

# HALESTONE ANNUAL REPORT 2020

FLEXIBLE, CURIOUS, & RESILIENT



Claire Kosky for Halestone Dance Studio 2020

# SUMMARY

February 2021

Welcome!

We are so grateful that you are a part of our Halestone community. 2020 has been an extraordinary year for so many of us for so many reasons, and we are extremely grateful that you chose to spend part of your year with Halestone.

If you are familiar with our mission, you know well that Halestone is committed to providing access to quality dance experiences to everyone and anyone. The dance education we offer is organized around 5 core values:

1. Dance education should be nurturing and age appropriate.
2. Dance education should be inclusive to all students.
3. Dance is taught through technique and theory simultaneously.
4. Students have agency in dance experiences.
5. Students are young artists and should be taught dance through experiencing the creative process.

Throughout 2020, when Halestone was forced to innovate and be curious, resilient and flexible to respond to various challenges, we kept these 5 core values active and in motion.

As you read this annual report, you'll see that the pandemic has impacted our ability to partner with as many schools and pre-schools as we did in 2019. However, we are as committed as ever to our dance education programs with the schools. We are continuing to nurture our community connections so that we can return and then expand our 2019 level of programming once safety measures ease. And the pandemic has forced us to innovate, such as offering virtual dance classes to students at Natural Bridge Elementary and Waddell Head Start, with great results.

I hope you will continue to engage with Halestone throughout 2021 and beyond. In particular, please make plans to join us for our annual spring concert, which this year will be held on **May 15th and 16th**.

Sincerely,  
Mauri Connors, Artistic Director

Ps. Although not technically in our 2020 year, we are overjoyed to announce that the Halestone Foundation was a recipient of a 2021 Dominion Energy Art Stars Award for our education program. Visit our [website](#) to learn more about this award!

# MONTH BY MONTH

In **January**, the Halestone Foundation Board of Directors published its first Mission Statement and Strategic Plan.

In **February**, high school Company Dancers choreographed and performed in the Southern Virginia University Spring Dance Concert.

In **March**, we, like dance schools around the world, closed the doors to our studio and started conducting our dance classes over Zoom. We have continued to use Zoom classes to meet various populations over the course of 2020 and into 2021.

In early **summer**, Halestone was awarded a General Operating Support Grant and an Artists in Education Grant from the Virginia Commission for the Arts for our 2020-2021 fiscal year. For both grants, this was the first time Halestone had been awarded the grant.

In **June**, as restrictions in Virginia were lifted, we welcomed students back to our studio space with Summer Camps for young dancers and a Summer Dance Intensive with Guest Artist Gabrielle Tull for teenagers and adults. We created strict guidelines for our studio space, limiting the number of dancers, taking temperatures, and requiring masks, as well as upgrading our HVAC to bring more fresh air into the studio.

In early **August**, we presented an outdoor concert, highlighting the work of our graduating seniors before they went to college. In late August, we presented two outdoor concerts at Boxerwood Nature Center, bringing back students and choreography from what would have been our 2020 Spring Recital Concert.

In **September**, we started our 2020-2021 season with in-person classes in our studio, under our enhanced safety protocols. We continued to provide dance to local school children through online and outdoor classes at elementary and pre-schools.

In **October**, we presented our outdoor Fall Concert, with guest choreography, and performances by students ages 5 through adults. This concert was streamed online to encourage social distancing and to allow for friends and family around the country to see the performances live.

In **November** and **December** we successfully ran our Annual Fund Campaign, where we met our goal of \$4,000 in individual donations to unlock \$4,000 in matching donor funds. We were able to meet and surpass this fundraising goal by Giving Tuesday on December 1st.

