

Celebrating our 16th Year Serving Western New York



danceability

Summer 2022

Danceability is an individualized dance, fitness and movement program serving the special needs community. Our studio is led by qualified staff and dedicated volunteers who create a nurturing environment that empowers our students to flourish and grow while promoting a healthy lifestyle...and we have a little fun along the way.

Back onstage - where we belong!



On Saturday, May 7, 2022 we celebrated our 15th Annual Performances back onstage at a new venue, Hilbert College. Our two performances gave our dancers their chance to shine and show off all they worked on during the year.

Unfortunately, COVID-19 disrupted many of our dancers plans and they were unable to join us for the show in-person. They danced along at home on the livestream (see photos below) and we made sure we found ways to recognize them on this special day.

They say it takes a village, and that was certainly true to make this year's performances a reality. Thanks to our incredible teachers, dedicated volunteers, sponsors, show week volunteers, families and community members who cheered on our dancers!

Save the date:
May 13, 2023
for our 16th Annual
Performances!



Thank you to our show sponsors:

ASI WNY

Transit Lanes

Program Savvy Consulting

Down Syndrome Parent Group of WNY

Burden Hafner & Hansen, LLC

Embrace The Difference

My Salon Suite

Serv-Pro of Buffalo-Tonawanda

WGRZ-TV

Dr. Shannon Herr

Summer Dance Camp Recap

Generously supported by the Tower Foundation and Children's Foundation

Summer Dance

Our six-week summer dance is back after being virtual in 2020 and on hiatus last year. This year's program is the biggest ever! Eighty students are once again dancing in our beautiful studios, THIRTY of them are brand new to *danceability*.

We have some of our youngest dancers ever, as well as older adults trying us out for the first time. You are never too old to get moving and grooving...and you should!

We could not have done it without the generous grant funding and support from the Tower Foundation and the Children's Foundation.

We also can't leave out our amazing volunteers from all over WNY who have given us their time this summer. THANK YOU!



Second Generation Theatre Company Classes

This summer, *danceability* partnered with Second Generation Theatre Company to provide a theatre class to interested dancers. For each of the six weeks, professional actors led and engaged students in a variety of theatre games and character exercises. The class was so popular, we hope to bring it back in the near future.

Second Generation Theatre Company is a professional 501(c)3 theatre company based in Buffalo, NY that was founded in 2013 by University at Buffalo graduates Kristin Bentley, Ann Lee Dandes and Kelly Copps. Their mission is to create powerful theatrical experiences that speak to and unite a community of diverse backgrounds, and to continually cultivate appreciation and understanding in audiences of all generations through education and engagement.



Summer Fitness

Fitness is back! In person! We have had fun sweating together, getting stronger and laughing together! While virtual fitness was a lot of fun and we built our endurance, being back in the studio gave us the chance to use our boxing bags, steps, weights, medicine balls and more. Fitness Frenzy will be back this fall. We will run three sessions on Mondays throughout the year - two in person and one virtual. More information will be out soon!

Community Support

Danceability received grant funding from the following foundations/organizations over the past year:

- ⇒ Erie County 2022 Cultural Funding
- ⇒ NYS Council on the Arts Regrant Program/Arts Services Inc.
- ⇒ Parker Hannifin Foundation
- ⇒ John R. Oishei Foundation
- ⇒ 3M Foundation
- ⇒ Robin & Sharon Tomasula Foundation at the Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo
- ⇒ Kelly for Kids
- ⇒ Peter & Elizabeth Tower Foundation
- ⇒ Children's Foundation of Erie County

We are extremely grateful and indebted to these foundations and organizations for recognizing *danceability's* commitment to the WNY community and for their financial assistance.

The following companies, groups and organizations raised funds throughout the year to support *danceability*.

- ⇒ Cup of CommuniTEA
- ⇒ 2021 Give716 Day
- ⇒ MusicalFare Holiday Cabaret
- ⇒ Charter School for Applied Technologies Dress Down Day
- ⇒ Jazzy Christmas
- ⇒ Carmarie's Dance Studio
- ⇒ Nardin Academy Dress Down Day



Does your workplace or school host dress down days, charitable events, or fundraising drives?

Consider *danceability!*

We can supply you with informational materials.
Contact us at: danceabilitywny@gmail.com

Ways You Can Support *danceability*

There are so many easy ways to support *danceability!*
Here's just a few of the many ways you can get involved:

- ⇒ Did you know that your United Way Donor Designation can go to *danceability*? Donor Code#5363
- ⇒ We are already looking for basket raffle donations for our Fall Meat & Veggie Raffle and our winter Online Auction. If you or your business are interested in making a donation, simply call the studio at (716) 651-0094 ahead of time to arrange a drop-off.
- ⇒ We are currently seeking board members to represent our rural and urban community and marketing committee members. Our Board and committees are a very hands on way to make a difference for our dancers. Email us at danceabilitywny@gmail.com if interested with your resume.
- ⇒ Support us through Amazon Smile or purchase of Embrace the Difference jewelry.

Warm Welcome



We are excited to add two new teachers to our staff for the upcoming year (and you may recognize them as they both volunteered with *danceability* this past year). **Miss Tori Yackle** graduated from Daemen University with a Master's in Social Work this past May. She currently works for Assigned Counsel Program where she works with the defense to provide services that can be used as an alternative for serving jail time. Miss Tori has been dancing since she was five and is trained in many styles including tap, jazz, hip hop, ballet and more. She has danced competitively and danced for a few local dance companies during her college years. We are excited for our dancers to meet her this fall.

