Everything in the universe has a rhythm. Everything dances.

- Maya Angelou
DANCE AS A VEHICLE TO SUCCESS

For the past 30 years, Thomas Armour Youth Ballet’s, “Dance as a Vehicle to Success” program, has grown from a handful of children in South Miami to over 1000 across 5 Miami Dade County sites.
THE FORMULA IS SIMPLE!

Deliver the highest quality Arts and Education program.

Build trust with the children and families.

Build long term life skills.

Remove obstacles to opportunity and success.

The result is educated, productive and successful citizens of the world.
STRATEGIC COMPONENTS OF PROGRAMMING

• Physical Fitness through professionally taught dance classes
• Literacy
• Homework
• Social and Emotional Literacy
• Nutrition
• Parent Engagement
• Performance Opportunities
• Enrichment Components
• Obstacle Removal
DANCE
• TAYB delivers almost 6,500 hours of dance classes annually across five sites.

• The Genres include Classical Ballet, West African, Contemporary and Tap year round, with Bollywood, Salsa, Musical Theater, Flamenco and Hip Hop added during the summer.

• Over 500 pairs of ballet shoes, tap shoes, Flamenco shoes and uniforms are delivered free of charge each year.

According to a 2015 Pew Center report, access to after-school programs is growing more unequal and that's pushing disadvantaged kids further behind.

“Parents with higher income and education are more likely to report that their children participate in various extracurricular activities. By contrast, parents with low levels of education and incomes report their children are less likely to participate in sport, music, dance or art extracurricular activities.”

LITERACY & READING
OUR READING STORY

Two years ago, the afterschool reading program began with an online curriculum used by Miami-Dade County Public Schools (MDCPS). While it was an effective tool for diagnosing and addressing weaknesses, the children were not enthusiastic about using it. Instead, they loved the feel, smell and look of a book in their hands. Year two, a themed curriculum was added and books for each child at each grade level were purchased. Volunteers from the community were paired, one on one, with the most struggling readers. During the summer, the teachers added art projects related to the stories. One classroom was turned into Camp Green Lake while reading the classic novel “Holes“ by Louis Sachar. Enthusiasm soared, along with reading fluency and comprehension, resulting in higher reading scores. After providing 2,500 hours of reading per year, 95% of our students achieved Mastery reading levels in their grade and above.

RESULTS

☐ 95% of our children have made meaningful improvement in the past year.

☐ 95% of our children that began the year one or two years below grade level finished the year at grade level or above.

☐ Reading performance is measured using the ORF and iMaze evidence based tools. Data is collected and reported for every child three times during the school year and twice during the summer.
ADDRESSING THE HOMEWORK GAP

• Every child has access to a computer and internet connection during program hours.

• TAYB delivers 1,900 hours of homework assistance every year, to all children, at after school programs.

“The homework gap is real and has serious life-long implications. Millions of low-income students are unable to access the tools necessary to succeed in and outside of the classroom, creating an uneven playing field in the classroom.”

SOCIAL & EMOTIONAL SKILLS
Using the Triumph Steps Program, Thomas Armour Youth Ballet is creating goal oriented, empowered, centered, creative, and socially responsible members of society.

"Studies of mindfulness programs in schools have found that regular practice — even just a few minutes per day — improves student self-control, increases their classroom participation, respect for others, happiness, optimism, and self-acceptance levels. It can help reduce absenteeism and suspensions too. A mindfulness practice helps reduce activity in the amygdala, the brain’s emotional center responsible for fear and stress reactions."

- Katrina Schwartz

Children receive daily breakfast and lunch during the 8-week summer camp and daily snacks during the afterschool program. Meals and snacks are provided in collaboration with MDCPS Department of Food & Nutrition. Summer Camp includes weekly cooking and nutrition classes through the Flipany organization.

“Children who experience food insecurity early in life do not have an equal opportunity to grow-up healthy and thrive, making food insecurity a driver of continued racial and economic inequities in early childhood.”

