



Moving in the Spirit

2009-2010 Annual Report



When I first met Danielle Aldred, she was a beautiful, sparkly 11-year-old dancer in our Junior Company. Now sixteen and a veteran leader in our Apprentice Corporation, Danielle is one of the most responsible, conscientious and courageous young dancers on our team. The past two years have been overwhelming for Danielle as she's learned to carry the weight of the world on her perfectly balanced shoulders. Teenage pressures, family challenges, caring for her siblings, and juggling her many academic and artistic commitments caused Dani to suffer constant migraines. The stress of adult responsibilities seemed to ring out like a chorus in her mind, "you are not enough."

Danielle found refuge at Moving in the Spirit, her safe place, and continued to grow despite some hostile circumstances beyond her control. Through her leadership and resiliency, she earned a spot on our 2010 Tour, which included an incredible stop at Sallie Smith's mountain retreat in Highlands, North Carolina.

As we drove up the steep gravel hill toward Sallie's home, I glanced in the rearview mirror of the van and saw panic on Danielle's face. "Where are we going?" Danielle asked nervously. Behind her million-dollar smile was a city girl allergic to nature and afraid of the outdoors. Over the roar of the van's engine, I responded with fervor, "We are going to the mountains so that each of us can find our mission and calling in life! We will create artistic work that has been waiting to be born!" Dani immediately responded, "You mean we will be *outside*?" As the dancers poured out of the passenger van, Danielle suspiciously surveyed her surroundings before letting her feet touch the ground.



After two short, glorious days in the mountains, I heard laughter and shrieks of joy from Danielle and her friends as they explored the land and their hearts. Each dancer adventured, risked and worked hard to create dance solos that revealed their wondrous spirits. “Where are you showing your solo, Dani?” I asked, expecting to head into the house. Our eyes met and she said, “Outside by the lake, in the grass.” That day, I witnessed the sacred come down and fill the souls of Danielle and her fellow dancers, opening up their worlds, as mountain angels watched their movement epiphanies and applauded through pine-coated arms. I felt the weight and worry lift from Danielle as she freed herself from the enormous challenges she left behind in the city. I watched Danielle Aldred embrace all that she is, transform and be forever changed.

I am so honored that you make experiences like this possible for hundreds of young people in our community. You create miracles every day. Thank you for continuing to support Moving in the Spirit’s young leaders as they change the world in profound ways.

Sincerely,

Dana Lupton
Executive & Artistic Director





Mission and Vision

Moving in the Spirit is a nationally recognized youth development program that uses dance as a vehicle to positively transform the lives of children and teens in Atlanta, Georgia. Through programs that integrate high quality dance instruction with performance, leadership and mentor opportunities, Moving in the Spirit impacts over 200 children and teens annually, encouraging them to overcome the obstacles they face each day and realize the potential for their lives. Ultimately, Moving in the Spirit educates, inspires and unites young people through dance, in order to help them become successful and compassionate leaders.

Population Served

In the 2009-2010 program year, Moving in the Spirit directly served 262 youth through our programming, and over 3,000 additional patrons through performances and presentations. We served children ages 3-5 (23%), 5-7 (20%), 8-12 (45%) and 13-18 (12%). Participants were 82% African American, 11% Euro-American, 3% Hispanic, and 4% Multi-Racial. Moving in the Spirit serves diverse populations of young people, including those from Atlanta's most challenged and under-resourced neighborhoods. With the generous support of our patrons and donors, Moving in the Spirit provided need-based scholarships to 95 participants, many with household incomes below state and national poverty levels.

