

# Duck Dance

# MARATHON



## 2023 - 2024 Goals

Dance Marathon at the University of Oregon strives to engage the student and local communities to promote children's health and happiness while fostering the leadership and involvement of participants. Our organization raises funds and awareness for PeaceHealth Sacred Heart Medical Center in Springfield through peer-to-peer fundraising, special events, donations from the community, and engagement with corporate and small business partners in the local area. 100% of our efforts go to promoting the mission and function of PeaceHealth Sacred Heart Medical Center.

Our goals for 2023-2024 are to raise \$10,000, fundraise with local businesses, continue to grow community involvement via community events, fundraising, and outreach, grow alum involvement, implement the Team Captain program, and host our main event in May 2024.

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# Mens BASKETBALL

## A day with U of O's Mens Basketball

At the beginning of the term, Duck Dance Marathon had the chance to tour Matthew Knight Arena and hang out with the University of Oregon's Mens Basketball team. Joined by our miracle families, our miracle kiddos had the chance to meet with their favorite players, Coach Dana Altman, and shoot some hoops with the team.

Coach Dana has been a long-time supporter of Children's Miracle Network, working with them for over 10 years. His commitment, and the Oregon's mens basketball team's, to helping fight childhood illness is part of what keeps Duck Dance Marathon going. Thank you to the entire Mens Basketball team for your support.



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# Miracle STORY

## Fynnley

Fynnley is just about the sweetest little blond-haired bundle of energy you will ever meet! At just 2 years old, she has already been through more surgeries than most people will have in a lifetime. Born with VACTERL Association, a condition that presented multiple complex birth defects, Fynnley spent 73 long days in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at RiverBend. She had esophageal atresia (an abnormal connection between her airway, esophagus, and stomach), anorectal malformation, multiple holes in her heart, reflux in her kidneys, a tethered spinal cord and a limb difference in her thumb. Fynnley needed 6 surgeries during her NICU stay to help repair the various impacts of VACTERL, including attaching her esophagus and stomach, placing a Gastrostomy Tube (G-Tube) so she could eat, and anorectal reconstruction. While Fynnley faced numerous challenges, her indomitable spirit shone through. The team of dedicated doctors, nurses, surgeons, and caregivers provided her with the care and support she needed to overcome each obstacle.

Today, Fynnley is thriving and full of boundless energy and endless joy. Though she will always carry the many scars from her experience, she tackles life with enthusiasm every day, eating whatever she wants, and runs and plays without any restrictions. Her determination and resilience are truly awe-inspiring, a testament to the power of the human spirit.



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# External TEAM



## Public Relations Chair

Ainsley Maddalena is a Journalism and Advertising double major with minors in Sustainable Business. From Austin, Texas, Ainsley joined Dance Marathon to help raise awareness for childhood illnesses and get more involved around campus. A fun fact about Ainsley is that she has been skydiving and is the executive editor of FLUX Magazine this year. In her free time, Ainsley enjoys sudoku, reviewing movies on Letterboxd, and playing intramural volleyball with friends on campus.



## Recruitment Chair

From Portland, Oregon, Mason Cruz is a Public Relations major and is minoring in Business Administration and Entrepreneurship. He joined Dance Marathon to contribute to his community in a rewarding and impactful way. Mason wanted to help those facing medical challenges, and offer them support, joy and distraction during tough times. A fun fact about Mason is that he has two pet ducks at home. In his spare time, Mason works for Handle and is a videographer and photographer around Eugene.



## Participants Relations Chair

Sam Negron is from Orange County, California. A junior studying marketing, Sam joined Dance Marathon because she thinks it is a great way to stay involved on campus and a good cause. Sam has loved everything we have done so far in Dance Marathon, especially the hospital visit. A fun fact about me is Will Smith bought girl scout cookies from her. Outside of Dance Marathon, Sam works on-campus at the Fraternity and Sorority Life office.



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Alumni

# SPOTLIGHT

## Michelle Ponto

Over the four years Michelle was involved in dance marathon, she transitioned from being a participant to an executive board member. While at the University of Oregon, Michelle majored in Communication Disorders and Sciences with a minor in Special Education. She first got involved with Dance Marathon after her fellow sorority sisters who were a part of Dance marathon saw her passion for community lead organizations. This experience showed her what's it's like to be a part of a family that makes an impact on others lives' who so desperately deserve it. From fundraising to one on one interactions, every moment counts. It also showed Michelle how accountability and strong friendships create the necessary foundation we need during hard times. Dance Marathon also showed her how to be an effective leader, better manage her time, and that every small action can move mountains. After graduating, Michelle is now a conditional speech language pathologist at an elementary school.



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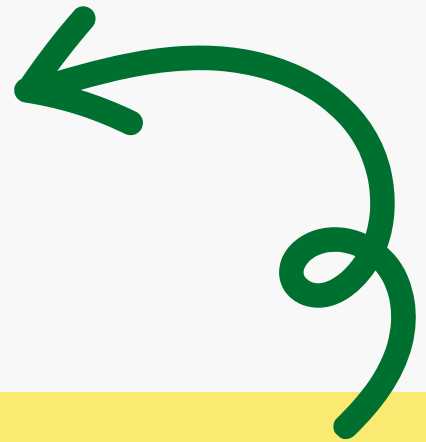


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# Donor **DRIVE**

Our team is participating in Dance Marathon, where we join together to raise funds for our local Children's Miracle Network Hospital, which provides critical life-saving treatments and healthcare services for children and their families. Together, we can change kids' health and change the future - we need your help!

To donate, scan the QR code below. Your donation is tax-deductible and will make miracles happen for families who desperately need them. You can click the "donate" button at the top of this page to make a safe and easy online donation.



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