

LOCAL DANCE SCHOOL STRIVING FOR A HIGHER PURPOSE

Reflections School of Dance: "Where Dance is an Art Form, not just a sport or a competition but an art form to serve our community and culture."

What makes Reflections School of Dance different from other performing arts schools around? Besides the fact that classes run in an adorable pink barn, the directors, Len and Debbie Wiens feel it is the heart behind the programs that make all the difference. The studio prides itself as being family friendly with tasteful, age appropriate costumes, music and choreography. Debbie feels the whole motivation behind what they are doing is what sets them apart from other schools. They want to offer superior dance training, but even more so train students to think outside the walls of the studio. As a young single woman, Debbie had literally traveled the world with dance and service projects. Several years after marrying Len, she settled down to open her own dance school and pass on her love for dance to others with the same heart of service in which she had been trained.

The dance world is often a self-serving and self-absorbed one. Many dancers thrive only on the applause of the audience or the ability to win contests. At Reflections, dancers become aware from early in their training that they are striving for a bigger purpose. For example, each spring the performance teams take part in a free benefit concert to raise awareness and funds for those less fortunate. Two years ago, Len and Debbie led a team of dancers to Belize, Central America where they spent Spring Break painting, performing and teaching dance workshops in the nation's capitol city of Belmopan. This year the goal is to travel to Bangkok, Thailand by the invitation of an orphanage for children of AIDS victims. A break dance team has developed from some of the teen boys in this very orphanage which has gained national acclaim for their ability and excellence.

On a more frequent and local level, the beautiful Reflections dancers have been seen at such events as Providence Hospital's "Festival of Trees", Warm Beach's "Lights of Christmas", Seattle Center's "Winterfest", King 5's "Healthy Living Fair", Mill Creek Business Association's "Mill Creek Festival", and "Freedom Fest", local malls, schools, churches, Performing Arts Centers, and the year end June recital which attracts 1200 people. They also enjoy the privilege of visiting and dancing for the delightful residents of local Merrill Gardens, Arbor Place and Clare Bridge assisted living homes.

The outreach activities and scholarships of the Reflections Performance Teams are part a nonprofit organization "Elijah Commission" which offers Tax Deductible Receipts for all contributions which are gratefully received.

Reflections offers dance instruction for ages 2 through adult in Ballet, Tap, Jazz, Hip Hop, Lyrical, Modern, Cheer etc. For pictures, video clips, schedule, tuition and all other information please see our web site: www.reflectionsschoolofdance.com