

# Annual Dance Concert at HHS Performing Art Center

On Sunday June 8th at the Harrison High School Performing Art Center, The Magical Movements School of Dance held it's fifth annual dance concert. The newly renovated auditorium, with its comfortable seats, great lighting and acoustic system, created the perfect atmosphere for family and friends to sit back in amazement, as students transformed the stage.

This year's program was entitled SAVE THE DATE -- highlighting the seasons, celebrations, holidays, and sporting events we

celebrate throughout the year. With their beautiful costumes and choreography, the students truly reflected the particular event associated with the piece.

Similar to last year, the youngest dancers took the stage first. Among the seventeen performances in the first half, girls in aqua blue evoked the sense of moving water, summer breezes, and time by the pool, as they danced to "Fabulous" from the popular teen movie High School Musical. Children dressed in Mardi Gras colors tapped to "When the Saints



Go Marching In," pink and white bunnies hopped to "Here Comes Peter Cottontail", and "Ghostbusters"-garbed kids boogied to the Halloween favorite. And of course, no program would be complete without a tribute to our great country by girls in red, white, and blue dancing to Sousa's "Stars and Stripes Forever." Santa Claus even made a special mid-year appearance, as blue velvet and white fur snowflakes tapped away.

The afternoon show had another 13 pieces, featuring dancers over 7 years to adults, including instructors. Girls cheered to yet another American classic -- Superbowl Sunday, while graceful ballerinas brought viewers on Columbus' voyage in the sea, for Harrison's favorite -- Columbus Day. Magical Movements director, Linda Francica, also dazzled the audience with a unique solo performance, which brought Latin ballroom and jazz dance together.

The show had a multicultural feel. With Irish and belly dancing, "The Cup of Life", Cinco de Mayo and Chinese New Year dances.

Students studied under the direction of Linda Francica at the Magical Movements School of Dance for the past semester (or year). Ms. Francica is an alumni of Manhattanville Class of '02, and opened the studio just a year after graduating with a degree in dance and theatre. She is not only the director, but teaches many of the classes at the school, where she has formed a close bond with students and their parents.

As always, the children had lots of fun, made new friends, while learning the finer points of dance technique, choreography, and performance.

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## The Children's Hope Chest "Food for Hope Drive" Feeds Needy Families

Many residents in Westchester and Connecticut are surprised to learn that hunger is a very real issue in our area. Chronic malnutrition severely impairs children, adults and seniors alike. There is a problem of food scarcity in an area that is considered to be very affluent. Carver Center in Port Chester, Neighbor

to Neighbor in Greenwich and The Harrison Food Pantry are three organizations that strive to ensure that their food pantries are stocked to meet the basic rations of needy families. Together these organizations provide groceries to more than 700 needy

families each month. The Children's Hope Chest became aware of this huge need in 2006 and have taken a huge step to address it. Thanks to efforts of The Children's Hope Chest program "Food for Hope" these three food pantries are well stocked for the summer when their needs are the greatest because donations are scarce.

The Children's Hope Chest held its second annual "Food for Hope" event on Saturday, June 16<sup>th</sup> at The Super Stop & Shop in White Plains on Westchester Avenue. In conjunction with the tremendous support from The Super Stop & Shop employees and management, The Children's Hope Chest was able to provide over \$12,000 worth of food and Stop & Shop gift cards for the local pantries. The event was an amazing success and so inspiring to watch volunteerism ignite such excitement in small children. "If I can help, you can too" said eight year old Kendall Lefkowitz to customers of Stop and Shop as they entered the store. This was her way of reaching out to customers before she provided each one with the list of necessities requested from the local food pantries.

The Food for Hope event gave children hands-on involvement in collecting food items for needy families. Donors provided necessary food items to stock the food pantries at The Carver Center in Port Chester, Neighbor to Neighbor in Greenwich and the Harrison Food Pantry. Over 50 children volunteers, most of which were elementary and middle school children, were at the door to greet participants and help them shop for the requested food pantry items. Donors were also able to provide Stop and Shop gift cards to help families purchase perishable items

that are so lacking in the summer months. The Children's Hope Chest volunteers helped fill up the trucks with the donations and drive them directly to both food pantries.

"This event is very rewarding for The Children's Hope Chest Board Members and Advisory Committee and volun-



Volunteers from Purchase Elementary School, Harrison Avenue Elementary

teers because we see our kids in action ~ doing all the soliciting and explaining what we are trying to accomplish today", remarked Susan Nangle, Board Member as she participated in the event.

"Our children are so fortunate and it's so important to give back to local families who need our help. It is a great feeling to be a part of the solution and to watch our kids reaching out to address a very serious problem. The children get to experience firsthand what a good feeling it is to help others and the excitement just continued to build as they saw the trucks filled with food leaving the parking lot to the food pantries" added Anna Cuneo organizer of the middle school participants.

