

FCDM provides leadership opportunities

By Kayla Jones and Heather VanFleet

A single tear slides down her face as she speaks.

“As a mother, I couldn’t imagine what it must be like to see your child going through chemo or being treated for a deadly disease,” said English teacher and FCDM sponsor Anne Martin as she dabs her cheek with a tissue.

Dance Marathon is a student-led organization dedicated to raising money for children of Riley’s Hospital who cannot afford to pay for their treatment. The students fundraise and give their earnings to the hospital. The body is comprised of junior committee members and senior executives, called exec, along with a few teacher supervisors.

“When it comes to responsibilities, the students do nearly all of the work. They order the food, call the deejay, design the shirts. I’m only here to observe and answer any questions that they may have,” said English teacher Tiffany Stansbury, FCDM sponsor.

The students have a vigorous schedule and devote most of their time before, after, and during school to preparing for the event.

“A lot of effort goes into preparing for Dance Marathon. More than people think. We have morning meetings, after school practices and the exec even has an entire class period dedicated to getting things ready. (Senior) Lexi Bird has been on the phone for 30 minutes, calling potential sponsors,” said senior Mary Hayes.

Though hard work and fundraising consume their time almost year-round, the event itself is closely tied to many people associated to FC.

“I thought that the cause was good. That, and my grandfather passed away from cancer when I was younger. That’s part of the reason I wanted to get involved with Dance Marathon,” said senior Grant Vellinger. “I do it with his memory in mind.”

Dance Marathon is an event that started at IU



Senior Jordyn Boling and the rest of the Dance Marathon committee members practice their dance moves after school at rehearsal in preparation for the big day. These students put in hours of time and effort to learn the movements for the night of Dance Marathon. “Teaching the moves is hard. Not everyone gets it at first but we have fun doing it,” said senior Grant Vellinger. Photo by Heather VanFleet.

Bloomington, when a student contracted AIDS and was not able to pay for treatment. The student body came together and raised the money for his treatment, thus creating an annual Dance Marathon. The idea was pitched to principal Janie Whaley, who found out about the event through her sister.

“The very first Dance Marathon (at FC) was a Student Council-led program and not many of the students body got involved. Over the years, they’ve raised more money and gotten more students involved. I back them 100 percent. The idea is great and the students do an outstanding job of getting everything organized,” said Whaley.

Last year, Dance Marathon raised almost \$65,000 and their goal has only grown.

“This year, we plan to raise over \$70,000 and have 600 students come. The event starts at 1 P.M. and lasts until 9 on February 28,” said Hayes.

With a positive reputation around the school, the members of Dance Marathon believe in more than just the money. They believe in helping those in need and standing for those who cannot.

“It’s not all about the money. It’s about helping people out. It’s about fighting for the right cause. That’s why Dance Marathon is so important to me,” said Martin.