

November 1, 2018

Dear Friends,

I am honored to have the opportunity to share the importance of Happendance and the lasting impact that it is making on the capital region. In 1976, a small group of dancers staged a free summer performance on the banks of the Red Cedar River on Michigan State University's campus and Happendance was born. This fantastic dance program has been serving over 14,000 people annually by providing dance classes, live dance concerts, and helping students learn through classroom experiences. One after-school boys dance program participant at Dwight Rich School of the Arts commented on his experience:

"We need this positive posse. Sometimes it feels like the whole world looks at me and expects me to fail. And, when I try to do good, I have to fight that current on top of trying to do good. My (dance) posse helps me. We help each other. And our leader, Segun (Happendance staff), he's alright! Yeah, we'll keep going."

In addition to after-school programs, Happendance also conducts in-school residencies and supports Lansing's only professional dance company, Velocity. For 43 years, Happendance has enhanced the community by providing exercise, learning experiences, artistic problem-solving, mentorship, and much more for children and adults alike.

As a former varsity athlete at MSU, I understand the physical, social, and psychological benefits of an active lifestyle and participation in organized activities. As an alumna of the MSU College of Education with a background in the areas of Kinesiology and Special Education, I am also aware of the pressing need for quality recreation programming for students, and the profound impact that such opportunities have on the quality of life of its participants.

Dean Transportation serves over 130 Michigan School Districts with transportation services for K-12 students. We see the impact of Happendance on a daily basis as we interact with students in the region. Happendance's efforts to enhance educational curriculums and area cultural experiences are aligned with the core values of our company. Dean Transportation is honored to support Happendance and we hope you will join us in supporting this wonderful service and arts organization.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kellie P. Dean".

Kellie P. Dean
President/CEO