

## **Student Government Association Fall Semester Recap**

Student Body President Michael Hamilton



## **DanceBlue: The University of Kentucky Dance Marathon**



#### **DanceBlue:** A Brief Overview

- DanceBlue is a student run, year-long fundraising effort that culminates in a 24hour no-sitting, no-sleeping dance marathon
- All of the money raised throughout the year is donated to the Golden Matrix Fund, which benefits the patients and families treated at the DanceBlue Kentucky Children's Hospital Hematology/Oncology Clinic
- DanceBlue provides programming, student volunteers, and assistance for children battling pediatric cancer
- Our fundraising effort consists of a multitude of events, both on and off campus
- Everything that DanceBlue does is "For The Kids!"





#### The DanceBlue Clinic

- During the 2017-2018 DanceBlue student volunteers served more than 1,000 hours in the DanceBlue Clinic
- DanceBlue volunteers play games, make crafts, and make the experience of being in our clinic as positive as possible
- We serve patients and families from 73 Kentucky counties and multiple states
- More than 300 patients are served each year
- "The outstanding philanthropic efforts of DanceBlue, the funds raised, and the many volunteer hours spent by UK students show these children and their families that there is a community that cares for them and your hard work makes a very real difference in their lives." Dr. John D'Orazio, Professor of Pediatrics and Interim Chief, Division of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology













### **Highlights from 2018**

- During the 2017-2018 school year, DanceBlue raised \$1,804,068.77
- In 2018, using money raised over the past several years, DanceBlue started a \$2 million endowment called the UK Distinguished Professorship in Pediatric/Hematology Oncology which will provide funding for a full-time pediatric oncology researcher





# Our progress in the fight against pediatric cancer



More than \$13 Million raised in 13 years!



#### A Statewide Impact

- We facilitate nearly 40 "DanceBlue Mini Marathons" that occur in elementary, middle, and high schools across the entire state
- These mini marathons mirror our 24-hour dance marathon that we host each year in Memorial Coliseum, but on a smaller scale
- Mini marathons help raise money and spread awareness for pediatric cancer and DanceBlue's mission throughout the Bluegrass





## Why does our mission matter?

- Approximately 1 in 285 children in the US will be diagnosed with cancer before their 20<sup>th</sup> birthday
- Cancer remains the most common cause of death by disease for children in America
- DanceBlue's efforts provide funding for lifesaving research and treatment
- Additionally, we provide support for families through meal vouchers, gas cards, and hotel stays to lessen the financial burden that comes with battling pediatric cancer
- DanceBlue teaches young people the joy of philanthropy and what it means to give back to a cause greater than oneself



#### **Our 24-hour Dance Marathon**









#### **DanceBlue 2019**

- Our 24-hour no-sitting, no-sleeping dance marathon will take place from 8:00pm March 2<sup>nd</sup> to 8:00pm March 3<sup>rd</sup> in Memorial Coliseum
- DanceBlue invites each and every one of you to attend and see, first hand, the impact that University of Kentucky students are making in the lives of children who are battling pediatric cancer
- If you would like to get involved with our mission please contact me:
  - <u>overall@danceblue.org</u>
  - (270) 231-3557





#### 'Til The Battle is Won



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