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# DARBY'S DANCERS NEWSLETTER

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## Contact Information

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Please feel free to contact us at any time with your questions or concerns. We also LOVE to get pictures of your children and hear stories about them.

## Fundraising Idea

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Contact your local Kiwanis, Rotary, Lions or any other service organization and tell them about your program. They are always looking for good causes to support and many have grants available. Send them some pictures or share our promotional video. A picture is worth a thousand words!

## “Darbyism” of the Month

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“Be brave like me!”



## Exciting Growth

In July 2015, we signed up our 3rd Darby's Dancers studio. In July 2017, we signed up our 24th Darby's Dancers studio. That's not bad growth over a two year period! We are very excited that things have gone so well. We still have the goal of at least one program in each state. Tell your friends and family about us wherever they may live and help us spread the word. See pages 3-5 for a list of all our locations.

## Featured Studio

We would like to congratulate Inspire Dance in Fredericksburg,





VA as our featured studio this month. Even though Inspire is no longer in operation, we still appreciate all that they have done as our 3rd studio to sign up 2 years ago. Thank you, owner Ashley Slem, for believing in us when we didn't have much to offer!! Ashley is going to continue running the Darby's Dancers program at Creative Movement Dance in Fredericksburg, so we really aren't saying good-bye. We are excited to see what the next year brings for Ashley, Melissa and the Darby's Dancers kids in their new location. One of Darby's former doctors (periodontist) now lives and practices in Fredericksburg and when he learned about Darby's Dancers, he was ready to help. Thank you Dr. Thanos Ntounis for your support. Small world, isn't it?

### Volunteer of the Month

This is Alexa Watson (and Emily) from Forest Lake, Minnesota and she dances and volunteers at The Dance Factory in Forest Lake. Alexa had a sister with special needs who passed away when Lexie was only 5 years old. Ten years later, she is a volunteer with Darby's Dancers and the experience has helped her with her personal situation. Alexa says she loves to see the result of the kids' hard work pay off. It made her heart happy at the recital to see the joy on the children's faces and in the faces of their parents and all the people in the audience. Getting to know the kids personally and to work with them individually was very satisfying for Alexa. She describes her involvement with Darby's Dancers as "truly amazing"! Thank you, Alexa for all that you do for our program.

### Featured Dancer

Meet **Ava Huggins** from St. Michael, Minnesota! Ava dances at The Dance Complex in Maple Grove, MN. This was her



first year as a Darby's Dancer and her mother says that it was a dream come true for both Ava and herself. Ava was born completely blind with a retinal disease called Lebers Congenital Amaroisis. That doesn't stop Ava one bit. You should see her dancing on stage! This year Ava participated in two dance competitions, four dance recitals and she rocked the stage during the daddy-daughter dance during the recital. At the studio, she made lifelong friends and was able to be part of the team. Ava's mom says they are very thankful that Darby's Dancers allows kids with special needs to shine.

Besides dancing, Ava loves to sing, play the piano, read, hang out with friends and family, swim, create stories, listen to music, learn to play instruments and play with her little brother, Carter.

You can help support kids like Ava and help us to bring our program to as many communities as possible by donating on our website at [www.darbysdancers.com](http://www.darbysdancers.com). Our programs rely on donations and sponsorships to operate and are offered to the families at absolutely no cost.

## Darby's Dancers Locations

### CALIFORNIA

Expressions Dance & Movement Center  
Santee, CA

### GEORGIA

Gigi's Playhouse  
Atlanta, GA

Northeast Georgia School of Music & Dance  
Gainesville, GA

### ILLINOIS

Steps to Grace Dance  
Rockford, IL

### MICHIGAN

Integrity School of Dance Arts  
Byron Center, MI

MINNESOTA

QC Dance

Blaine, MN

The Dance Factory

Forest Lake, MN

The Dance Complex

Maple Grove, MN

Artistic Sole Dance Academy

St. Michael, MN

Woodbury Dance Center

Woodbury, MN

MISSOURI

Arts in Motion School of Dance and Music

St. Louis, MO

NORTH CAROLINA

Edenton Dance Stars

Edenton, NC

NORTH DAKOTA

Red River Dance

Fargo, ND

OHIO

Dance Evolution

Stow, OH

West Chester Academy

West Chester, OH

OKLAHOMA

Destiny Dance

Tulsa, OK

TENNESSEE

Miss Amy's School of the Arts

Dickson, TN

UTAH

Utah Dance Artists

Salt Lake City, UT

VIRGINIA

Ashburn Academy of Dance  
Ashburn, VA

Centreville Dance Academy  
Centreville, VA

Creative Movement Dance  
Fredericksburg, VA

WISCONSIN

Midwest Dance Center  
Burlington, WI

Misty's Dance Unlimited  
Onalaska, WI

Liberty Dance Center  
Waukesha, WI