# Numbers

2019-  
2020

107  
PER MONTH

Hours of instruction at  
722 S Main:

13  
PER MONTH

Hours of instruction  
elsewhere in the  
community:

0

Number of classes 100%  
online:

0

Number of hybrid in-  
person/online classes:

7  
SCHOOLS

Schools receiving  
Halestone dance  
classes:

~15  
PERCENT

Students supported by  
scholarships:

2020-  
2021

102  
PER MONTH

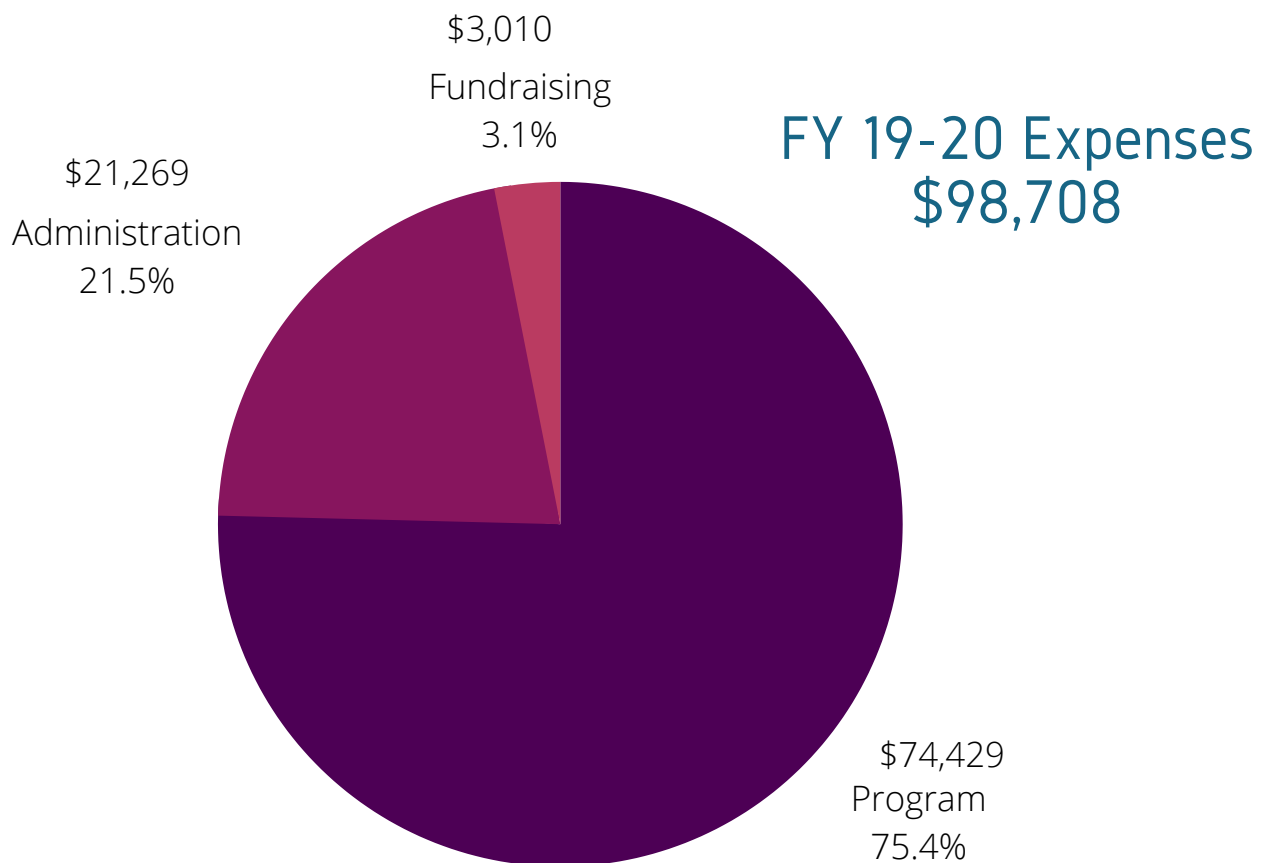
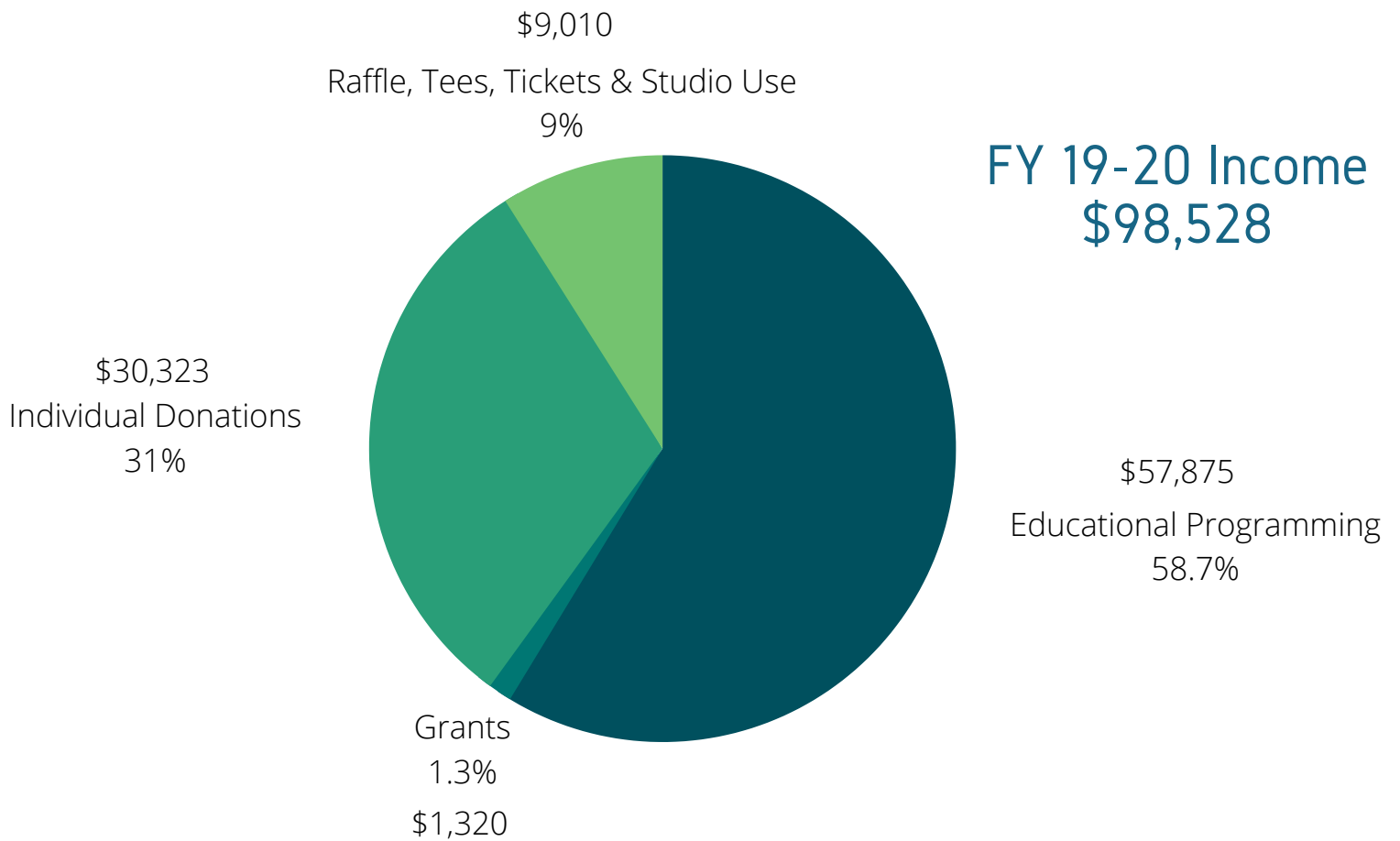
3  
PER MONTH

