

## Heartland Chapter of USA Dance #2022

### Supporting Documentation for the 2016 Chapter of the Year Submission

For a small Chapter, Heartland runs an extraordinary number of projects: dance parties, community exhibitions, kids dance program, ballroom workshops, Special Olympics program, fundraisers, and providing volunteers for local competitions. Through hard work and dedication, Heartland’s Board improved the Chapter’s financial situation by increasing the Chapter’s checking account balance by 50% between Oct 2015 and Sep 2016. What’s more, the Heartland has a clear vision of what the Chapter wants to achieve in the near future in terms of programs’ expansion and the type of services provided to its members.

### Heartland Chapter At a Glance

	Oct 2015- Sep 2016	% Change	Comments
Membership as of Sep 30, 2016	132	+8%	Heartland updated its music list; expanded the instructors pool; holds exhibitions at every party; secures raffle prizes; and collaborates with numerous other dance clubs
Average Attendance at Chapter Dances	70	+27%	This is ~ triple the average attendance at the 3 largest open private dance studios in the Indy area
Attendance at Annual Workshop	49		Heartland's <a href="#">Annual Ballroom Technique Workshops</a> have been sold out for 3 years in a row
Community Exhibitions	14	+56%	This includes exhibitions at social groups, retirement centers, nursing homes, indoor and outdoor venues, shopping malls, and emergency shelters. Most Heartland exhibitions have an educational component, including dancing with the audience and / or having a dance lesson during the event.
Fundraisers' Participation	3	+200%	New Year's Eve Fundraiser - proceeds fund Chapter's ballroom lessons for kids; Big Ballroom Bash Fundraiser - proceeds fund ballroom lessons for Special Olympics athletes; Spotlight Indy Fundraiser - proceeds go to Indiana AIDS Fund to fund HIV testing and prevention. Heartland was one of 19 art organizations participating in 2016 Spotlight Indy, with <a href="#">over \$210K raised</a> for the cause.

### Other Chapter Achievements

Heartland Homecoming	Annual	Celebrated its 5th anniversary this year. Takes place in historic IN Roof Ballroom at an event that gathers 400 dancers. Accompanied by exhibitions
Ballroom lessons for kids	On-going	Launched in spring of 2015
Volunteer Appreciation Party	Annual	Held every November; recognizes all Chapter volunteers; announces Volunteer of the Year

Grants	1	Grant from "Lilly Hands & Hearts". 1 <sup>st</sup> grant ever to be awarded to Heartland
Keeping members informed	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Monthly newsletters & flyers, periodic emails, Facebook & web publications
Cooperating with other dance clubs and studios	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Theater Arts, Argentine Tango, Latin Expressions, Naptown Stomp, Continental, Brownsburg Ballroom studio; Riolo Dance; Carmel Ballroom; Starlite dance studio
Special Olympics Program	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Chapter members prepare SO athletes for competition, and participate in Annual SO Ballroom Fundraising
Clearly articulated plan for future programs	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	In the works: Collegiate dance program; other kids-oriented dance programs for needy kids; ballroom lessons for home-schooled kids; formation lessons for adults; lessons for inmates at IN Women's Prison

Below are the highlights of the Chapter's activities for Oct 2015 through Sep 2016:

**-- Community Exhibitions:**

Over the last several years, Heartland has established a very active exhibition program. Some exhibitions are recurring events, while others explore brand new venues. These include exhibitions at social groups, retirement centers, nursing homes, indoor and outdoor venues, shopping malls, and emergency shelters. Most Heartland exhibitions have an educational component, including dancing with the audience and / or having a dance lesson during the event. Between Oct 2015 and Sep 2016, Heartland held **14 public community exhibitions**.



These were held at:

- the Artsgarden at the Indianapolis Circle Centre Mall (Heartland performed at the Arts Garden 4 times this year: Oct 2015, Nov 2015, Mar 2016, Sep 2016, with Sep exhibitions being tied to the celebration of the National Ballroom Dance Week [NBDW])
- St Luke's United Methodist Church, for its Elderberries group (Nov 2015)
- Carmel Senior Living (Heartland performed for its two Balls: in Jan 2016 and Aug 2016)
- the Naptown Stomp Lindy Hop Society (Jan 2016)
- the WTHR-TV Annual Health and Fitness Expo at the Indiana State Fairgrounds (Apr 2016)
- Girls, Inc, a non-profit organization, inspiring girls to be strong, smart and bold. (Jun 2016)

