It is with pleasure that I write to you as the new Director of Development of Career Transition For Dancers. CTFD has the vital mission of providing resources and education to the most talented performers in the United States, if not the world. It is my pleasure and honor to serve our extraordinary dancers, board and committed donors.

Though I am not a dancer, I have had a similar career transition experience to some of those I find within our organization. Being the son of a musician, I grew up in the concert hall. Performing on stage became for me the highest form of communication; I had experienced nothing comparable to it. The stage was my home and my fellow musicians were my family. In time, in the same way that our dancers discover there is life after performing, I found new ways off-stage – different but equally rewarding ways – to express my interests and realize my passions.

In the last 21 years, Career Transition For Dancers has awarded over $20 million in Annual Grants. Twenty years ago, we provided $167,000 to dancers in support of their educational ambitions. Now, because of the ever increasing expenses of education and the greater need from our clients, we are able to provide over $300,000 to our dancers each year! CTFD’s educational grants are essential in helping dancers earn undergraduate and graduate degrees, vocational certification, and the acquisition of important new skills. These grants help bridge the gap between the various sources of funding and loans available to our dancers, and often make the critical difference between being able to complete one’s education or having it postponed indefinitely. Not only do we want to sustain this vital service, but we want to do more. And in order to make this happen, we need your help.

Recently CTFD received major gifts that have been endowed in perpetuity. That means they continue for years to come, allowing our organization to rely on a predictable financial base. Such gifts have come from the acclaimed dance artist Sono Osato and from the families of exceptional performers Carmen Diana Barth and Violet Blumenfeld. Individuals and Corporations also make annual gifts to support this program such as Lifestyle Media, Inc. and Anka K. Palitz in the memory of her husband Clarence V. Palitz.

Providing an educational scholarship for a dancer gives the donor the opportunity to experience a dancer’s career transition. Individuals who provide educational scholarships receive thank you letters from their dancers and may have the opportunity to meet them in person at our many events. Every contribution we receive enables dancers to pursue higher education and to carve out a new career after the conclusion of a rewarding life on the stage. I want to personally thank our dancers and our donors for their commitment. It is with sincere gratitude that I am able to consider you all members of our close and supportive family and I wish you the very best in the months to come.

John Sinton, President