



A program of
The Children's Home Society of New Jersey

The **TEDI Fall Fundraiser on Wednesday, November 9, 2022** benefits Trenton public school children participating in the Trenton Education Dance Institute (TEDI) -- an affiliate of The Children's Home Society of New Jersey (CHSofNJ).

COMMUNITY SERVED BY CHSofNJ and TEDI

While CHSofNJ is statewide – many of its programs are focused in Trenton, Mercer County, New Jersey. TEDI students come from Trenton Public Schools, but appear in performances throughout the region and state. Children growing up in Trenton live in an economically depressed community with high rates of poverty; in a less secure, more violent environment than their counterparts elsewhere in Mercer County and New Jersey; attend poorly performing schools; and have limited opportunities to participate in healthy physical activity.

Community Need.

CHSofNJ serves vulnerable and impoverished children, youth, and families. A majority of services are focused in Trenton, the County's urban center, where need is constant and great, placing Trenton youth are at great risk for PTSD, depression, anxiety, substance abuse, and self-harm.

Trenton's violent crime rate of 10.8 per 1,000 residents and horrific community events call us to action (e.g., the first child to die from Covid-19 in NJ attended our Head Start Center and a student enrolled in our Trenton Education Dance Institute program died in community gun fire). Since February 2021, Mercer County averaged 191 monthly reports to the NJ Division of Child Protection and maintains 1447 active child welfare cases. Further, Trenton families tell CHSofNJ staff they are afraid to take their children outside to play or get exercise due to the violence in the city. This anecdotal evidence from families is supported by data.

Children who attend Trenton schools are primarily African American and Latino. Students grow up in an impoverished community with limited opportunities for arts education. Their exposure to and enthusiasm for dance will spread to their families and members of the larger community who come to enjoy dance and truly appreciate the joy TEDI brings to the students and their school.

Strong attendance at performances are due to enthusiasm from the TEDI students who are ambassadors for the arts. TEDI students attract audiences, including parents and other family, fellow students, teachers, neighbors, and community and civic leaders.

TRENTON EDUCATION DANCE INSTITUTE (TEDI)

But TEDI offers significant opportunities for learning and healthy physical activity that are meaningful to involved children and families. TEDI teaches youth the art and life lessons of dance. Through learning a new dance vocabulary, movement and stagecraft, students develop the ability to concentrate; decrease impulsivity; increase their patience; and increase motivation. Students gain self-confidence and develop strategies for working together.

TEDI a CHSofNJ program, has successfully supported student engagement and youth development for over 32 years in Trenton, evidenced through improvements in self-confidence, overcoming fears, and teamwork (CHSofNJ, 2015). This past year, TEDI engaged more than 100 Grade 5 students at Parker Elementary School in Trenton, NJ, in youth development-based dance lessons, culminating in an in-person performance at Trenton Thunder Stadium attended by over 300 audience members. This past school year, school day teacher survey respondents indicated that 100% agreed that they observed improved self-confidence, happiness, expression of emotions, willingness to try new things, perseverance, creative expression, student-teacher relationships, ability to work in groups, listening skills, and sense of community and pride. They also observed increased attendance and improved engagement in class and grades. We welcome you to learn more about TEDI or view TEDI performance videos at: <https://www.chsofnj.org/school-based-programs/trenton-education-dance-institute-tedi/>

To celebrate and support the TEDI student dancers, the 2022 **TEDI Fall Fundraiser** will take place on **Wednesday, November 9, 2022** from 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. with the area's top restaurants and specialty food establishments coming together to showcase their signature food, desserts and wine at a special night of tastings at Grounds For Sculpture, Hamilton, New Jersey.

Thank you for your consideration of this sponsorship request. CHSofNJ and TEDI are grateful for the opportunity to share this wonderful event with you. Please contact me at (732) 606-5601 or pcipriano@chsofnj.org if you have any questions or would like additional information.

Pam

Pamela V. Cipriano
Director of Corporate Development & Volunteerism

“All that kids need is a little help, a little hope and somebody who believes in them.”



~ ***Earvin “Magic” Johnson***