- Northridge Gracious Retirement Living, at its 2nd Annual Prom (Jun 2016)
- the Children's Bureau / Gene Glick Family Support Center, a non-profit that assists high risk children and their families (Jul 2016)
- the Indiana State Fair (Aug 2016)
- the 5th Annual Heartland Homecoming at the Indiana Roof Ballroom (Aug 2016)



State Fair Exhibitions



Exhibitions at the Children's Bureau

**What is next:**

- Heartland is working with the Indiana Women's Prison (IWP) on starting semester-long ballroom dance lessons for inmates. We have submitted a proposal with dance curriculum to the IWP and have recruited 6 dance volunteers / amateur instructors.
- Heartland is working on offering formation classes that would allow participants to take part in future Heartland's exhibitions.



Heartland Exhibitions

**-- Kids Dance program:**

In early 2015, the Heartland Chapter has launched a partnership with the Kids Dance Outreach (KDO), a preventative program designed to equip at-risk school children with the discipline, persistence, determination, social consciousness and cognitive developmental skills that can prepare them to achieve success in life. KDO is a non-profit organization that works through Indianapolis Public Schools (IPS) with inner city kids by introducing them to different styles of dancing. The program cultivates teamwork, leadership skills, self confidence, respect, and the sense of self-accomplishment. <http://kidsdanceoutreach.org/> Prior to partnership with Heartland, the KDO offered lessons in ballet, modern, line and cultural dances. With Heartland coming on board, the KDO was able to add ballroom lessons to each dance session. Heartland recruited a ballroom instructor to teach ballroom lessons to the KDO kids. The IPS kids are transported by school buses from their classrooms to a ballroom facility in downtown Indy where KDO lessons are held. Each KDO session lasts 8 weeks and

culminates in an exhibition. The ballroom lessons are taught during two out of each eight week session. The Fall and Spring sessions tend to consist of a very large group of kids (40-50 participants in each session), with summer session being smaller (~20 kids). The kids demonstrate their newly acquired dance skills at the Showcase Graduation that culminates each session, and Heartland volunteers attend the Showcase to cheer the kids on.



Heartland and KDO volunteers teaching Ballroom Lesson to IPS kids

In 2016, Heartland has successfully completed 3 ballroom dance sessions with students from the Indianapolis Public Schools (IPS) through Heartland's partnership with Kids Dance Outreach (KDO). This included 2 Spring sessions and 1 Fall session. This Fall's semester, the KDO Graduation Showcase will take place on November 7<sup>th</sup> AND 9<sup>th</sup> 2016 at the Athenaeum Building in downtown Indy.

We are looking forward to many more dance sessions with the IPS students. The Heartland Chapter participates in kids ballroom dance lessons in a number of ways:

- Heartland pays for the ballroom dance instructor
- Heartland recruits volunteers to help the ballroom instructor with the flow of the lessons;
- Heartland holds raffles or 50/50 drawings at each monthly dance, with all the proceeds earmarked to fund the ballroom instructor's fees, thus making the program self-sufficient.
- Heartland held a New Year's Eve dance party and Fundraiser on December 31, 2015, with half of the proceeds also earmarked for the kids dance programs sponsored by Heartland.



Raffle sales by Dorit

Separately, Heartland is cooperating with the Dance Factor club of Indianapolis that offers ballroom dance lessons for kids. The Dance Factor kids joined Heartland's public exhibitions at the Arts Garden (in Circle Centre Mall) during both Oct and Nov 2015 and Mar 2016 exhibitions. The Dance Factor kids also performed at the Big Ballroom Bash annual Fundraiser for Special Olympics kids in July 2016, and at several Heartland dance parties.

One youth couple, Nick Bleykhman and Anya Balaban, who have attended the most Heartland exhibitions will be presented with the Appreciation Certificate from Heartland during one of our upcoming parties.



Dance Lesson at Girls Inc



After the Show at Girls Inc



Lesson at Arts Garden

Heartland routinely invites kids from other dance clubs to perform at our monthly dance parties. This year, we had the pleasure of watching dance performances by kids from Brownsburg Ballroom Dance studio, Carmel Ballroom, Darren’s Ballroom, and Zionsville Village Dance Studio.

**What is next:**

- Heartland is planning to include KDO kids in future Chapter public exhibitions and special events.
- Heartland is working on expanding the ballroom portion of the KDO program to reach a larger pool of the IPS kids.
- Heartland is exploring possibilities of working directly with one of the IPS schools on an on-going ballroom program.
- Separately, Heartland is discussing ballroom dance program for home school kids.