Financial Statement

Public Support and Revenue

Contributions	\$ 438,622
Government Grants	\$ 74,650
Performance and Teaching Fees	\$ 37,533
Donated Goods and Services	\$ 43,154
Rental Income	\$ 10,980
Investment Income	\$ 866
Other Income	\$ 2,996
Total Public Support and Revenue	\$ 608,801

Expenses

Program Services	\$ 363,832
Supporting Services	
Management and General	\$ 163,026
Fundraising	\$ 61,346
Total Expenses	\$ 588,204



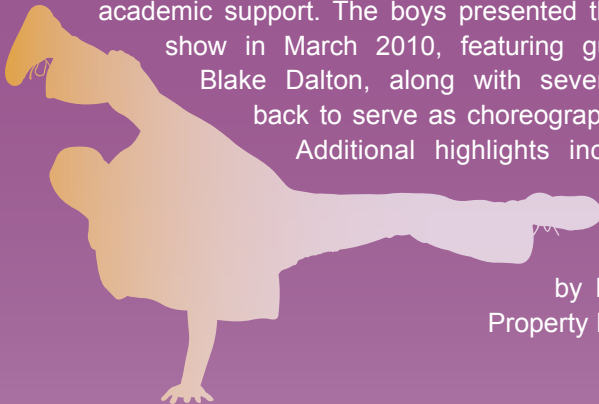
Program Highlights

THE APPRENTICE CORPORATION, Moving in the Spirit's advanced training program, reached 14 dancers who received 5 hours of weekly instruction in modern dance, improvisation and choreography. They also studied weekly at Atlanta Ballet to support their technique. Students created and performed choreography for The Rialto Center for the Arts at Georgia State University, The Carter Center and Atlantic Station, and were featured performers in an evening of professional dance-theater works presented by Fly-By Theatre and Ground Delivery Dance. Apprentice Corporation dancers continuously put their leadership skills into practice, taking on production responsibilities, working as teaching assistants for younger students and serving as representatives to the Board of Directors. The company took a 10-day educational tour through Georgia and North Carolina, visiting college campuses and sharing their uplifting dances with new audiences.

THE JUNIOR COMPANY, Moving in the Spirit's intermediate level company for girls ages 8-12, reached 16 dancers who met for 3 hours weekly to study modern dance and take part in leadership training. Junior Company girls participated in a special collaboration with female athletes from Georgia State University, in which the students and athletes generated new choreography under the guidance of director and Moving in the Spirit alumna, Corissa Castle Wood. Their piece was presented during The Junior Company's second annual production, "You Grow Girl: Blooming into Leadership," in June. The event included remarks by notable female leaders from the community who support our young ladies, including Nwandi Lawson, Wendy Binns, Stacey Ruth and Atlanta City Council member Carla Smith.

MEN IN MOTION reached 18 boys with 90 minutes of weekly instruction in athletic and modern dance styles. Directed by Moving in the Spirit alumnus Chris McCord, Men in Motion students received leadership training, encouragement from mentors, and exceptional levels of personal and academic support. The boys presented their 7th Annual Men in Motion show in March 2010, featuring guest artists Daryl Foster and Blake Dalton, along with seven program alums who came back to serve as choreographers, coaches and performers.

Additional highlights included performances for The Big Kidz Foundation and a new "Founding Fathers" fundraising campaign initiated by Ralph G. Edwards, Jr. of EBS Property Investments.





STEPPING STONES served 184 children with 60 minutes of weekly dance instruction. Students learned creative movement and modern dance technique, and were encouraged to set personal goals and work collaboratively as a group. Moving in the Spirit also provided Stepping Stones classes to the following community partners: The Atlanta Children's Shelter, The Warren/Holyfield Boys and Girls Club, The Ron Clark Academy, and NFL's Youth Education Town. Stepping Stones dancers were featured in "Education Revolution," a collaboration with poet Alice Lovelace and visual artist Sal Brownfield. Original music for the show was created by 16-year-old Moving in the Spirit alumnus Charles Bennett and the acoustic duo Rising Appalachia. Presented by The Rialto Center for the Arts at Georgia State University, the performance reached an audience of 668 people!

