

May 6, 2008

Dear Parents and Supporters of The Maple Youth Ballet:

If you have been around our studios, I hope we have met. If not, let me introduce myself. My name is Pili Doheny and I am the Assistant Director of the Pre-Ballet Program at The Maple Conservatory of Dance. I write to you today with an invitation and an opportunity.

The Maple Youth Ballet's mission is to provide young dancers with the exposure, training and performance opportunities necessary to bridge the gap between students and professional dancers. In addition, Maple Youth Ballet offers the Orange County community professional-quality performances and the opportunity to learn about and gain greater appreciation for the art of dance.

As a logical next step in the development of this young ballet company, we are creating the Friends of the Maple Youth Ballet, a support organization that will enable parents and friends to help Maple Youth Ballet fulfill its mission. We see the Friends as a guild of volunteers committed to making every aspect of the Maple Youth Ballet as good as it can be for our dancers. The Friends will assist the company through a variety of means, including fundraising, costume and set preparation, publicity, and performance support (to name just a few).

If you believe, like I do, in the future of this outstanding new company, I hope you will join us for our first meeting on **Friday, May 16th, 2008 at 5:30 PM**. At this meeting we will be discussing the following:

- June 1st Fundraising Dinner after Conservatory Showcase
- Fall Fundraiser for Nutcracker
- Nutcracker Budget and Planning
- Immediate Areas In Need of Volunteer Support

We will be asking those who choose to join the Friends of Maple Youth Ballet to make an annual, tax deductible contribution of \$100 to reflect their commitment to the group's mission. These dues will help to demonstrate that we have strong internal support as we begin to reach out to the community and invite others to join us on this artistic journey.

You know, it doesn't seem like that long ago that I was a little girl just learning how to dance. I was lucky to have a teacher who truly loved this art and shared that love with me. Since then, I have had a passion to pass that love on to others. I can tell you that the discipline, poise, manners and respect that children learn while enjoying their dance training are invaluable, character-shaping tools—tools that will serve them well in all aspects of their lives. Furthermore, I believe we will go even further as we teach our children to give back to their community and share their love of this art form with others.

Thus it is with deepest respect that Charles, Kathy, Chris and I ask that you consider joining us as Friends of the Maple Youth Ballet. Please help us make this organization a shining light in the Orange County area.

See you Friday.

Sincerely,

Pili Doheny