**-- Inviting dancers from other dance clubs and studios to join Heartland’s community exhibitions and kids programs:**

Recognizing that the art of dance comes in various forms and that the boundaries between various dance styles are often blurry, Heartland works with other dance groups in Central Indiana. Heartland ballroom dancers themselves often belong to several dance clubs, including Salsa, Argentine Tango, Kizomba, etc. By becoming more inclusive, Heartland is able to attract more people to both our monthly dance parties and special events. In fact, the Heartland exhibitions are no longer restricted to Chapter members only. We expanded our pool of performers by inviting members of other ballroom dance clubs, as well as Argentine Tango, Salsa, Cabaret and modern dancers. We also invite singers to Heartland exhibitions, many of whom do both singing and dancing. To increase participation in the program, the Heartland Chapter welcomes all skill levels; and does not require a partner for our exhibitions. If single dancers express interest in participating, we pair them up with other dancers. This allowed Heartland to attract a large, talented and very active group of dancers who are eager to share their passion for dance with others in the community.



The performers represent different dancing skill levels, ranging from beginners to seasoned social dancers to competitors and National Amateur Champions. Likewise, Heartland relies on both member and non-member volunteers to run the ballroom portion of the KDO (Kids Dance Outreach) program. Since kids dance lessons generally take place during work week, it limits our pool of volunteers. And this is where cooperation with other dance clubs comes in handy.

***What is Next:***

- Heartland is working on attracting musicians who can provide live accompaniment to our performers in the future.

**-- Annual Events:**

Several exhibitions occur on an annual (or more frequent basis). These are:

- **Arts Garden** Exhibitions at Circle Centre Mall:



Arts Garden Exhibitions

The Indianapolis Arts Garden is situated in the heart of downtown Indianapolis. A sleek glass and steel icon for the city, the Arts Garden is a seven-story tall, glass-enclosed structure that hosts more than 300 performances per year. Heartland hosts on average 3 Arts Garden performances per year. These are scheduled to coincide with special events or holidays in order to attract a larger audience.



- Heartland **Homecoming** at the Indiana Roof Ballroom. The Indiana Roof was built as a movie palace and ballroom in 1927, and was added to the U.S. National Register of Historic Places in 1979. Styled after the courtyard of a European village, the 15,700 square foot facility includes a bar and cocktail area, which showcases an ornate Italian bar and a ballroom floor encircled by a promenade area and overlooked by a balcony.

Painted grapevines creep up plaster columns and the stucco facades, doorways and balconies contain exquisite details and even the staircase railings have ornate woodwork. The domed ceiling resembles a twinkling starry night sky, with soft clouds and a crescent moon. The Indiana Roof has the largest ballroom dance floor in Indianapolis (8,700 square foot), and is home to the Big Band semi-monthly dance series that provide live music and bring together 400+ dancers from various dance studios in Central Indiana and beyond. In August 2016, Heartland celebrated a 5<sup>th</sup> year anniversary of hosting its Homecoming events at the Indiana Roof. The Homecoming includes exhibitions by Heartland members and help to promote the Chapter mission to other dance clubs in the area.



For the last two years, Heartland has been combining its Homecomings at the Roof with another local dance club, Continental. Many of the Heartland dancers are also members of the Continental dance club, and vice versa. Combining the 2 clubs' Homecomings into one grand celebration introduced more variety into the exhibitions and expanded the visibility of the two clubs.

- The **Big Ballroom Bash Fundraiser** benefiting **SO** athletes (see Special Olympics section).



07/08/2016  
Rog Greenawalt,  
Bash co-organizer



SO Dancers and their Partners at Big Ballroom Bash Annual Fundraiser



07/08/2016  
Monica Lung,  
SO instructor

### - Annual Ballroom Workshops:

**Heartland USA Dance  
January Workshop & Dance Party**  
With JOHN BERRY and RAUNO ILO  
**4 Amazing Technique Lessons:**  
Session 1 (2-4pm):

- Picture Figures:  
Uses, Entries to & Exits from (Waltz, Foxtrot, Tango, QS)
- Cha-Cha and East Coast Swing:  
Differences in Technique  
(Chasses, Rocks, U/arm Turns, Spin Turns, Fallaways)

Open Practice (4-4:30pm)  
Session 2 (4:30 - 6:30pm)

- Viennese waltz:  
How to Dance Like a Pro
- Rumba:  
How to Get That Body Moving

