

the
EMPOWER
FOUNDATION



annual report
2019-2020

FY July 2019 – June 2020
FY July 2020 – December 2020

Our mission is to provide young artists, regardless of economic circumstances, exposure to the power & pursuit of the arts focused around dance.

A Note From Nicole

Our theme for the Foundation last year was: "it takes a village" and little did we know how essential our village would be. Even though our village looked completely different in 2020, I am so grateful that we banded together to create something magical for hundreds of dancers in the Durham community and beyond.

It is an understatement to say we have faced some challenges this year. As a Studio, we had to shut our doors completely and undergo some reorganization by June. That means we had to press pause on the program with the Boys and Girls Club, an initiative that is near and dear to my heart, and other programs that benefit our community.

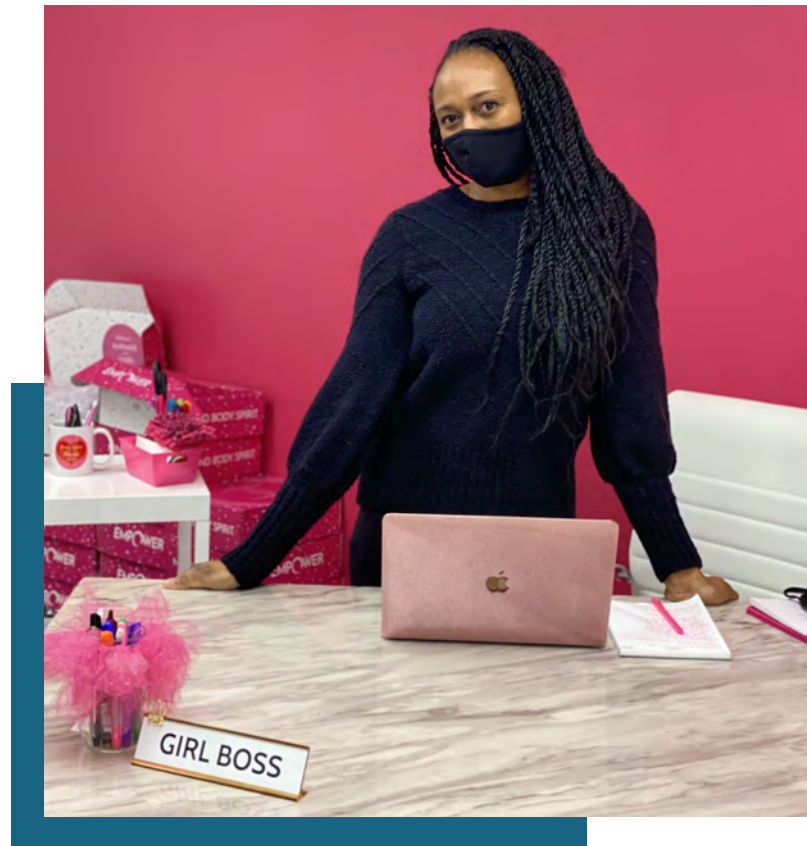
Despite these major shifts, I have been so proud of what Empower has accomplished during this difficult time. We have been able to keep the doors open, virtually and most recently safely in-person. Additionally, we had to switch from facilitating our outreach programs, which we've had since the beginning of the Foundation, to providing tuition scholarships to our families in need for online classes.

Our lives have been touched by the generous donations that have flooded in. Even though we had less people giving overall, those who contributed have donated more than we have ever seen before. We also received grant funding to implement new programs with new and established outreach partners. I am humbled and grateful for your support this year, a year when we needed it the most.

Lastly, I wanted to share a story from this past year that embodies what the Empower Dance Foundation has set out to accomplish. During the height of the pandemic in May, our young dancer Evangelina was having a tough time and missed her in-person dance classes. One of our teachers reached out and went to her porch to teach ballet from a safe distance. This is what you are supporting: how far Empower is willing to go for quality dance education and community village building.

Looking ahead can seem daunting and scary, because we don't know what to expect in 2021 and beyond. But if the outpouring of support that we received this year is any indication of what is to come, I can confidently say that I am looking forward to it.

So thank you, truly from the bottom of my heart for supporting the Empower Dance Foundation this year and for years to come.



