



BARRE BELLE *newsletter*

Volume | Issue 5

Spring 2023

What's inside this edition?

- Letter from the President 02
- Programming Update 03
- Introducing our 2022-2023 Interns 04
- Fundraising Recap 05



Information

Barre Belle is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization designed to expose and provide universal access to the art of dance through local community centers and schools.

Barre Belle is a portable dance studio for elementary students to introduce ballet fundamentals. Classes are geared towards those with little to no previous ballet or dance training. Students will have an opportunity to learn, perform and attend a professional dance performance to reinforce what is learned during their session.

Our aim is for students to achieve an increased level of self-awareness, self-esteem and encourage movement through the art of dance whether it is ballet or any other form.

Board of Directors

- Founder**
Noel Pipkin
- President**
Juanita Pipkin
- Secretary**
Ciara DiResta
- Treasurer**
Hubert Pipkin
- Community Outreach Chair**
Ashley Jones
- Community Outreach Chair**
Kenneth Johnson
- Fundraising Chair**
Heather Kluckla
- Fundraising Chair**
Melissa Wentz

Connect with us!
Email: barrebelleballet@gmail.com
Phone: (980) 272.0711

A Letter from the President

Juanita Pipkin

Hold Fast to Dreams

In the movie, *Field of Dreams*, a farmer builds a baseball diamond in the middle of his corn field. He was compelled to build the baseball field after hearing a voice that said, “*If you build it, they will come.*”

Four years ago, the dream of creating Barre Belle was a whisper that could not be ignored. Barre Belle, like this farmer in the movie, decided to act on the small, still voice and now we have a community focused mobile ballet studio for underserved youth. We started with one class and one community partner location in Charlotte. We now have six community partners and a number of creative movement, ballet and yoga classes.

Our young students were choreographing a dance to the poem “*Dreams*” by Langston Hughes. Part of the poem states:

*Hold fast to dreams
For if dreams die
Life is like a broken- winged bird
That cannot fly*

One student expressed that the bird with a broken wing made her sad. The discussion became a teachable moment of the importance of dreams because they create hope. A quote from *Field of Dreams* is “*If you believe in the impossible, the incredible will come true.*” The incredible has come true for Barre Belle and our students. We are grateful that you support and inspire us to keep dreaming and growing.

Sincerely,
Juanita Pipkin, President



Save the Date!

Barre Belle Fundraising Luncheon
Sunday, December 3, 2023
Twin Mills Club
Denver, NC

Programming Update

Additional Class Offerings

We are now offering weekly classes at three Boys and Girls Club locations and the Charlotte Community Services Association. We have expanded our offerings to include yoga. Yoga offers students and opportunity to stretch and strengthen their muscles and have a tool to address stress in everyday life.



Inaugural Summer Camps Coming

Barre Belle will be offering its first summer camp at the Salvation Army Center of Hope Shelter. In addition to ballet, we will expose students to other areas of the fine arts with lunch served by local community partners.

Barre Belle will also be sharing Intro to Ballet workshops this summer with our community partners, Freedom School Partners and the Grier Heights Community Center.

Upcoming Events

Barre Belle students and families will have the opportunity to attend the UNCC Spring Dance Concert this semester. Our students will get to see their teachers, our interns, perform.



We Did it!

We received two major grants from the **Arts and Science Council of Charlotte**. The Endowment Grant of \$10,000 (2022-2023) and the Cultural Vision Grant (CVG) for \$20,000 (2023-2024). The CVG was funded in partnership with **Foundation of the Carolinas**. These grants will enable us to continue our high-quality teaching and programming.

In addition, we received a \$25,000 grant from the **United Way of Central Carolinas** which if renewed for 3 years could total \$100,000. This grant will help us develop sustainability, upgrade our systems, and increase the quality of our program offerings.

