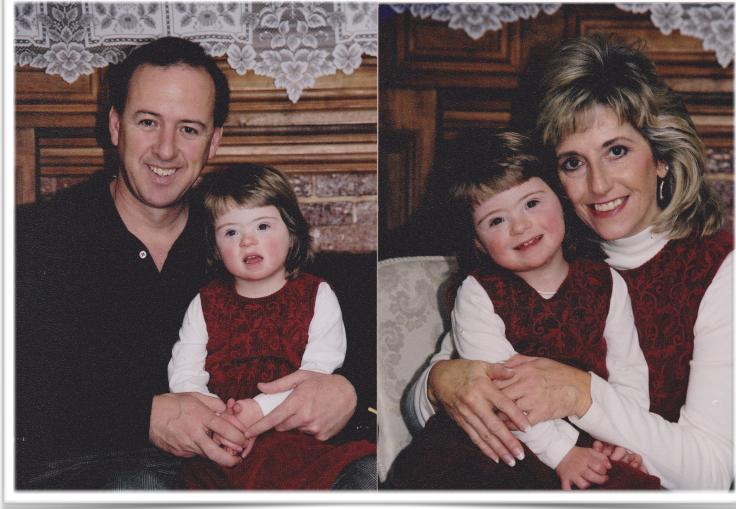


DARBY'S DANCERS NEWSLETTER

The Art of Being Thankful

We need your help, Minnesota parents and teachers

The first Darby's Dancers began in Maple Grove, MN, thanks to the help of our regional director, Dawn Turner. Dawn was our hands and feet when our minds were ready to take on this project, but our hearts couldn't quite go yet. Through word of mouth and a lot of good fortune, the program has grown in the Minneapolis area to a total of 15 chapters. **However, we have an issue that we need your help with.** Some chapters are overflowing with kids and even have waiting lists (something we are totally NOT a fan of.) Some chapters have only a few kids and would really like to grow their programs. Listed below (p.4) are all the Minnesota locations. If you would like to move to a more conveniently located chapter, you might look into it. Help us to find more students, especially in the areas that are starred. We want to serve all the children and young adults in the area. Teachers, please contact other studios to discuss your waiting lists. Let them and the parents know of other options that are available to them. Thanks for your help!



Not just lip service

We are so thankful for being gifted the opportunity to be Darby's parents and to raise and care for her to the best of our ability. We are filled with gratitude for her loving and grateful heart which blessed us immensely. Darby was thankful for every day and she embraced each day to the fullest. Every day....even the bad days...she was able to see the good in every situation and circumstance. Complain? No, not Darby. She was thankful for every person and every event that was happening in her life. We learned a lifetime of lessons in our 14 short years with Darby, fourteen years that changed our lives forever. Learn to be thankful with your heart, not just words. At the top of our thankful list is each and every child who participates in our program who is facing adversity of their own. We're thankful for their lives and what they mean to their families and all of us. Thanks for making the world a brighter place. Thank you for the joy you bring us. Thank you for being yourselves, with all the beauty and strength and wonder that brings. **Shine bright, friends!**



Student of the Month

Are these two twins?? No, this is precious **Lydia Comer** from Covington, VA looking at herself in the mysterious big mirrors in the dance studio. Four year old Lydia, is our student of the month. Lydia lives with her great grandmother, Jo Beth Martin, in Clifton Forge, VA. She attends an Integrated Preschool Options Program (IPOP) where she receives the services she needs while learning from typical children in the same classroom.

Lydia loves to dance and listen to music, play with her cousins and go outside and "swing and slide", her very favorite activity. Lydia doesn't have to come to dance alone, as her cousin, Calvin, and her great uncle, Matthew, also participate in Darby's Dancers at Patsy's Dance Studio. It's a family affair!

Jo Beth says Lydia never meets a stranger and she loves to help pass out information when the family does work for Jehovah's Witnesses. She likes to get and give lots of hugs. Shine bright, Lydia!

