

# DANCE MARATHON

AT THE UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Dance Marathon at the University of Florida Celebrates its 21st Event**

GAINESVILLE, Fla. – Dance Marathon at UF will celebrate its 21st event next weekend, March 14 and 15 at the Stephen C. O’Connell Center. More than 800 UF students will stay awake and on their feet for 26.2 hours to symbolize the long periods of illnesses and obstacles pediatric patients and their families face.

All of the money raised will be donated to UF Health Shands Children’s Hospital, Gainesville’s local Children’s Miracle Network Hospital. The money is used for research, purchasing state-of-the-art equipment and diversionary activities for patients.

“It’s no secret that Dance Marathon at UF has faced new challenges this year. I am extremely proud of the student body for their unwavering support and efforts. In the midst of these changes they have truly risen up For the Kids,” Taylor Chambers, Overall Director of Dance Marathon at UF 2015, said.

“Their success is a testament to the fact that no obstacle can stand in the way of their passion to help create brighter futures for the kids we serve.”

The event is free and open to the public. Opening ceremonies will start Saturday at 11:20 a.m. Closing ceremonies start at Sunday at 1:20 p.m.

Learning the highly anticipated line dance, watching live performances, playing interactive games and participating in various themed hours keep Dancers motivated throughout the event. Miracle Families affected by CMN Hospitals will also be present to tell their stories and inspire attendees.

More

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"In our 21st year, we are more excited than ever to celebrate the hard work of over 6,700 students, faculty, sponsors and alumni. But most of all, we are excited to celebrate the kids and their courage," Chambers said.

*Dance Marathon at the University of Florida is a yearlong philanthropy raising funds and awareness for the UF Health Shands Children's Hospital, Gainesville's local Children's Miracle Network Hospital. Fundraising events are held for an entire year leading up to the final event in April where 800 UF students will stand for 26.2 hours. These dancers stand to symbolize the pain and long periods of time pediatric patients spend in the hospital. Dance Marathon will be held March 14-15, 2015 at the Stephen C. O'Connell Center.*

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