Introducing our 2022-2023 Interns

Briahna Waters, Aaryanna Henry & Sydney Lin



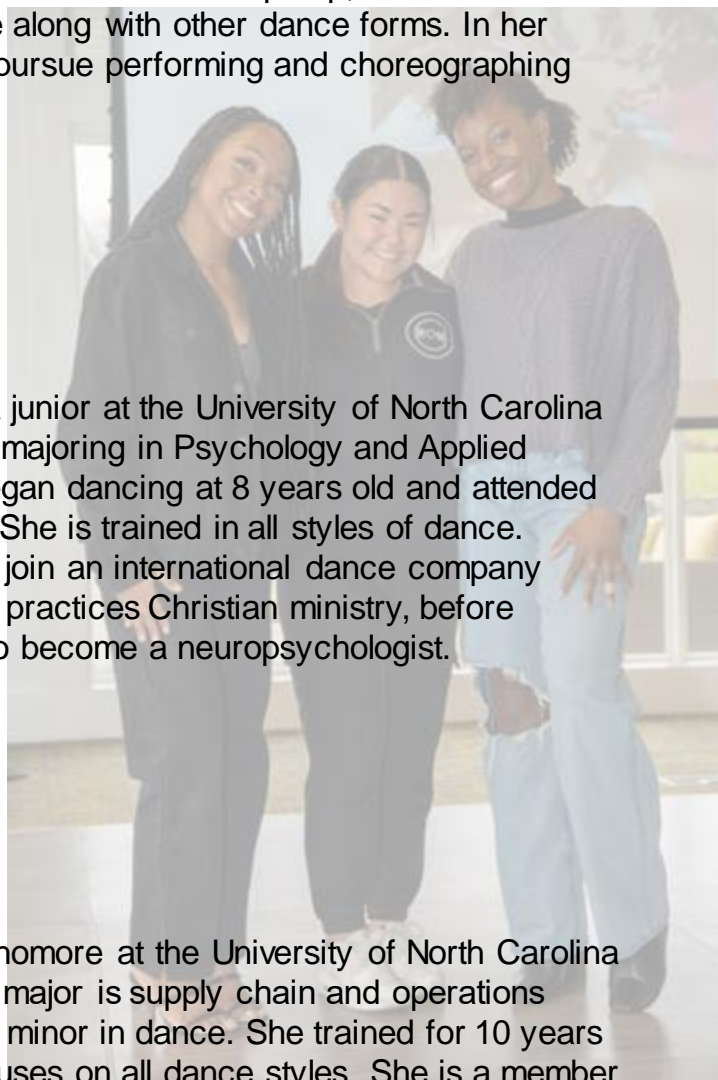
Briahna Waters

Briahna Waters is a student at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte where she majors in dance with a concentration in performance, choreography, and theory along with a minor in Africana Studies. She studied tap, jazz and ballet in her hometown studio. She also trains in hip hop, modern and contemporary dance along with other dance forms. In her future, she plans to pursue performing and choreographing professionally.



Aaryanna Henry

Aaryanna Henry is a junior at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, double majoring in Psychology and Applied Dance. Aaryanna began dancing at 8 years old and attended an arts high school. She is trained in all styles of dance. Aaryanna aspires to join an international dance company post-graduation that practices Christian ministry, before returning to school to become a neuropsychologist.



Sydney Lin

Sydney Lin is a sophomore at the University of North Carolina Charlotte. Sydney's major is supply chain and operations management with a minor in dance. She trained for 10 years in Cary, NC and focuses on all dance styles. She is a member of the Range of Motion Dance Ensemble. The group focuses on jazz, contemporary, and hip hop. The group provides many performance and educational opportunities throughout the years of dance.

Fundraising Recap



Just a few short months ago we had our first in-person fundraiser since the beginning of the pandemic, and we were thrilled to gather again and celebrate our students' achievements and generous donors.



The fundraiser raised \$6,000. At the event, we honored two special donors with the *Élevé* Award for their consistent support and encouragement that helped us to continue the work even as other funding sources decreased due to the uncertainty of the pandemic.



We love our supporters!

**Thanks to our small business and corporate sponsors
2022 Holiday Fundraiser**

Barnes & Noble
Bojangles Entertainment Complex
Summit Family Dentistry
Blumenthal Performing Arts
Pike Nursery
Valeria Salon
Mattress Firm
Trader Joes
BASF Corporation



Paypal.Me/barrebelleballet
CashApp: \$barrebelleballet
Facebook.com/barrebelleballet
Venmo: @barrebelleballet