EMPOWERED TO **grow**

Income

Our total contributed revenue was **\$91,721.64***

Astonishingly, we have seen an outpouring of support for the Foundation.

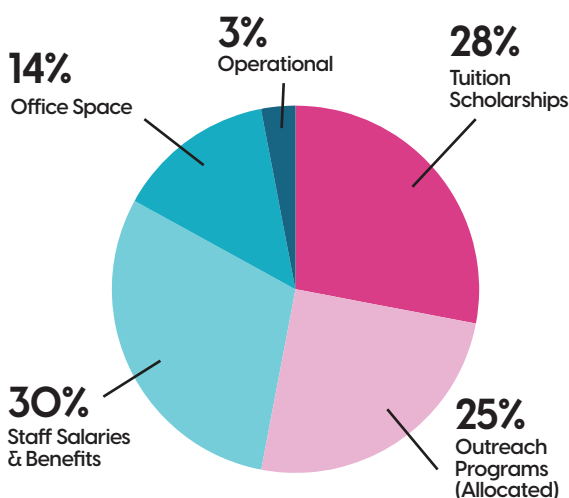
Individual Giving: Through the support of 46 individual donors, we've raised \$7,315

Institutional/Corporate Giving: With the generous support of business in our community and beyond, we've raised \$16,144.64

Government/Grant Giving: The foundation has been awarded with a total of \$67,287 in grants.

Since 2017
we have
raised over
\$143,931.23

Expenses



Of the amount we raised, **\$53,173.30** is allocated for tuition scholarships and outreach programs.

At this point we have spent \$27,870.64 that has helped over 54 students. Our average cost per student for a full year is \$1,500 and we are grateful to be able to cover costs for the 23 students currently on scholarship at Empower. These funds have been spent covering the costs for students to participate in Academy and dance sessions, as well as covering costumes and showing fees.

*as of January 3rd, 2021. The fiscal year has been updated to the calendar year and these numbers include December 2019 actuals

Testimonials

“Being able to see my son William participate with Empower Dance studio was amazing!! He became serious about a career in dance during the summer of 2020. The Empower team made it a dream come true for him. His skill set is improving so much and this would not have been possible without this team and the scholarship. Empower Dance has been the best thing that has happened for my son during 2020.”

Dance Mom Lille Hill
(son William Hill, pictured below)



“Participating in Empower Dance has meant so much to me. I have learned so much from all of the instructors. I was about to give up on ballet because I didn't feel confident but thanks to Ms. Nicole, I feel that I did a great job. I want to be a professional dancer in the future. Thanks to this opportunity; I feel that I'm on the right track with what I've learned from Empower Dance.”

Ashanti (Student U and/or Boys & Girls Club)

“Our students really enjoyed the program! It was really amazing to see Karime, a student who has battled with anxiety in previous years, dance & perform with confidence! She really enjoyed the teachers and being able to learn something new! Mrs. Bellamy noted that she really enjoyed seeing Ashanti back in her element dancing and performing since she wasn't able to do her normal routine due to the pandemic. This program has allowed our students to learn something new with all the materials they need to succeed in it. This is our first time doing this type of program for our middle schoolers and we're definitely interested in doing it again!”

Bria Davenport, Student U Middle School Program Director

Program Overview

We currently operate a scholarship fund, community workshops, and outreach programs.

The General Scholarship Fund is our core program, established so young dancers in need can attend classes at Empower Dance Studio. Need-based scholarships are applied to tuition, dance clothing, costume fees, and summer camps.

Community Workshops & Classes bring the power of the arts and dance to communities with limited access and exposure to dance. These outreach programs included dance classes and workshops in schools and community centers, community panels and forums, and community performances.

Grant Funded Outreach Programs
Funded by the Mary Duke Biddle Foundation (K-12 Education Program Grant): Student U
Funded by the National Recreation Foundation: Boys & Girls Club of Durham and Orange Counties

Through generous funding from the Mary Duke Biddle Foundation and the National Recreation Foundation, we have partnered with **Boys & Girls Club of Greater Durham and**

Orange Counties and **Student U** to provide students from underserved neighborhoods an opportunity to learn dance in a safe, encouraging, and enriching environment. In addition to covering all the costs of participating in the dance program, these types of partnerships offer Empower a unique position to inspire youth to become productive lifelong learners of dance.

