For Immediate Release

Dancing Wheels Company & School Finds a New Home

CLEVELAND January 29, 2018 – Dancing Wheels Company & School (“Company”) announced today that it has found a new home at 3030 Euclid Avenue, after six months of searching for a new location. The move will take place the week of May 1, 2018, prior to a Gala tentatively scheduled for Saturday, May 19, 2018.

The new location will provide the Company greater visibility, programming and the opportunity for greater collaboration. Affordability, secured parking and a bus stop located in front of the building will accommodate accessibility needs of staff and consumers, and ease transportation to and from the studio.

“Embracing the news that we needed to move was difficult, however, we approached it with a sense of urgency and optimism, all the while knowing that change brings opportunity and challenge. Today, we couldn’t be happier about making our new home a reality and continuing our commitment to this wonderful community for years to come,” said Mary Verdi-Fletcher, President/Founding Artistic Director of Dancing Wheels. “At the same time, the need to raise capital to cover costs and ensure our future is an important priority for the Company and its Board of Directors.”

Moving Toward a Lasting Legacy

In July, a special committee of the Board led by Kerry Agins launched the Company’s Moving Toward A Lasting Legacy campaign with a goal of raising $500,000 to support the build-out of the new space, cover moving expenses and create a fund for the future. To date, the Company has raised nearly 40% or $190,000 in campaign pledges, including a contribution of $50,000 from the Cleveland Foundation.

“We still have a long way to go and need the help of our community to keep this momentum going to reach our ultimate goal,” said Verdi-Fletcher. “There is strength in numbers, so pledges of any size – large or small – will make a difference. We appreciate all the love and support our friends and donors have shown so far and look forward to continuing the educational and artistic programs we provide in Northeast Ohio and around the world.”
In the coming months, the Company will also need volunteers to help with painting, packing and unpacking. In-kind contributions of office furniture and kitchen items such as a refrigerator, microwaves, tables and chairs etc. are also needed. A comprehensive list will be available on the Company’s website at [www.dancingwheels.org](http://www.dancingwheels.org) or by calling 216-432-0306.

**About Dancing Wheels Company & School**

Mary Verdi-Fletcher, America’s first professional wheelchair dancer, founded the Dancing Wheels Company in 1980 in Cleveland, Ohio. Having been born with spina bifida and as a strong advocate for the rights of people with disabilities, she opened the door of opportunity for people with disabilities who desire to be on equal ground with their non-disabled peers. The Dancing Wheels Company was formed to educate and employ professionally trained dancers with and without disabilities. The Company and its educational programs serve over 7,000 children throughout Northeast Ohio, and tour the globe performing and reaching over 50,000 people annually. To learn more about the Company & School, visit [www.dancingwheels.org](http://www.dancingwheels.org).

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