**Saturday, January 16, 2016**  
Alternate Snow Date: Saturday, January 30  
Starlite Ballroom, 5720 N. Guion Road

\$15 / lesson or \$45 for All 4 lessons + Admission to Evening Dance  
Full-time students: \$10 / lesson or \$30 for 4 lessons + dance  
**USA Dance Membership Not Necessary**

Evening Dance: 7:30 - 11:00pm  
Evening Dance Admission: USA Dance Members: \$8 / Student: \$6  
Non-members: \$12 / Student: \$8

To purchase tickets, see Larry or Anna;  
or make check payable to USA Dance, Inc. and mail to:  
Larry Gogel, P.O. Box 2085, Bloomington, IN 47402

For more information: 317-759-8171, [gogel@gmail.com](mailto:gogel@gmail.com) or [www.indyusadance.org](http://www.indyusadance.org)

Now in its 5<sup>th</sup> year, the Heartland Ballroom Technique Workshop is an all-day event, consisting of 4 one-hour lessons, intermingled with practice time, and culminating in an evening dance party. The workshop brings in the best ballroom instructors in the region. These instructors typically teach private lessons only in their own studios and do not offer group lessons. Thus, the workshop avoids offering lessons that people could attend elsewhere throughout the year. The workshop is open to both USA Dance members and non-members, and concentrates on ballroom technique rather than on memorization of the dance patterns. The workshop serves as a means of bringing together both the Chapter's social dancers and its amateur competitors, and is also open to the general public. In short, the workshop offers something for everyone regardless of their skill level and experience.

The workshop's popularity speaks for itself: when the Nov 2013 workshop sold out, the Heartland Chapter decided to move the Jan 2015 workshop to a larger ballroom studio, and it, along with the subsequent workshops also sold out! The Nov 2013 workshop brought in over \$400 in net revenue to Heartland, and the Jan 2016 workshop brought in over \$1,200 in net revenue.

### What is Next:

**Heartland USA Dance  
January Workshop & Dance Party**  
With RAUNO ILO and JOZSEF PARRAGH  
**4 Amazing Technique Lessons:**  
Session 1 (2-4pm):

- Waltz:  
Capturing the grace and elegance
- Tango:  
Moving with confidence and control

Open Practice (4-4:30pm)  
Session 2 (4:30 - 6:30pm)

- Swing:  
Body actions and gestures
- Rumba:  
The power of communication

**Saturday, January 21, 2017**  
Starlite Ballroom, 5720 N. Guion Road

\$15 / lesson or \$45 for All 4 lessons + Admission to Evening Dance  
Full-time students: \$10 / lesson or \$30 for 4 lessons + dance  
**USA Dance Membership Not Necessary**

Evening Dance: 7:30 - 11:00pm  
Evening Dance Admission: USA Dance Members: \$8 / Student: \$6  
Non-members: \$12 / Student: \$8

To purchase tickets, see Larry or Anna;  
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- Heartland's next workshop will take place on Jan 21<sup>st</sup>, 2017. One of the 2017 workshop instructors, Jozsef Parragh, will be from out-of-state. Originally from Hungary, Jozsef won the Hungarian title 13 times. He also proudly represented his home country by placing 7th in the World Amateur 10-Dance Championships. Currently, Jozsef owns You Can Dance Cincy studio in Cincinnati, OH. Our 2<sup>nd</sup> instructor, Rauno Ilo, is a former 2 times undefeated all Soviet Union Ten-Dance Champion and a World 10- Dance Finalist. Rauno is also a World Class Adjudicator, Championship certified in all styles of dancing. He and his wife Kristiina are proud Owners of Starlite Ballroom in Indianapolis, IN.

**-- Cooperating with Other Dance Organizations:**

Starting with 2015, the Heartland USA Dance and the Continental Dance Club combined their Homecoming events at the historic Indiana Roof into one spectacular evening. The Continental Dance club is primarily geared toward retirees, and many Continentals members are also members of the Heartland. Regardless of the membership, many Continental dancers participate in outreach activities sponsored and organized by Heartland. At the 2016 Homecoming, we had several exhibitions presented by: Suresh Nair and Lauren Shaffer, Anna Kovalyova and John Berry, Dorit Tomandl and Xavier Medina, Alexis McCall and John Berry, and Rog and Amy Greenawalt. The Continentals dance club presented their famous annual Grand March accompanied by the Sentimental Journey Dance Band. The members of both clubs jumped at the opportunity to dance Sirtaki (a Greek dance), forming a giant circle along the dance floor. It was a wonderful event.