Miss Chrissy Palczewski started dancing at age 2. At the age of 14 she was scouted by a dance agency in NYC and signed with McDonald Selznick Associates. After high school, she studied at UB and received a BFA in dance. She then moved to NYC to pursue her professional dance career. For the next ten years, she lived between NYC and LA dancing and teaching children dance classes. She performed in commercials, music videos, television, tours and live shows. After a decade, she decided to move back to Buffalo and is currently studying Early Childhood Education at ECC. She also teaches preschool full-time in Orchard Park. She was introduced to *danceability* in spring 2022 and began volunteering immediately. She is beyond thrilled to join the teaching faculty!



We are also excited to welcome a handful of new board members to our family! Welcome **Kayleigh Terranova** (you may remember her as Miss Kayleigh - one of our past teachers), **Kathryn Smith, Petrina Sciandra and Adaia Wheeler**. We are always looking for new board members and are in need of a parent representative and diverse candidates. We are also hoping to add someone with expertise in commercial leasing and/or building maintenance.

Thank You For Your Leadership

As we turned the page to a new calendar year on July 1, we said "see you later" (definitely not goodbye) to three very important members of the *danceability* family: Mary Beth Debus, Diane Klein and Vilona Trachtenberg, who finished up their board service. The title "Board Member" doesn't do any of them justice, as each went above and beyond that role assisting with so much more!

Mary Beth as our Board Chair, consistent sponsor of our programming, leader behind our strategic plan, parent advocate and so much more.

Diane served as marketing committee chair, assisted and planned many of our fundraisers, helped in the office and sewed and hemmed many of our performance costumes.

Vilona served on our marketing committee, wrote numerous blogs for us and always found us the connections we needed!

THANK YOU!



Mary Beth Debus with her daughter & dancer, Eliza

Student Spotlight: Marshall Tryon



Marshall has been a student at *danceability* for the past three years. His favorite part of dance class is doing the twist! He looks forward to seeing his friends and bouncing on the blue ball when he arrives at the studio each week. Other than dance class, Marshall also loves swimming and riding his bike.

Marshall's parents, Tracy & Tom, shared that *"he is better able to 'attend' than when he first started. He looks forward to every class and has even begun making up his own dances and giving them a variety of amusing names. This is the only program he truly enjoys participating in. This is a phenomenal place for kids with needs great and small. They are able to find a place for everyone. The volunteers are an amazing part of this program and their hard work and dedication show in the recitals."*

We're so proud of you, Marshall and we're so happy to see your smile each week!



Volunteer Spotlight: Liz Dierenfield

Meet Liz Dierenfield - she's been volunteering with us since 2020 and has been a fantastic addition to our Thursday night classes. Outside of *danceability*, Liz works full-time as a social worker at the Veterans Administration.

Here's what Liz had to say about her volunteer journey:

"Danceability is a consistent highlight of every week! I first heard about the organization through Amanda Wnuk, a danceability teacher, friend and former coworker, when I wanted to take up dancing again since moving back to Buffalo. I can't recommend danceability highly enough - great music every week, teachers and fellow volunteers, students and their families feel like a second family, and you just have a lot of fun every week. My advice would be to ask any questions you might have of the program, and try something new! You'll make connections with really good people."



Are you a historian at heart? Do you love photography? We are looking for a volunteer to help us catalog, sort and organize our 15+ years of photos. You can work at your own pace as your schedule allows. Contact us at danceabilitywny@gmail.com for more information!

Message from our Executive Director

Hello *danceability* supporters,

Danceability is so excited to start our 16th season! The last few years have been tough, but dancing has always pulled us through.

While we are still remaining vigilant, we hope to have a wonderful season with a studio full of our long-time dancers and first-timers, young and “older”.

We will still have small classes as we have always tried to do because we want to ensure that our dancers get that individualized attention even though they are in a class setting.

We are hoping to continue to grow and enroll new dancers!

Thanks to the community’s generous support on 716 Day, we will be able to offer scholarships and transportation assistance to individuals in underserved areas who still don’t know that programs like ours exist. If you know someone who might like to participate, please share our information with them. We want to give everyone a “chance to dance”!

Thank you for your continued support of our program. We can’t do it without you!

- *Robin Bishop, Executive Director & Co-Founder*



Join danceability for the 2022-2023 season



*Celebrating our 16th season
serving Western New York!*



Join as a DANCER...

- Weekly dance and movement classes from September to May
- Classes Monday - Thursday evenings
- All ages and abilities welcome!

NEW DANCER

OPEN HOUSE

Thursday, August 18
4pm - 8pm



NEW VOLUNTEER

OPEN HOUSE

Tuesday, September 13
5pm - 8pm

Join as a VOLUNTEER...

- No dance experience needed
- Must be 16+ (*we get volunteers from all walks of life!*)
- One hour a week from September - May

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

2365 George Urban Boulevard, Depew, NY ~ (716) 651-0094 ~ info@danceabilityinc.org

Save The Dates:

Returning Dancer & Volunteer Registration Opens Online:

Monday, August 1, 2022
at www.danceabilityinc.org

NEW Dancer Open House:

Thursday, August 18, 2022
4 - 8pm at the studio

NEW Volunteer Open House:

September 13, 2022
5 - 8pm at the studio

Chiavetta's Chicken Dinner Fundraiser

September 13, 2022
4 - 8pm at studio

\$15 each (includes chicken, two sides, roll)

Pre-order at danceabilityinc.ludus.com

First Week of Classes:

September 19 - 22, 2022

Stay connected! Find us on:



Depew, NY 14043

2365 George Urban Boulevard

