

DARBY'S DANCERS NEWSLETTER

A STAR IS BORN

Contact Information

Darby's Dancers National
Organization (501(c)(3))

707 Chase Road

Huntsville, AL 35811

www.darbysdancers.com

Email us:
darbysdancers@yahoo.com

Facebook
(darbysdancersnp)

Instagram
(darbysdancers_ntl)

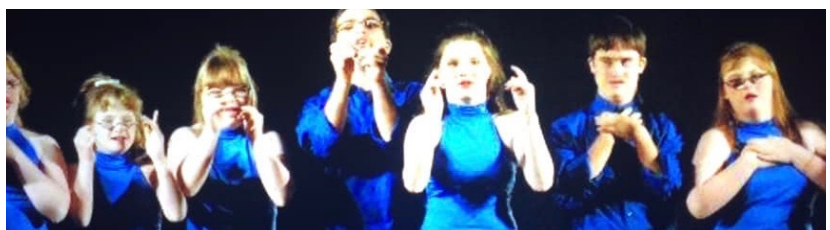
Calling All Models

One of the major dance costume companies, **Curtain Call**, has asked us to provide them with some models to try on their new line of sensory friendly costumes. Curtain Call corporate offices are in York, Pennsylvania. If your child is tactile defensive and you think you might be interested in this fun opportunity, please email me. We don't have all the details yet about what will be involved in going to PA, but I will know very soon. April 25-26. Email if you would like more information.



Double Good Foundation

We can't thank the Double Good Company and the Double Good Foundation enough for so generously choosing us to be one of the partners that they sponsor. On Valentine's Day, they featured a story on their website about Darby and our organization, "A Star is Born". Not only is our Darby a star, but each dancer that participates in our program is a star as well! When you support your studio by participating in a Double Good fundraiser, you are supporting your local chapter, the national organization and a cause for achieving inclusion and community for all. It's so simple, so little time to invest, no hassles and some delicious gourmet popcorn in the





New College Program for Darby's Dancers

When 21 year old Hannelie Hawes left for college after being a volunteer coach for Darby's Dancers in Maple Grove, MN, her desire to continue to participate with the program continued. Completely on her own, this young lady approached the sponsors of the service clubs at the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, MN and told them she wanted to start a dance program for young adults with special needs at her college. Next month, her first class will start! She is working under the Special Olympics club for now and if all goes well, she will have her own Darby's Dancers club next year. Securing volunteers from fellow Dance Team members and participants from Special Olympics, Hannelie will be able to start a class which she will teach herself. Hannelie took dance for many years and danced on her high school dance team and continues to dance on her college team. This group will be comprised of young adults helping young adults, peers with peers. How awesome is that?? (see more below)

end. Please participate when your studio does a fundraiser. It is for YOUR kids. If you want to buy popcorn any other time, you can order online and 50% will go to the national organization which supports us in bringing as many programs as we can to children just like yours. Here is the link to our fabulous story about Darby, Darby's Dancers and all of you! Many thanks to Double Good!

<https://blog.doublegood.com/2019/02/11/a-star-is-born-darbys-dancers/>

Social Media Outreach Coordinator

Please meet Maci Clemmons, our new social media coordinator for Darby's Dancers! I'm sure you have seen a big change in our social media posts lately. That is because this lady right here is doing a terrific job. We now have studio spotlights, student and volunteer testimonials, videos, and lots of fun stories about the Darby's Dancers children all over the country. If you haven't seen them, you need to like and follow



our page and keep up with all that is happening. Maci and her husband, Martez, live in Huntsville, Alabama. Maci is the sister of Cami Hladky, one of Darby's friends from her dance group at Merrimack Hall. Maci is a graduate of University of Alabama Huntsville and has a degree in communications. She is a Disney enthusiast who worked in the Disney World theaters in Orlando for some time. She has run the social media platforms for several businesses and currently is employed by the Huntsville Museum of Art. Maci has a passion for the inclusion of children and young adults with special needs and is a great addition to our team. Thank you, Maci, for all you do!

College Program (con't)

Here is what Hennelie had to say about her experience with the Darby's Dancers program:

"I was first introduced to Darby's as a sophomore in high school, through my dance studio, Kincade Dance Industries. When Dawn Turner brought up the idea to our studio, it sounded like the perfect fit for me. As someone who not only loves kids and dance, but was also planning on being a neuroscience major, I was thrilled at the idea of joining a program like Darby's. It was the perfect way for me to do what I loved while giving back to the community around me.

Little did I know that Darby's would change my life for the better. The first year that the program started, I was paired with Ryan Hooker as his coach. It truly felt like God had chosen us to be together because once classes started, we were inseparable. Ryan and I worked so well together and had the time of our lives during classes each and every week. Although my time as his coach was over after three years, I am happy to say that the bond we created during Darby's has allowed us to still stay connected and to still see each other to this day.

Darby's taught me more than I could have ever imagined. Not only did it teach me patience, communication skills, and leadership, but it taught me so much more about life itself. Working with Ryan and the other kids that were part of Darby's showed me that life doesn't need to be perfect in order to find happiness. Each and every one of them had every right to be angry at life for what they were dealing with, but chose not to be. They showed me that true happiness was simply a decision we have the opportunity to make each day, no matter the circumstances.

I will forever be thankful for Darby's and everything the program stands for. The relationships built, life lessons learned, and memories made through this incredible program are things that have made me a better person, and are things that I will carry with me for the rest of my life."

Congratulations Hennelie and thank you so much! Take notice college dance team members, let's get this ball rolling! Contact me for business details. You **must** connect with the national organization before you can start a program.

(Ryan and Hennelie, friends forever)