**--Striving for Improvement / Listening to our members:**

The Heartland Chapter improved the music selection and added exhibitions to our monthly parties, expanded the pool of instructors and launched Facebook page and a new website. Both the website and the Facebook store pictures of numerous Chapter events, including charity exhibitions and dance celebrations.



We also updated the feel of the monthly newsletter by including *lots* of pictures of our dancers while moving the information that does not change frequently onto the website. This made our newsletter more dynamic and more relevant to the readers, thus raising the sense of ownership. We also implemented posting video summaries of the monthly dance lessons and ballroom workshops onto the website. The Board got many compliments from the Chapter's members on the ability to watch lesson summaries at their own leisure from the Heartland's webpage.



**--Keeping dancers informed:**

Heartland maintains 2 email databases: for members and non-members. Both groups of dancers receive flyers and other information about the upcoming parties; updates on exhibitions and workshops; and monthly newsletters. By now, Heartland dancers are used to getting “Dancers needed” emails that request help with volunteer opportunities, exhibitions, fundraisers, etc. Heartland flyers get placed at several dance studios in town; are distributed at mall exhibitions; Indiana Roof Ballroom; published on Heartland’s website, Facebook, via newsletters and emails. In 2016, Heartland updated the Chapter brochure and made it colorful and “eye-catching” (see attached).

**Collage of Heartland’s flyers:**



**And collage of monthly newsletters:**

**He**

Volume 23 Issue 4

NEWS FROM HEARTLAND  
From the Heart (President's Message)

By Larry Gogel & Anna Kovalyova

Greetings, Dancers and Happy St. Patrick's Day!

Bash that will take place  
Greenwald and Bill April dance act

Our A Step. Duri dance. For c

win the Ballare owners

Adapted from [http://www.amez.com/about\\_5457799\\_charleston-samba](http://www.amez.com/about_5457799_charleston-samba)

Charleston dance became music, speaks to an quick-paced 4/4 time craze. It was a shy many of the young

Origina Although the e have origins living on an

Fun . Adapted [http://www.amez.com/about\\_5457799\\_charleston-samba](http://www.amez.com/about_5457799_charleston-samba)

When peo With the St. slinking acro scantily clad

Samba's Roots

The Charleston Dance was parno' women of the 1920s known for x considered scandalous at the time. The Flappers, who would often dance the sign.

The Dance Steps The Charleston car While there are n involve kicking/ direction to the

Fun Facts The Char/ 1920s be another

FLAPPERS

early 1900s when it was brought. In Rio, the samba was initially a street dance of the poor. Ironically, eventually led to its wide spread popularity.

**Heart and Sole**

Volume 23 Issue 3 March 2016

NEWS FROM HEARTLAND BALLROOM DANCERS, CHAPTER #2022 OF USA DANCE INC  
From the Heart (President's & VP Message)

By Larry Gogel & Anna Kovalyova

Greetings, Dancers and Happy St. Patrick's Day!

Spring is almost here! Join the Heartland's 'Roaring 20's' party on March 12th at Riolo Dance Studio, and chase the winter blues away. We will welcome our guest instructors from Naptown Stomp, Rob Kapaku and Amanda Guiseb, for an exciting Charleston lesson. Come dressed in the 20's style and be ready to have some fun!

During the party, the Naptown Stomp's performance team, the "Lindy 500", will perform 2 dance routines for us: their showcase exhibition and the Stum Slam.

Our friends at Naptown Stomp have generously donated 2 free admission tickets to their Thursday night parties that take place every Thursday, 8-10pm at Grove Haus, 1001 Hobbrook St, Indianapolis.

For our paid raffle, we will have 1 ticket for a free admission to the Ballare Spring showcase (\$35 value) that will take place on April 23, 8:30-10:30pm. We thank Ballare owners, Judy and Danny Corsaro, for donating the gift certificates to us.

\*\*\* Exciting News!!!!\*\*

Heartland USA Dance and Tango Indy are included in "Spotlight Indy 2016"!

The show will take place on Monday, April 18 at 8pm at C

Now in its 21<sup>st</sup> year, Spotlight annual gala performance at The Fun The Four Great

History of Quick Step Dance

The Quick Step as a dance originated in the 1920s in England. It is a smooth steps of the Charleston, without the high kicks, with a movement of the Foxtrot, which was also very popular. Dancers found the tempo of the Foxtrot to be too slow started playing music at a faster tempo, the dancers q and created the Quick Foxtrot.

