

Dance Marathon & Healthy Campus Initiative

Dance Marathon Overview

Dance Marathon at UCLA is an annual event organized by the Pediatric AIDS Coalition. Dancers take a literal stand against Pediatric HIV/AIDS by dancing for 26 hours inside Pauley Pavilion. Dancers and volunteers learn about the disease as well as hear from individuals who have been personally touched by the disease.

The Pediatric AIDS Coalition

The Pediatric AIDS Coalition first began as Dance Marathon in 2002. Today, this group of 20 committee members raising \$27,000 to a team of 150 members planning and executing an event that raised almost \$450,000 in 2015. Five years ago, the organizing team for Dance Marathon turned into a yearlong organization which is currently the largest student-run philanthropic organization on the West Coast.



The Healthy Meal at DM

To achieve our goal of healthier meals, we aimed to replace unhealthy choices with healthier, fresher meals. For lunch, dancers will be treated to Subway sandwiches, which provide both various vegetables as well as protein. This meal is supported by the Healthy Campus Initiative. Additionally, we were able to supply fresh walnuts, apples, and strawberries during meals. These fresh meals will significantly help our dancers on their 26 hour journey.

We aim to provide healthy, fulfilling meals for our 1,200 dancers. Dance Marathon is a non-profit fundraising event, so we rely on donations from restaurants and vendors. In past years, this usually meant getting food from local franchises, which resulted in low quality and unhealthy meals. This year, we worked with various partners to arrange economical, healthy donations for the dancers' meals. We are thrilled to have the support of the Healthy Campus Initiative for a second year.



Goals

Encourage Personal Responsibility

By giving participants healthy options for the event, we hope to show students how healthy choices can benefit their physical activity, and hopefully inspire them to make similar choices in everyday life

Strive to Reduce Inequities in Health

Dance Marathon's main beneficiary, the Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation seeks to fight two of the main inequalities present in health, treatment for the disease and the stigma associated with it

Respect Diversity

The event brings together students, faculty, as well as children and adults affected by HIV/AIDS. At Dance Marathon, we welcome participants and guests to embrace their backgrounds as well as share their story to fight the stigma associated with the disease.

Conclusion

During this year's Dance Marathon on April 2nd-3rd 2016, we hope to achieve all of our goals through the Healthy Campus Initiative. Not only has this program given us the necessary resources to provide a healthier lunch, but it has also inspired the planning committee to outline an overall healthier meal plan for the event by incorporating other various healthy options. Overall, we hope that this will improve the experience for our participants and ensure that they are given the necessary fuel to finish the entire 26 hour marathon. In the end, we have reached over 1,200 students and taught them about the health inequalities present locally and globally with respect with HIV and AIDS.



Acknowledgements

Thank you to Jane and Terry Semel for their vision and support for the Healthy Campus Initiative, and for the HCI leadership, including Gene Block, Scott Waugh, and Wendelin Slusser.