With the loyalty of our donors, supporters and volunteers, Moving in the Spirit has finished a remarkable 23rd year of service. Community demand for our services reached a historic peak, as we **served more students** than ever before and had **waiting lists for nearly every class**. Moving in the Spirit's community impact was **recognized nationally** by Dance Studio Life magazine, and locally by Atlanta Intown and The Atlanta Journal-Constitution. We were highlighted once again as **leaders in the field of youth development** at the Coming Up Taller Conference in Washington, DC. While the state of Georgia continues to struggle with low graduation rates, **100% of Moving in the Spirit's seniors graduated** from high school. One hundred percent of parents stated that Moving in the Spirit encouraged their children to improve their communication skills, problem-solving abilities and self discipline. Surmounting financial challenges, Moving in the Spirit demonstrated exceptional leadership and fiscal responsibility. We are proud to have finished the year with an **operating surplus** that will be used to replenish reserve funds and prepare for growth.

Evaluations

Moving in the Spirit measures outcomes throughout the program year, to ensure that all students are fully impacted by our dance and educational offerings. Evaluations are administered by Dr. Charné Furcron-Mack, a professional counselor and registered dance therapist. We are delighted to share this year's fantastic results:

Students ages 3-7, evaluated through our Pro-Social Checklist, showed progress in active listening and focus, cooperating with peers and ability to resolve conflicts. The Piers Harris 2 Self Concept Test, utilized with youth ages 8-18, revealed improvements in students' self concept, emotional health, intellectual functioning and positive behavior. A Modern Dance Technique Assessment revealed a 40% increase in learned skills.

In the year-end feedback survey, participants stated that Moving in the Spirit helped them improve in the following: setting personal goals (96%); working hard in school (91%); finding alternatives to violence (95%); avoiding drugs (87%); and participating in activities to improve the community (97%).





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Student Representatives



Faculty & Staff

Dana Marie Lupton, Co-founder and Executive Artistic Director
Leah Mann, Co-founder and Artistic Director Emeritus
Geneve Stewart, Managing Director
Dr. Charné Furcron-Mack, Director of Outreach
Blake Beckham, Development Director
Corissa Castle Wood, Stepping Stones and Junior Company Director
Chris McCord, Director of Men in Motion, Camp and Facilities
Kacey Dennis, Mentor Director and Volunteer Coordinator
Erin Weller Dalton, Development and Communications Coordinator
Ellen Maynard, Assistant to the Executive Director

Teaching Artists

Dana Marie Lupton
Corissa Castle Wood
Chris McCord
Erin Weller Dalton
Dr. Charné Furcron-Mack
Juana Farfán
M. DeLa Sweeney

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Sharon Sibley
Francine Labiran
Iza Gustin
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Special Thanks To

Holiday Store Co Chairs:

Colie Neidlinger and Tyler Gardner

Summer 2009 Tour Hosts:

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Dougald Monroe Jr.

John Santa

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Leah Jackson

Chuck Hicks

Shawn Bowman-Hicks

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Gayle Cummings and Jean Redding

Organization Partners:

FCS Urban Ministries

Atlanta Ballet

Ron Clark Academy

Warren/Holyfield Boys and Girls Club

Atlanta Children's Shelter

NFL Youth Education Town

Rialto Center for the Arts at Georgia State University

7 Stages Youth Creates

Exceptional Volunteers & Artists

Celeste Miller

Greg Catellier

Sal Brownfield

Alice Lovelace

Susan Eldridge

Nwandi Lawson, Reve Productions

Stacey Ruth, The Wow Factory

Merle Hoch

Kim Trimble

Lori Teague

Ellen Ishino Rankart

Ward Jenkins

Wendy Binns

Randi Williams, Volunteer of the Year

JD Scott, Pioneer Award

James Stewart, Mentor of the Year

Moving in the Spirit Donors

July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2010

Transformation (\$20,000 - \$60,500)

Fulton County Board of
Commissioners under the guidance
of the Fulton County Arts Council
The Community Foundation
for Greater Atlanta

The Zeist Foundation
Watkins Christian Foundation
Erin & Michael Forestner
Sherpa! Web Studios

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Atlanta Falcons Youth Foundation
with support from Teammates for Kids
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INSPIRE EDUCATE UNITE

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