned that Above the Clouds was in need of a drama teacher. From the first class we taught, we knew the Lord had led us there for a reason.

What we have gained from our experience is two-fold: first, a deep appreciation for the way the arts can heal and unite broken communities, families, and, most importantly, youth. Second, compassion and a greater love for this city's children, who can often be a part of a demographic that is seen but not heard, prayed for but not always reached out to. We've learned that there are people with pure servant's hearts who are actively working with the city's youths and families to give them opportunities denied them or not accessible to them, and a chance to receive encouragement. Ryan had discovered his calling to teach special education first for MPS and now in the Brown Deer School District. Lori has had Above the Clouds students attend children's theatre offerings



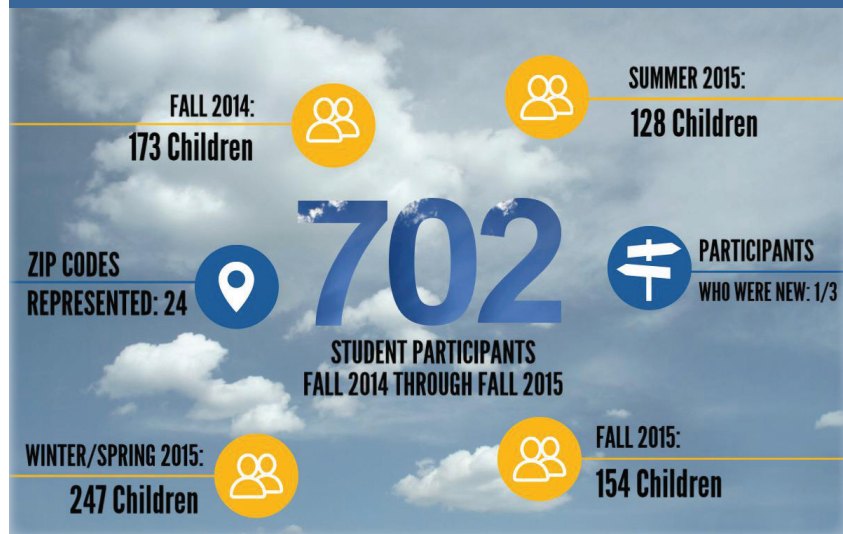
Ryan and Lori Schaufler

at Concordia University Wisconsin, where she teaches. Because of Above the Clouds, several Concordia students had developed a heart for children in the city and plan to continue to serve them. Now that we are parents of two young children, it has been great seeing how much Above the Clouds has helped our daughter develop an interest in dance and worship through her classes.

We have been involved as actors and directors for Morningstar Productions, Acacia Theatre, Brinkman Adventures Christian radio program, and Concordia University, as well as films, commercials, and voice-overs. We also teach Sunday school at Eastbrook Church. We feel tremendously blessed to have encountered for Linda Wade and the Above the Clouds team. We thank God for all that He is doing to heal our city and to save His children.

CLASS STATISTICS: STUDENTS SERVED BY ABOVE THE CLOUDS

HOW TO SUPPORT ABOVE THE CLOUDS



- Become a Friend of Above The Clouds with a gift of \$35 and receive our quarterly newsletters and invitations to special events, or become a Major Donor at \$250.
- Consider sponsoring a child for the cost of \$560 per child. With that they can attend a class of their choosing for one year.
- Sponsor our spring recital for \$2500 or more. With this sponsorship you help all students showcase their talent before friends and family at our yearly recital.
- Volunteer or intern as a classroom helper or assist with projects and day-to-day office activities or special events.

Call **414.344.3019** for more information about how you can help!

THE ATC MISSION: To expose children ages 5-17 to the creative arts/movement – free of charge – in a safe and loving atmosphere, in order to expand their minds for appreciation of the arts, for personal enhancements and the possibility of pursuing a career in the arts while instilling biblical truths.

Above The Clouds: Celebrating more than 15 years of service to more than 4500 young people. "For as the heavens are higher than the earth so are my ways higher than your ways..." Isaiah 55:9