The British called this dance "the QuickTime Foxtrot 'Star' Championships of 1927", the English couple Frank danced a version of the QuickTime Foxtrot and Charleste. Charleston knee actions and made it a dance for two inste.

Over time, the dance has gone through many evolutionary, than ever (although it can still be done more slowly for beginner and intermediate studs and more use of syncopation in the steps).

This ballroom dance may look a little bit like the whirling figures of a waltz on the dance chosen for Quick Step are fast and jazzy. Show tunes, jazz, ragtime, and swing are comm. inspire dancers to start up a Quick Step.

The One Step, The March, The Peabody, Black Bottom, Charleston and Fast Foxtrot merge Quickstep dance of today.

There was a debate as to why this dance became so popular in Britain. It has been thought that the Quickstep was Brit's answer to keeping warm indoors during the winter. It is a proven fact that the energy exerted while dancing a 60 second Quickstep is equivalent to running a mile in record time!!

Quick Step in the US

First spotted during World War I in suburban New York, it was initially performed by Caribbean and African dancers. It eventually made its debut on the stage of American music-halls and immediately became popular in

presented by our guest performers from Zionsville's Village modern dance and ballet to jazz and hip hop. The Village Dance ces, both academically and within the dance world. Thank you continuous support!

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Volume 23 Issue 9

NEWS FROM HEARTLAND BALLROOM

From the Heart (President's & VP Message)

By Larry Gogel & Anna Kovalyova

Greetings, Dancers!

It is hard to believe but Seven exciting party! Our September instructor will Saha lesson for us. After the lesson, will we have For our paid raffle, we will ha

Studio's (formerly Ballare) Fall Showcase that w and Danny Corsaro for their generosity.

Upcoming D:

- Wed, Aug 31, 5-6pm - Heartland's exhibitions at r starting Sep 8. See details below.
- Sun, Sep 11, 1-2pm - Heartland's exhibitions at r 1:00pm-KDO Fall session
- Sat, Sep 24, 7-11pm - Riolo's Fall Showcase, \$25/ Owner, for tickets and info: (317) 490-6739, <http://www.riolodance.com>

**-- Fundraisers:**

- **New Year's Eve party and Fundraiser, 31 Dec 2015.** Heartland has not held a New Year's Eve celebration for quite some time. Several ballroom clubs in town offer the New Year's Eve celebration, and the competition is rather tough. However, Heartland decided to organize New Year's Eve 2015 dance party and to tie it to a noble cause: Fundraising for Heartland's ballroom lessons for kids in 2016. To position ourselves competitively against other dance clubs, we kept the cost of admission low: \$20 for those who brought in a dish, \$25 for those who did not. The celebration turned into a big success.



Special exhibitions were held throughout the evening, with performances by Dennis Summers, Ben Davis & Alexis McCall, Guna & David Rogers, Chase Thompson & Ashley Piper. We had several prize giveaways, including two complimentary evening admission tickets to the Riverfront DanceSport festival. We raised \$655, which was added to Heartland's kids ballroom lessons fund.



***What is Next:***

- Heartland is planning another New Year's Eve Fundraiser to sponsor the expansion of the ballroom dance lessons for kids. As the name suggests, the Fundraiser will take place on December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2016.

**- Spotlight Indy 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Fundraiser for The Indiana AIDS Fund.**

The Spotlight Indy is an annual gala performance and fundraiser for The Indiana AIDS Fund. The event brings together the central Indiana performing arts organizations featuring the best live music, dance, theater and spoken word in Indiana. For the **first time** in its history, Spotlight had **ballroom dancing** included in its program, and our performers made us proud!

The **2,000 seat theater** was filled nearly to capacity. The **90 minute show** presented performances from **19 different art organizations**. It was a wonderful venue for promoting ballroom dance.



Anna Kovalyova & John Berry at Spotlight

The Heartland Chapter was represented by **Anna Kovalyova** and her professional instructor **John Berry** who performed an International Tango routine. **Danny Corsaro**, another Heartland member, also participated in the Spotlight Indy Fundraiser with his professional dance instructor, **Marie Riolo**. Together they performed an Argentine Tango routine. The idea was to present two different styles of Tango dancing to the Spotlight audience, and both exhibitions were very well received. Many Heartland members came to the Fundraiser to show support for our dancers.

This year, the Fundraising goal was set at \$170,000. The 2016 Spotlight Indy surpassed this goal and raised more than **\$210,000** for HIV testing and prevention. Heartland is proud to have contributed to the success of the program.