The Children's Hope Chest is a non-profit organization dedicated to helping children and families in need or crisis in the immediate area. The Children's Hope Chest provides hope for children in despair by acting as a liaison between its donors, volunteers and partner agencies whose missions align with helping children in need.

In keeping with its mission of helping children in need, its volunteer donors accomplished the following in 2006:

- 1,500 Children unwrapped their specific Holiday Wish gift items
- 506 Children carried a new backpack full of school supplies.
- 107 Children slept in new sleeping bags and received all the necessities for a great summer camp experience.
- Two food pantries had enough inventory and Stop & Shop gift cards to help feed families in need for the entire summer.

The Children's Hope Chest is actively looking for donors to become involved with all their initiatives.

## 2007 Jarden Westchester Triathlon Sells Out; Youth Triathlon Returns

No sooner did online registration begin for the 23rd Annual Jarden Westchester Triathlon on March 1 than just hours later the race sold out in record time. The 2007 race takes place on Sunday, September 23 in Rye.

"We are thrilled at receiving such a quick response this year," remarked Phil Gormley of Rye, Chairperson of the Jarden Westchester Triathlon Committee. "Thanks to the support of our generous sponsors and the commitment of a core group of local volunteers, this triathlon is now an annual sell-out."

Last year, Rye-based Jarden Corporation, a leading provider of niche consumer products used in and around the home, became the race's first ever title sponsor, committing its financial support for three years. In addition, USAT selected the 2006 race to be a part of the "Haul to the Great Wall" Series for professionals training for the Olympic Games in Beijing, attracting over 100 elite triathletes from around the country and the world to the event.

This year, USAT has selected the Jarden Westchester Triathlon to be its New England Regional Championship race. In addition, the race will be a qualifier for the "Escape from Alcatraz" Triathlon to be held in San Francisco, California in June 2008.

"Our triathlon is unique in that it is run almost entirely by volunteers, with all proceeds going directly towards charities in the community," says Gormley. "In order to keep up with the rapid growth of the race, we are looking to get more people involved in both the planning and execution stages this year."

The Jarden Westchester Triathlon

Committee is a diverse group of local volunteers, most of whom are triathletes themselves, who have built this race into the sold-out event it is today. There are now openings on the committee for those interested in helping to organize the event. In addition, over 200 volunteers, typically half of whom are from Rye, are needed to help the weekend of the race. To join the Committee, or to learn more about race-day volunteering opportunities and earning community service hours, contact Ray Kelly at Rkelly6768@aol.com. For more information, visit, [www.jardenwestchestertri.com](http://www.jardenwestchestertri.com).

In addition, the Westchester Triathlon Committee has announced that it will host the Westchester Youth Triathlon for 7-14 year olds on Saturday, September 22 at 8 a.m., the day before its premier Olympic distance triathlon featuring over 1,000 athletes from around the country.

The kids' multi-sport race will take place at Rye Town Park and will include the following events that vary in distance by age group: a 100 yard swim, one mile bike ride, and one mile run for 7-10 year olds; a 150 yard swim, two mile bike ride, and one mile run for 11-12 year olds; and a 200 yard swim, three mile bike ride, and one mile run for 13-14 year olds.

"After a hiatus of several years, we are thrilled to be able to once again offer a full triathlon for the kids in our community," remarked Phil Gormley, Chair of the Jarden Westchester Triathlon.

Those interested in participating or volunteering for the event can register online at [www.westchestertriathlon.com](http://www.westchestertriathlon.com). Space is limited to 200 participants so early registration is recommended.

## Ballet Recital at Harrison High School

Harrison High School auditorium came alive on June 10<sup>th</sup> for Magical Move-

ments School of Dance 4<sup>th</sup> annual dance concert. With a show entitled "We've Got The Whole World In Our Hands", students from ages 2 to 50 danced to an array of international music. Marching to "Yankee Doodle," three little girls waving American flags, opened the morning portion of the show, which featured dancers two to seven years of age.

The program incorporated the music, costume, and dance influences of Africa, Australia, Austria, England, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Jamaica, Mexico, Polynesia and the United States of America. They were reminded of our nation's roots by Cowgirls,

who "strutted their stuff", and Natives Americans, who moved gracefully. The first half

ended with a parade of smiling performers warming the audience's hearts, as they sang, tap danced, and waved their hands to "It's A Small World".

The international theme continued in the afternoon half of the show. Older students, along with some of the instructors, provided more complicated dance techniques and choreography. There were solos, duets, and group pieces, which featured various ethnic moves. From flamenco, the hora, and swing, to the tango, a tarantella and belly dancing, the world was in these dancers' hands. The audience was amazed at their skill and stage presence.