Center for the Study of Social Policy “Food Insecurity in Childhood” www.cssp.org
PARENT ENGAGEMENT
THROUGH OUR COMMUNITY NETWORK, TAYB IS ABLE TO OFFER ASSISTANCE AND RESOURCES TO OUR FAMILIES FOR CHALLENGES SUCH AS:

- Tax Preparation
- Health Care Enrollment
- Adult Education Courses
- Parenting Classes
- Domestic Violence
- Immigration Challenges
- Testing for Learning Disabilities
- One on one Counseling for Children
- Family Counseling
- Medical and Dental care
PERFORMANCE OPPORTUNITIES
• The Nutcracker
• Spring Concert
• End of year performances
• Contemporary Team
• Tap Team
• Community performances
ENRICHMENT COMPONENTS

- Art Classes
- Music Classes
- Cooking Classes
- Spoken Word
- Field Trips
- Library Bus
- Dental Van
- Anti Bullying Workshops
Children who age out of the four outreach sites have the opportunity to advance to the Next Steps Program. The program takes place at the main center in South Miami, where students receive intermediate and advanced training through middle, high school and beyond.
STRATEGIC COMPONENTS OF NEXT STEPS PROGRAM

- Public transportation passes
- Advanced dance training
- Injury prevention
- Coaching for magnet school auditions
- College mentorship and assistance
- Summer in New York City
- Obstacle removal
OBSTACLE REMOVAL

A safety net is crucial to any child striving to reach a goal. Our children can have talent, intellect, and work ethic, but sometimes the smallest stone can create a boulder blocking the path and keeping that goal out of reach.

In the case of Jean Godsend Floridan, that meant the need for:

• A laptop computer for college at Carnegie Mellon University, Jean was awarded a full scholarship.

• An airline ticket so his father could see Jean graduate from Carnegie Mellon University.

• A bus ticket to NYC

• Occasional help with the last few dollars of NYC rent or food for that week.
One year later, Jean Godsend Floridan signed a contract with the production of Hamilton in Chicago. For some, a pebble in the path is just that, something to step over and keep going. However, for some of our children, the pebble may as well be a boulder. There is no way to step over the pebble and continue on the path. Jean is an example of what can happen when those obstacles are removed.
$1,000,000+
The Children’s Trust of Miami-Dade County

$100,000+
William R. Kenan, Jr. Charitable Trust
Miami-Dade County Dept. of Cultural Affairs

$50,000+
The AEM Family Foundation
The State of Florida, Culture Builds Florida
Sami Mnaymneh and Hala Elhabashi Mnaymneh

$10,000+
Himan Brown Foundation
via Coral Gables Foundation
Kathleen Kennedy Fund
of the Ethel & W. George Kennedy Family Foundation
The National Endowment for the Arts
Charles Seitz,
James Deering Danielson Foundation
The Symphonettes

$5,000+
Stephanie* & Norman Altman
Alberto Arias & Wood Kinnard
Kiki Bochi
Catarineau & Givens, P.A.
Citizens Interested in Arts
Dennis Edwards* & Mark Steinberg
Arlene Kahn
Al & Priscilla Klomparens
Miami-Dade County Auditorium

$1,000+
Stephanie Ansin
Ballet Boutique, Gaby Martinez
Brian Beasley* & Oliver Von Gundlach*
Marcus Buckingham
Michael, Sui & Nami Chung-Vastine
Deltana Enterprises, Inc.
Gerard Ebitz in memory of Robert Pike
Johanna Escobar
Russ & Ruth Ewing in honor of Jereline Ewing
The Grippando Family
Gulliver Schools
The Leichtling Family
Marvin & Isabel Leibowitz
Little Star Foundation
Alexandria Love*

A gift made in honor of Ralph Lufrin & Alfred Allan Lewis
Mica Pirie
Phillip & Masha Maddux*
Marcel Mejia* & Family
The Miami Foundation
The Mosquera-Canto Family
Renee Rich & Daryl Edwards
Lisa Sloat* & Hank Klein
Keith & Renata Ward Fund at the Miami Foundation
Laura K. Wright
Mary Lynn Young*