

Moving in the Spirit
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Fact Sheet

DESCRIPTION: Moving in the Spirit is a nationally recognized youth development program that uses dance to positively transform the lives of children and teens in Atlanta, GA.

MISSION: Moving in the Spirit's mission is to EDUCATE, INSPIRE and UNITE young people through dance, in order to help them become successful and compassionate leaders.

HISTORY: Moving in the Spirit began in 1986 as the hopeful vision of Dana Lupton and Leah Mann, who believed that they could unite their love for dance with their commitment to social justice in order to transform the lives of Atlanta's urban youth. What began as a small dance class at Stewart Avenue Shelter, has blossomed into a large and diverse organization reaching 200 children every week across Atlanta. Moving in the Spirit was initially founded as an agency of FCS URBAN MINISTRIES, and became a separate nonprofit in 1996.

BENEFITS: Moving in the Spirit offers a unique combination of performance, leadership and mentorship opportunities that encourage young people to make positive lifestyle decisions, attain higher levels of academic achievement and develop a healthy self-concept. Compared to Georgia's 56% graduation rate, 100% of our seniors over the past five years have graduated high school and gone on to college, vocational school or military careers.

AWARDS: In its 23 year history, Moving in the Spirit has been the recipient of numerous awards and accolades, including the national Coming Up Taller Award, presented by the President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities (2005). Most recently, we have received the 2008 Southern Innovators Award, and the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Community Service Award, presented by Emory University. In 2006, the Fulton County Board of Commissioners declared a "Moving in the Spirit Appreciation Day," in honor of our service to the community.

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