

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

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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.

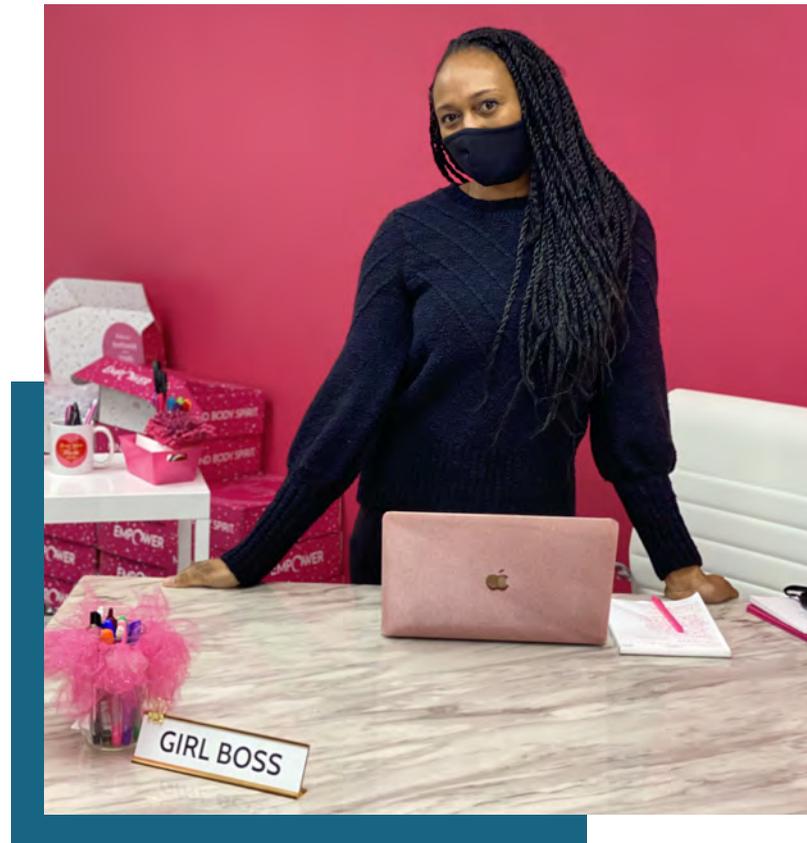
Despite these major shifts, I have been so proud of what Empower has accomplished during this difficult time. We have been able to keep the doors open, virtually and most recently safely in-person. Additionally, we had to switch from facilitating our outreach programs, which we've had since the beginning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

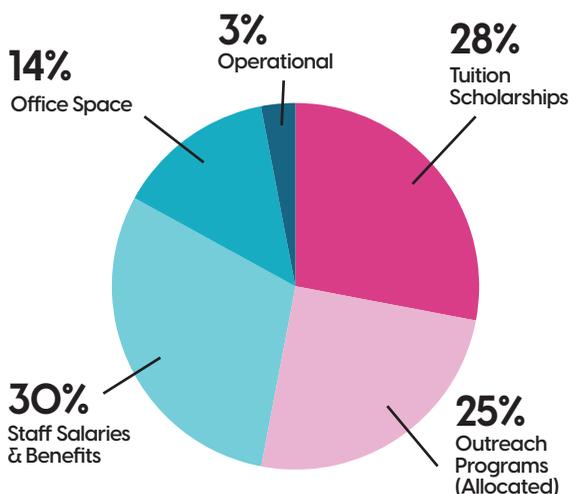
**Individual Giving:** Through the support of 46 individual donors, we've raised \$7,315

**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

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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

the  
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Learn more at  
[EmpowerDanceFoundation.org](http://EmpowerDanceFoundation.org)

Email & PayPal donations:  
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Tel: 984.377.2017



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