2

4

3  
SCHOOLS

~18  
PERCENT



# Our Supporters



## **Forest**

Dr. John B Payne III

## **Tree**

Mary Beth and Mac Baker

Ann Courtney and Owen Collins

Joel and Liz Kuehner

Anonymous

## **Blossom**

Elizabeth and Wade Branner

Lisa and Chris Connors

Stephanie Hodde and Jeff Kosky

Laura Lanier

Jessica Sullivan

## **Bud**

Daniel and Margaret Anne Hinkle

Mauri Connors

James and Higgins Stewart

Jennifer Mask

## **Sapling**

Dafi and Reshef Agam-Segal

Nancy Baker, *in honor of Ellie Baker*

Alexandra Brown

Mary Courtney

Sara Cunningham

Larry Evans

Leil Hackett, *in honor of Leila Hackett*

Christine Hodde

Elizabeth Lauck


Teresa Thompson

Trina Welsheimer and Larry Hurd

Robert Zahm

# Our Supporters

## **Root**



Diane Bangley  
Beverly Burks  
Dennis and Irene Condie  
Phyllis and Fred Fevrier  
Anne-Riely Popper, *in honor of Ellie Baker*  
Lisa Rodocker  
Claire Sasowsky  
Nancy Saylor  
Trez Sebrell  
John White

## **Seed**

Abbey Carrico  
Hayley Connors-Keith  
Rolf David Jr and Jessica Dixon  
Lynne Kirkpatrick  
Kirk Follo  
Jenna LaManna-Johnson  
Amy Richwine  
Silvia Sheffield  
Chris Terapane  
Mariam Todd  
Mindy Toro  
Elissa Webb  
Adam and Wendy Wolfe  
Frank and Brenda Wollner  
Susanna Young

The list above includes donations made between January 1, 2020 and December 31, 2020. In spite of our best efforts, errors occasionally occur. If you notice an error, please accept our apologies and contact Mauri Connors at [director@halestone.com](mailto:director@halestone.com) so we can make a correction.



# Our Supporters

## ***Grants and Foundations***

The Brittigan Fund at Lexington Presbyterian Church  
The Virginia Commission for the Arts

## ***Recital Sponsors***

Cornerstone Bank  
Dupont Community Credit Union  
Paula Martin/Lexington Real Estate Connection  
Lexington Eye Care, Dr. Helen Fure

## ***Raffle Fundraiser Sponsors***

Boxerwood  
Delaware North/Shenandoah National Park  
Ladles and Linens  
Massanutten Resorts  
Up to Par Management  
Shenandoah Valley Regional Airport  
Wind Horse Farms/Trish Vest

Halestone received funding from the Virginia Commission for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts in 2020.





# Sponsor a Scholarship Student

Although our classes start in August and run through May, we accept new students at all times. Even through this pandemic, and despite overall lower enrollment, we've added new students almost every month, and we've especially seen a rise in new students at the start of 2021. Many of these students are supported by our scholarship program.

To date in our 2020-2021 dance year, we've given out scholarships equaling **\$5,305.00** to **12** dancers, many of whom take more than 1 class per week.

We appreciate your support of our scholarship program, and ask you to consider making your donations to the Halestone Foundation a *monthly recurring donation*.

For example, 4 donors each making a recurring \$15 donation each month would cover the cost of 1 student dancing 1 hour a week on scholarship for the entire year. To set up a recurring donation to Halestone, visit our [website](#) and check 'make this a monthly donation.'



To make a donation today, you can visit [www.halestone.com/donate-paypal/](http://www.halestone.com/donate-paypal/) or mail a check to Halestone Foundation, PO Box 1583, Lexington, VA 24450. To discuss sponsoring a specific scholarship student or one of our classes with the local schools, please contact Mauri Connors at [director@halestone.com](mailto:director@halestone.com) or (540) 463-7444.

## **Halestone Foundation Mission Statement:**

***The Halestone Foundation enriches the Rockbridge area by providing access to quality dance experiences and education in nurturing environments. We foster the creative process, artistic excellence, and joy. We empower individuals and communities to make, perform, and experience original dance as a theoretical, technical, and expressive art.***

**[www.halestone.com](http://www.halestone.com)**