



My name is Michele Santiago, and I am the program director for Magic City Youth Organization. We are a new non-profit organization that coordinates dance programs for inner-city and at-risk youth. We hold "gym days" to schools in Jefferson and Shelby counties, which does arts outreach to grade school children. We have partnered up with select Birmingham YMCAs, Hoover Parks & Recreation, Birmingham Parks & Recreation, and Fairfield Parks & Recreation, which enables us to be one of the most affordable dance programs in Jefferson County. However, many families are still unable to afford lessons.

The arts teaches students to:

- Understand human experiences, both past and present;
- Adapt to and respect others' ways of thinking, working, and expressing themselves;
- Learn artistic modes of problem solving, which bring an array of expressive, analytical, and developmental tools to every human situation;
- Understand the influence of the arts, in their power to create and reflect cultures, in the impact of design on virtually all we use in daily life, and in the interdependence of work in the arts with the broader worlds of ideas and actions;
- Make decisions in situations where there are no standard answers; Analyze nonverbal communication and make informed judgments about cultural products and issues; and,
- Communicate thoughts and feelings in a variety of modes, giving them a vastly more powerful repertoire of self-expression.

After-school Arts Programs also:

- Decreases drop-out rates
- Develop self-esteem & leadership skills
- Teaches children time management skills
- Decreases childhood obesity rates

As a child growing up in the out-skirts of Chicago to a single-parent that worked two jobs, my family was not able to afford studio instruction. I can relate to the many parents that call to ask about our dance programs, but are on public assistance. With your help, we can make dance programs a dream for many underserved communities. By adopting a dancer, your contribution can promote arts outreach and encouraging children to do their best.

Yours in the Arts,

Michele Santiago
Program Director, Magic City Youth Organization

MAGIC CITY YOUTH ORGANIZATION

Michele Santiago, Program Director
PO Box 661201, Birmingham, AL 35266 PH/VM 205.821.9710

Email: MagicCityYO@yahoo.com

Visit Our Website [Http://www.magiccityyouth.org](http://www.magiccityyouth.org)



Classes Available for Children:

12-week sessions (Fall and Spring) or a Summer short program–

- Wee Ballet Class (ages 2 ½ - 6)
- Girls Dance Teams (1st grade & up)
- Boys Hip Hop Crew (1st grade & up)
- Co-ed Colorguard (4th Grade & up)

Practice Sites Include:

Bluff Park Community Center (Hoover)
Downtown YMCA (city-wide practices)
Fairfield Community Center*
Northeast YMCA*

Shades Valley YMCA*
YMCA Youth Center
Birmingham Park & Recreation Centers (Spring 2009)

* Immediate need for these particular practice sites.

How Your Contributions Can Help:

Adopt-a-Dancer funds are distributed in many ways. These include:

- providing dance wear or dance shoes for students in need
- T-shirts for all program participants. (Your company logo will be displayed on the design.)
- wages for teaching assistants to provide quality instruction
- admission & transportation for field trips
- performance equipment & costumes
- rental space for classes
- stage rental for Holiday showcase or Spring Showcase
- Program printing for Spring Showcase
- scholarships for families on public assistance

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Scholarship Programs

- \$300 Provides Year-round instruction for 1 child, dance shoes or colorguard flag, team shirt, and performance uniform
- \$500 Provides Year-round instruction for 2 children (usually within the same family), dance shoes or colorguard flag, team shirt, and performance uniforms and one outreach day at a public school
- \$1000 Sponsors one After-school class (Fall or Spring Session) for one of the MCYO practice sites. Students that participate are required to have an exceptional school record, and are committed to both Fall & Spring sessions (up to 16 students). Note: Urgent funding is needed for Fairfield Community & YMCA Youth Center.
- \$2500 Sponsors After-school instruction for 2 sessions (Fall, Spring or Summer) for of the MCYO practice sites (up to 16 students), admission & transportation for MCYO's field trip (TBD- a theatrical production or a Winter-guard International Competition).
- \$5000 Sponsors A full block of classes at any of MCYO's practice sites (Girls' Dance Team, Boys Hip-hop, Colorguard & Wee Ballet) for an entire year (up to 16 students per class), and an MCYO field trip

Thank You for Supporting Arts Education in Birmingham

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Date: _____

Company or Organization: _____

Contact Person: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

We would like to participate in Magic City Youth Organization's "Adopt a Dancer" Program by donating: (check all that apply)

- \$300 Provides year-round instruction for 1 child (2 consecutive sessions)
- \$500 Provides year round instruction for 2 children (usually within the same family) and an outreach day at a public school
- \$1000 Sponsors one After-school class (Fall or Spring Session) for one of the MCYO practice sites up to 12 students*.
- \$2500 Sponsors After-school instruction (1 class) for 2 sessions, including MCYO field trip for up to 12 students*.
- \$5000 Sponsors A full block of classes (4 classes) at any of MCYO's practice sites, including MCYO field trip*.
- \$_____ Spotlight Sponsor. Funds will be used toward good grades and perfect attendance incentives. Minimum donation: \$300.00
- \$_____ Stage Sponsor. Your organization or company name will be displayed on signage throughout the showcase and in the program. Minimum donation: \$500.00
- \$_____ Red Carpet Sponsor. Funds will be used for showcase program printing, field trip, lunch & Transportation to a MCYO field trip TBD by the board (Musical Theatre performance, a WGI competition or a CoDance competition.). Minimum donation: \$1000.

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Your donation is tax-deductible.

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