

For Immediate Release

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DEA Youth Dance Program Receives The thalo Critics' Choice Inspiration Award Donation

Free Program That Helps Kids Turn to Dance Instead of Drugs and Plans to Grow to 30 Cities by 2014 honored at Critics' Choice Television Award Show

Washington, D.C. June 17, 2013 – The DEA Youth Dance Program, a prominent after-school dance program in the U.S. positively influencing thousands of kids each year, today announced it has received a donation from thalo in association with the thalo TV Critic's Choice Inspiration Award given to the acclaimed ABC Family television show "Bunheads" and presented to the star of the show, Sutton Foster. Each year thalo selects a non-profit organization that has a theme aligned with the television program receiving the award. The donation was presented at a red carpet gala Monday evening in Los Angeles at the Beverly Hilton Hotel.

Steven Roth, president of thalo, an inspirational resource that recognizes creative people who inspire others through their art, presented the award to Jill Roberts, founder and director of the DEA Youth Dance Program.

"The DEA Youth Dance Program is so honored to receive this donation as part of the thalo Inspiration Award," said Roberts. "We hope this recognition will bring the program more visibility so that even more kids can dance and so we can reach many more schools on our waitlist."

This summer, dancers from the program have been invited by Dizzy Feet Foundation to perform for National Dance Day July 27 at The Kennedy Center in Washington, DC and Grand Park in downtown Los Angeles. Launched in 2012 by Nigel Lythgoe, National Dance Day is an annual celebration that takes place on the last Saturday in July. The grassroots campaign encourages Americans to incorporate dance into their lives. Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton, a long-time proponent of healthy lifestyles, introduced the National Dance Day resolution, making the day dedicated to dance education and physical fitness across the U.S. an official act of Congress.

The DEA Youth Dance program expanded to 21 cities nationwide this year. Designed to help children turn to the healthy outlet of dance instead of drugs and negative behaviors, the free program is now serving schools in 21 cities including Baltimore, Boston, Los Angeles, New York, Seattle and Washington, D.C.

Elementary and middle school students may participate in a free 20-week program, designed and led by local professional dance instructors. At the end of the program, students perform at a school assembly. -Students can then apply for scholarships at local studios to continue studying dance. To view a video and learn more about the program, visit: <http://www.deaeducationalfoundation.org/>.

About the DEA Youth Dance Program

The DEA Youth Dance Program, a successful after-school dance program in the U.S. positively influencing thousands of kids each year, is a free after-school dance program under the DEA Educational Foundation. Designed to help children turn to the healthy outlet of dance instead of drugs and negative behaviors, the program is supported by The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and by contributions from foundations such as the Target Foundation, The Gregory and EJ Milken Foundation, Dizzy Feet Foundation, General Mills Foundation, AnchorFree, The Arts Council of Monterey and more. To find out more, or to contribute, visit www.deaeducationalfoundation.org.

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