President’s Message  Dreams by Cynthia Fischer

We dreamed of a graduate study scholarship program to offer our undergraduate clients the opportunity to continue their studies on a graduate level. Last year, through the generosity of Sono Osato and her husband Victor Elmaleh an endowment fund was established and we were able to award two $5,000 graduate scholarships. This year the proceeds from this endowment allowed us to award four scholarships and help four more remarkable candidates to achieve their dreams.

We dreamed of somehow expanding our visibility and accessibility. Through Board support and foundation funding CTFD has embarked on a ground-breaking branding project which includes an extensive and much needed overhaul of our website. This project will enable us to reach the public, our clients and our supporters with a distinctive identity and a compelling vision. It forces us to consider and to communicate both who we are today and what we wish to become.

Further, our clients are now computer savvy and online. As part of this project a user-friendly, expanded and exciting website will be designed. We will have our grant applications online, easy navigation and invaluable links to other services and organizations. Our new website will deliver both services and significantly more information. This project is an essential step in supporting our national program, in providing more effective delivery of our services and in our ability to reach out to the general public in a meaningful way.

We dreamed of blanketing the US with our National Outreach Project “NOP’s”. In the past seven years we have held 20 National Outreach Projects in 17 cities throughout the United States to bring the CTFD message and services to the local dance communities.

In 2006, through the continued generosity of the Bossak-Heilbron Charitable Foundation and thanks to support from the National Endowment of the Arts we increased our National Outreach Projects from three to an all time high of six NOP’s. There is a vibrant regional dance scene with both expanded educational programs and a significant increase in performing companies. It is so important that we can reach them!

To all of you who inspire and make our dreams possible our heartfelt thanks.

Mail Call  Letters from our clients

Dear Mrs. Palitz,

I greatly appreciate the support of my continued education and thank you for your generous gift. I was a member of the Trisha Brown Company for a five year span from 2002 to 2006. I also worked with Trisha Brown in creating O Zlozony / O Composite for the Paris Opera Ballet.

In 2006, I left Trisha’s company due to a knee injury. Determined to rehabilitate my injury, I enrolled in a full-time, three-year course at the Manhattan Center for the Alexander Technique. CTFD provides a rare and vital service to dancers in need of counseling and support.

Thank you for your ongoing support for this scholarship fund. CTFD provides the rare assistance to thousands of dancers attempting to change careers.

Sincerely,

Cori Olinghouse, Brooklyn, NY

Dear Mr. Theodore Sayers,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your generous gift to Career Transition For Dancers. Because of your help, I have received a grant to help pay for tuition at the University of Pennsylvania. In May 2008, I will graduate with a BA in English and hopefully start working towards a career in writing.

I would like to incorporate my passion for ballet — perhaps as a dance critic or a dance historian. I have had a tremendously full career — eleven years with San Francisco Ballet and three years with the Pennsylvania Ballet — a principal dancer with both companies — and I look forward to my next step in life.

Thank you again for your generous support.

Sincerely,

Julie Diana, Philadelphia, PA

This issue, reflections on the extended families of dance

Call it a clan, call it a network, call it a tribe, call it a family. Whatever you call it, whoever you are, you need one. — Jane Howard, author

It has never been my object to record my dreams, just to realize them. — Man Ray, artist