### --Special Olympics (SO) program:



Special Olympics Competition in Fort Wayne, Aug 2016

The program consists of three main components: Fundraiser, ballroom training and Competition. The Heartland volunteers are actively involved in all aspects of the program: the SO annual Big Ballroom Bash Fundraiser, as well as the training and competition with the SO athletes at the SO Annual Competition in Fort Wayne, IN. This year, the SO competition took place in August 2016, and hosted 25 SO couples.

*What is Next:* Heartland is exploring partnership with Trader's Point Christian Church (TPCC) who is conducting an annual "Starry Night" Special Needs prom. The prom offers dinner, games, karaoke, beauty

stations and dancing to Special Needs persons and their care-givers. Heartland is hoping to organize a ballroom dance booth at the next year TPCC's prom and to offer mini-dance lessons to the prom guests.

- The **Big Ballroom Bash Annual Fundraiser for SO athletes** of Hendricks County. The fundraiser takes place at the Arabian Room of the Murat Shrine, also known as the Old National Centre, the largest Shrine temple in North America. The Fundraiser is a 3.5 hour event consisting of exhibitions by dancers from many local dance studios and groups (including Heartland dancers), SO athletes and their dance partners, and general dancing. Prior to the event, Heartland members work with SO dancers to prepare a couple of cute exhibitions with them that are presented during the Fundraiser. In addition to its volunteer work with SO athletes, Heartland Chapter donates \$100 toward the Bash each year. This year, the Bash took place on July 8, 2016 and celebrated its 21<sup>st</sup> anniversary. One of Heartland long time members, Barbara Newsom, has

been doing dance exhibitions at the Special Olympics Big Ballroom Bash Fundraiser all 21 years!

**What is Next:**

- Expanding Special Olympics beyond Hendricks County to other SO athletes of Central Indiana.

**-- Honoring Heartland Volunteers:**



Each November, Heartland holds a Volunteer Appreciation party, with cake, Award Certificate for Chapter Volunteer of the Year and recognition Plaques for years of service. The tradition started several years ago and quickly became a favorite.

Throughout the year, volunteers are also recognized in Heartland's monthly newsletter, via email blasts, and on Facebook.

The Heartland website hosts a page with photos of its numerous volunteers. Heartland also submits stories of its extraordinary volunteers to American Dancer and several stories were featured in this wonderful national publication. Three of the Heartland volunteers recently became District (Larry Gogel, 2014, Nancy Dew, 2016) and National (Anna Kovalyova, 2015) Volunteers of the Year.



Nancy Dew receiving Chapter Volunteer of the Year award



Nancy Dew receiving District Volunteer of the Year award



Amy Greenawalt - Greeting people at the door with a smile



Prize Winner

**-- Special Theme Annual Parties:**

Heartland runs several theme parties throughout the year, including Indy500, St Patrick's, Valentine's Day, Volunteer Appreciation and Christmas party.

Although the special theme parties require extra preparation, they are a lot of fun, and help unite the members.



**What is Next:**

- Heartland will host New Year's Eve party and Fundraiser on 31<sup>st</sup> Dec 2016.

**--Competitions:**

Heartland's involvement in DanceSport competitions is two-fold:

-- Providing **volunteers for competitions:**

Indianapolis is home to 2 annual ballroom competitions: Indy Open and NA Imperial Star DanceSport Championships. Heartland provides volunteers for both.

-- **Competing:**

Heartland Chapter is proud to have several members who actively compete at various competitions throughout the country.



Lauren & Suresh.  
Prechamp Stndrd 1st Place



RiverFront DanceSport Festival



Indy Open 2016



Heartland at USA  
Dance Nationals

**-- Other programs under consideration by Heartland Board:**

- Collegiate dance program
- Program for Riley Hospital for kids
- Other on-going kids-oriented dance programs for needy kids, such as Children's Bureau and Ruth Lilly Women and Children's Center
- Indianapolis Public Schools (IPS) on-going dance program (in addition to KDO program)

**-- In the News:**

**Heartland Chapter recognition in American Dancer (AD) Magazine:**

- Heartland's exhibitions at IWP were deemed as *innovative* by the AD.