(Pictured right: Model, Sara Wiegmann from Huntsville, AL)

Blankets and Bags

Here is the link to order a super soft and cozy blanket or some cute bags for your dancer if you are interested.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1wYQENmcfSLPswF0BUJz3Prnufw_kIkCg/view?usp=sharing

The merchandise will always be available for purchase through this link or on the Kaylex Creations site. **If you want an item for a Christmas gift**, your order must be placed by December 1st. The blankets are exceptionally soft and very sensory friendly. When you purchase an item from Kaylex, 20% of the proceeds come back to the National Organization. We appreciate your support in helping us to sustain our organization and stay focused on our mission of bringing the joy of the performing arts to as many children with special needs as possible. (www.kaylexcreations.com, [readymade textiles](#), [causes](#) and [convictions](#))



Studio of the Month

We are so pleased to feature **Patsy's Dance Studio** in Covington, Virginia this month! Studio owner, **Patsy Snead** has had her studio (in various locations) for 36 years. She says that Darby's Dancers is the best thing that has come through her studio *in 36 years!* Thank you so much, Patsy. She couldn't do it without the most energetic, committed, hard-working teacher ever, **Amanda Burns**. Amanda teaches school by day and dance by night and has something going at the dance studio or in her community almost every single weekend. She has done a wonderful job of spearheading the program and getting it off the ground and running...sprinting...is more like it! Together with another teacher, **Kayla Douglas**, they currently have 26 students in their group. Kayla grew up in the studio and now has the opportunity as an adult to influence the lives of young people at Patsy's just as she so positively impacted growing up.

On a recent visit to Covington, we finally got to meet Patsy and Amanda, a few volunteers and a student (it wasn't during class time). We went out to lunch together and had a ball. These two gals and their helpers are a good time. We have never visited anywhere more community minded and were so impressed with PDS, their DD program and the whole community for their involvement. Patsy's story is interesting. While working at the local paper company many years ago, she started taking an aerobics class the company offered. It was taught by someone who owned a dance studio in Roanoke. Soon after, Patsy started teaching aerobics in Covington and surrounding areas. Eventually, Patsy opened her own dance studio where she still taught exercise and hired someone else to teach dance. Like me, Patsy has never been a dancer or a dance teacher, but she knew how to put good people in the right places and has run a very

successful dance studio which is one of the centers of recreation in this small community. Patsy and her husband of 55 years, Ralph, have 3 children, 10 grands, and 4 great grands and you better believe there are some dancers in that bunch.

Patsy says she loves to visit the dancers in their DD program. She says they love to see each other each week, they want to learn to dance, and they just love being together and having friends to dance with. PDS offers their students every opportunity to perform. I wish we could be in Covington for the annual Christmas parade where the Darby's Dancers will have their own float to ride on. They are also going to be on the Roanoke news channel next week. Good luck everyone, we can't wait to see and hear your story!



Minnesota Chapters

*** KMC Dance (Albertville)**

kmcdancealbertville@gmail.com

Christine Cliff

*** In the Spotlight (Rogers)**

danceatspotlight@gmail.com

Celeste Augst

Woodbury Dance Center (Woodbury)

buffy@woodburydance.com

Buffy Breen

***Dance Esteem (Plymouth and Eden Prairie)**

danceesteem@icloud.com

Lindsay Brown

The Dance Complex (Maple Grove)

dawn.turner@me.com

Dawn Turner

The Dance Factory (Forest Lake)

miss.sara1177@gmail.com

Sara Iverson

QC Dance (Blaine)

qcoffice@gmail.com

Becky Hamen

qcdanceoffice@gmail.com

University of St. Thomas (St. Paul)

hennelie.h@comcast.net

Hennelie Hawes

(young adult program only)

*** Metro Dance Center (Shoreview)**

loraweinke@hotmail.com

Lora Weinke

Dance Express (Mankato)

mitzi@danceexpressmankato.com

Mitzi Roberts

Escalate Dance and Theatre

escalatedance@comcast.net

Ann Marie Omeish

Dance Revue (Ramsey)

dance-revuedancers@hotmail.com

Dawn Ruzynski

Premiere Dance (Prior Lake)

dancepremiere@gmail.com

Dawn Schulberg

*** 'nMotion Dance Center (Fridley)**

sarah@nmotiondancecenter.com

Sarah Goar

Showcase Dance (Elk River)

darbysdancerselkriver@gmail.com

Hanna Lee

