



United We Dance

Dancers from area to perform in support of United Way

By Heather Ruenz
STAFF WRITER

Dance is highly collaborative, according to Colleen Huberty, director of Toe To Toe Ballet School in Elkhorn. And in a few weeks, several dance companies from throughout the area will do just that in an effort to help others.

The event, United We Dance, will be at 7 p.m. Saturday, March 7, at Elkhorn Area High School. It's being touted as an evening of culture and dance with all of the proceeds going to benefit United Way of Walworth County.

But it's more than that, according to Huberty, who is chairing the event.

"This is very important for our dancers to work together to benefit our greater community," she said.

Huberty said dance schools and studios aren't in competition with each other because they each offer something different.

"It's not unusual at all to visit other studios to see choreography or share a dancer," she said.

Calling in the troupes

Because she's been in the business for years, she said this was

an opportunity for her to reach out to all the people she knows in the dance community.

"They were all really excited about it. Some had competitions or other things going on that prevented them from joining us, but other than that, everyone wanted to be part of it," Huberty said.

Dancers from the following schools/studios are set to perform: Ballet Folklorico de San Patricio; Broadway Academy of Art & Dance (Lake Geneva); Dreams Studio (Elkhorn); Elite Performance Infusion Center (Lake Geneva); Main Stage Academy of Dance (feeder for Bray Ballet, Oconomowoc); Midwest Dance Center (Burlington); Next Step Dance Studio (Franklin); Toe To Toe Ballet School (Elkhorn); University of Wisconsin-Whitewater Theater/Dance; and the Walworth County Cloggers.

Not a dance recital

To say Huberty is excited about the lineup, which will feature dancers from kids to adult, might be an understatement.

"Main Stage (Bray Ballet) will bring the dancers that will be going to the New York finals, Ballet Folklorico will bring a Mexican dance to the show and

UW-Whitewater will feature a group of four of their dancers," she said.

"This event is going to feature an amazing level of performance," Huberty added with a smile.

The UW-Whitewater troupe – featuring David Bauer, Jonathan Lotti, Molly Robbins and Kayley Stoner – will perform "LA-852 Hz," choreographed by Kayla Knuth, according to Huberty.

"Everyone will do their own thing and it'll be a great variety. This will not be a dance recital... it'll be a culture and dance performance," Huberty said.

She said a lot of the dance groups participating have students from throughout the area, so while the studios are located in certain cities, the March 7 event will feature dancers representing numerous communities.

It's about community

Tammy Dunn, executive director for United Way of Walworth County, said she could hardly believe it when Huberty approached her with the idea.

"Colleen is my angel for thinking of this. I just love the united theme and know it will help us reach so many people," Dunn said.

The mission of United Way of Walworth County is to unite communities, increase and focus resources and inspire people to measurably improve citizens' lives. To achieve this, United Way fundraises and supports more than 40 programs and services that are addressing the critical human needs facing county residents.

Charitable agencies submit funding requests to United Way annually. The requests are reviewed by a team of local experts in the fields of health, education and finance and grants are distributed in January and July.

United Way also offers an emergency resource helpline – Dial 211, a free prescription savings card – FamilyWise, hosts meetings to unite the agencies it supports, connects project and volunteers in the county and hosts a Day of Action.

How you can help

Elkhorn Area High School, which is donating use of its facilities for United We Dance, is at 482 E. Geneva St.

The James A. Wehner Auditorium at the high school features reserved seating. Advance tickets are \$10 and can be ordered at www.tututix.com/unitedwedance and

printed out or saved on guests' phones.

Any remaining tickets will be available at the door for \$12.

"The great thing about reserved seating is they can show up shortly before it starts and go straight to their seats," Huberty said.

In addition to proceeds from ticket sales, United Way will benefit from raffles and concessions. Raffle prizes are still needed.

There are also numerous sponsorship opportunities for United We Dance, including the following:

- \$250 will include a logo in the dance program and on-site event banner and being listed as a United Way of Walworth County Business Circle on the website;

- \$500, in addition to the above, will see the donor get an onstage mention and one social media mention;

- \$1,000, in addition to the above items, will feature another social media mention and a half page ad in the United We Dance program.

Huberty said putting United We Dance together has been an enjoyable experience.

"This was really fun for me. It's super cool for our dancers, their families, our communities and for United Way and all the ways they reach people," Huberty said.

"I think dance has always brought the community together and that's what I see this doing," she added.

To donate a raffle prize or become a sponsor for United We Dance, call 262-374-4474 or email tammy@unitedwaywalworth.org.

“This event is going to feature an amazing level of performance.”

Colleen Huberty



Next Step Dance Studio, Franklin



Toe To Toe Ballet School, Elkhorn



Bray Ballet / Main Stage Academy of Dance, Oconomowoc

SUBMITTED PHOTOS Southern Lakes Newspapers

On Saturday, March 7, dance companies from throughout the area (including those pictured) will team up for United We Dance, an event whose proceeds will support United Way of Walworth County. Tickets for the event are \$10 in advance and \$12 at the door. It will be held in the James A. Wehner Auditorium at Elkhorn Area High School.

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