## HEARTLAND (IN) CHAPTER 2022 BALLROOM DANCING VENTURES BEHIND WOMEN'S PRISON WALLS IN INDIANA

**About the IWP.** The Indiana Women's Prison, approximately 1.6 miles from downtown Indianapolis, is America's oldest women's correctional institution (founded in 1872) and is also the country's first maximum security facility for women. The IWP operated for 136 years in its original facility, but in 2009 moved to new facilities. On the average, there are more than 600 inmates incarcerated at the IWP. (Website: www.iw.gov)

**The USA Dance Story.** By *Aaron Enaykova (National Volunteer of the Year 2012)*



Chapter IWP Program Dancers: *Daniela Scarpone, Roger Greenwald, Jerry Clute, Don Davis, Alexis McGill, Barbara Cassone, Robert Bishop, Lauren Rinkev and Sarah Neri. Not Pictured: Mission Long, Bill Colley, Leroy Gabel, Curtis Perry, Chae Thompson, Ashley Piper, Quinn Rogers, David Rogers and Christian White*

All Photos Taken by IWP Security Staff

- Dancers had to arrive one hour before "showtime" for activities such as the on-site security check, including pat-down.
- We had to obtain permission to bring in any equipment.
- Virtually, the only items allowed for each dancer were a picture ID, ear keys, dance shoes (one pair), one outfit, and one CD with the dancer's music. Shoe brushes were not allowed as they fell under the "sharp objects" heading and had to be left behind.

The prison did allow jewelry, hats and suspenders if they were part of the "costume." However, sleeveless dresses, low cuts and open backs were not allowed. Our female dancers were advised to wear modest dresses or blouses and skirts or slacks. So, dressing the part became a challenge.

We also learned a quick lesson about parking at the prison: license plates must be visible to security. Indiana plates are on back bumpers only, which meant "reparking" our cars and then a second security check-patdown.

Despite the many restrictions (and costume quandaries), Chapter dancers found the IWP project among their most rewarding community experiences. Dancing with inmates during our group

In celebration of National Ballroom Dance Week, the Heartland (IN) Chapter 2022 literally ventured into new territory as our performers danced for more than 100 of the maximum-security inmates incarcerated at the Indiana Women's Prison (IWP) – an undertaking for the Chapter that was more than a year in the making.

How did this pioneering program start? Several Heartland members knew volunteers involved in IGAN (Indiana Game Assistant, Inc.), a rehabilitation program in which the inmates train dogs for the handicapped. We asked ourselves: why not give the inmates a taste of ballroom? We reached out to the IWP Program Coordinator and eventually found ourselves working on a proposed dance program for inmates.

But before we started, detailed and stringent "guard rules" had to be communicated to all of our performers:

- Dancers' names and dates of birth had to be submitted for security checking at least 10 days prior to our event (making last-minute dancer substitutes an impossibility).

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**- Heartland Chapter got mentioned 3 times in the Aug-Oct 2016 issue of the American Dancer:**

Nancy Dew was honored as the 2015-2016 National Volunteer of the Year finalist; Marie Riolo and Danny Corsaro were featured dancing at the 2016 Spotlight Indy Fundraiser; and the Heartland's 2015 exhibition at the Indiana Women Prison (IWP) was mentioned as one of the Top social dance events of the Year. Way to go, Heartland!



# Appendix

## What People Say About Heartland

Carol Kussman: "I enjoyed the time with **Girls, Inc. in Franklin, IN**. Keep up the great work bringing the world of dance to the youth and the elderly in our community."

Anita Patrick: "As a **mother to an SO competitor**, I want to thank you for supporting our athletes. The Big Ballroom Bash fundraising is important, and giving our dancers the opportunity to perform is appreciated. Thank you (Heartland) USA Dance Chapter for your support. I enjoyed the entire evening."

Heartland dancers got a thank you note from the **Children's Bureau** in July 2016:  
"Thank you so much for visiting us again this year! We appreciate the time and effort that goes into putting on a great exhibition for us. It is so nice to expose the kids to activities they'd otherwise never know – it's all because of wonderful, talented people like you. Thank you for your generous spirit and giving hearts!"

Very Sincerely,  
Chelsea Smock, Volunteer and Events Coordinator  
Children's Bureau, Inc. | Gene Glick Family Support Center"

Heartland got a thank you note from Elizabeth Barrett, Activity Coordinator at the **Northridge Retirement center** for our exhibitions and dancing at the **2nd Annual Senior Prom** in June 2016:

"Thank you SO much for coming to entertain us (during our Senior Prom) and then get us up and dancing! The residents thoroughly enjoyed each dance and having fun with everyone from Heartland."

We got a thank you note from the **Carmel Senior Living** Program Coordinator regarding Heartland's Aug 2016 exhibitions:

"Thank you for making our residents smile. You all are the best!"