



Dodge Foundation Awards \$25,000 to Trenton Education Dance Institute

The Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation has awarded \$25,000 to The Children's Home Society of New Jersey for the Trenton Education Dance Institute (TEDI). The Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation believes in the power of the arts to enrich lives, bring people together, revitalize public spaces, help communities thrive, and inspire learning.

“As anyone who attended the TEDI Event of the Year performance on May 22 or 23 can tell you,” Donna Pressma, President and CEO of The Children's Home Society of New Jersey said, “the 250 Trenton children who dance in this show experience priceless joy and pride in themselves and their accomplishments. The continued support of The Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation has played a significant role in helping TEDI to reach its 24th year of success enriching the lives of hundreds of Trenton youth.”

All fifth grade students at Trenton's Hedgepeth/Williams and Mott Schools participate in weekly TEDI dance classes during the school day. Twenty-five of the Grade 5 students on the SWAT (Scholarship for the Willing, Achieving, and Talented) Team and 35 students in Grades 6 through 10 on the Celebration Team meet afterschool for advanced dance choreography each week. Since 1989, the TEDI program has operated in collaboration with the Trenton Board of Education, and in 2011 TEDI became a program of The Children's Home Society of New Jersey. TEDI is based on the pedagogy of National Dance Institute, founded by Jacque d'Amboise, former principal dancer with the New York City Ballet.

“From TEDI's unique approach through dance – learning basic steps, putting the steps together into phrases, and then the phrases into sequences – students learn to focus, develop their memory, enhance their ability to work as a team, and discover their individual artistic capacity,” explained Richard Bilotti, President of the TEDI Board of Directors and member of The Children's Home Society Board. Bilotti smiled as he remarked, “I am VERY proud of our TEDI students.”