The **M-Power Boys** Initiative aims to reduce the stigma against male dancers by providing direct opportunities for boys to dance. Male M-Power instructors will teach a variety of dance styles. Boys will access the benefits of dance, experience positive relationships with male models, and increase their personal empowerment.

Looking Ahead...

The **Empower Ballet School** will be a conservatory school that supports underrepresented youth in the competitive field of classical ballet. The Ballet School aims to eliminate barriers such as economic inequality, structural racism, and lack of representation.

Expanded Tuition Scholarships
Because of the support we received in 2020, we have enough funding for more tuition scholarships, up to 20 students.

“Providing dance attire is a valuable opportunity to boost self-image and self-esteem. Children with proper dance attire report feelings of belonging and increased desire to participate.”

EMPOWERED TO support

Roll Call!

Sustained Support Donors

These individuals and organizations that have consistently supported the foundation since the beginning and we wanted to give them a special shoutout.

Bree Carnes
Amadou Diop
Meredith Martindale
Eliza Mathew
Dee McDougal

Verona Middleton
Lauren & Jeff Miller
Beth Navon
Pamela Owens
Alece Oxendine

Christina Oxendine
Pamela Oxendine
Natarsha Sanders
Casey Steinbacher
Myra Weise

Andrea Woods Valdes
Pacific Western Bank

Established Support

These are the new donors we are so excited to add to the community of givers.

I Uplift (\$1-\$99)

Morgan Carney
Anonymous
Kelly Clarke
Miles Crumley
Rebecca Fensholt
Melani Harris
Ateisha Hudson
Sharron
Hunter-Rainey
Jessica Jones
Rebecca Jules
Lee Lichtenwalter

Eliza Mathew
Maximillian Matthews
Rebecca Michael
Alece Oxendine
Pamela Oxendine
Donnell Perry
Photography
Adeirdre Riley
Elizabeth Scott
Teka Selman
Anonymous
Anonymous

I Nurture (\$100-\$249)

Oke Anakwenze
Maria Evans
Leann Hinson
Loretta Jefferson
Lori S. Jones Gibbs
Dyaz Mcdougal
Verona Middleton
Lydia Mikhalyants
Beth Navon
Natarsha Sanders
Ripple Sandhu
Janelle Terry
Charles Thompson
Andrea Woods Valdes

I Encourage (\$250-\$499)

Anonymous
Amadou Diop
Meredythe Holmes
Shari Hubert
Lila M. Leff
Meredith Martindale
Verona Middleton
Casey Steinbacher
Edith Grey, LLC
Myra Weise

I am Beautiful (\$500-\$999)

Facebook Giving
Erika Vinson
Pamela Owens
Christina Oxendine

I am Confident (\$1,000-\$9,999)

Bree Carnes
Culture Over Everything care of Rapsody
Enterprise Holdings care of Jason Davis
Lauren & Jeff Miller Family Foundation
Anonymous
biwa|Emergent Equity
Durham Arts Council
Wyndham Robertson

I Empower (\$10,000+)

Mary Duke Biddle Foundation
CBC/Wral Community Fund
Pacific Western Bank
National Recreation Foundation

EMPOWERED TO **be me**



I AM
EMPOWER
DANCE

I USE DANCE AS A FORM OF EXPRESSION

I UPLIFT

I NURTURE

I ENCOURAGE

I AM BEAUTIFUL

I AM CONFIDENT

I AM HERE

MY FAITH EMPOWERS MY MOVEMENT

MIND, BODY, AND SPIRIT

I EMPOWER

Board Members

Casey Steinbacher, Board Chair
Dee McDougal, Vice Chair
Beth Navon, Treasurer
Myra Weiss, Secretary
Meredythe Holmes
Meredith Martindale
Amadou Diop
Andrea Woods Valdes

Key Staff

Nicole Oxendine, Founder and Director
Alece Oxendine, Content Manager
Anna Fletcher, Community Manager
Carmel Young, Studio Manager
Leyla Moavenzadeh, Photographer

Instructors
Kyra Alston,
Emylice Landestoy
McDaniel Roberts
Erika Vinson
Carmel Young

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Learn more at
EmpowerDanceFoundation.org

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