



Dance Scholarship

Background Information

Joseph Scott Middlemiss was born into this world on May 31, 2007 and was fighting for life from this very first breath. His fiery spirit and passionate desire to live every day to the fullest were ignited at the moment of birth and continued to blossom as he grew. Joseph was born with a rare **heart disease** known as **cardiomyopathy**. Moments after birth, a chest extra x-ray revealed the telltale sign of an extremely enlarged heart. Ironically, it was this enlarged heart that set him on a lifetime of medical struggles. At the same time, that BIG HEART symbolized all the love Joe was to emulate in his short lifetime.

Spreading love was something that Joseph Scott did very well. It was HIS gift that seemed to be inborn and instinctual to him. Whether it was through a simple smile that was given to a stranger in passing, an offer to help a friend who was struggling, a hug and words of encouragement extended at just the right time, a song written and presented with the hope of lifting spirits, or other numerous offers of service, Joseph continually shared his love to open the hearts of family members, friends, and strangers, alike. On September 23, 2013, Joseph, who had been medically stable and thriving at the time, passed away very suddenly and earned his angel wings.

It is now our greatest desire to carry on Joe's legacy by continuing to touch others' lives and opening hearts just as our son did with such ease and perfection. As a result, we founded **The Joseph Middlemiss Big Heart Foundation**. One key goal of the foundation is empowering children and educating them on the power of kindness.

As educators, we believe in teaching the whole child. Dance instruction can boost a child's academic performance while transforming his/her character and strengthening the self-concept. Current research not only supports this but also shows how the arts enhance cognitive, behavioral, and social/emotional growth as well. Skills such as working in teams, communication, self-esteem, creative thinking, a calm and positive attitude, imagination, and self-discipline are developed and enhanced through the study of dance. Our goal is to provide this opportunity so as to enhance the lives of young students, empowering them to be leaders and to help others as they interact in their schools and communities at large.

Scholarship Specifics

*The recipient of the "Joseph Middlemiss Big Heart Foundation" Dance Scholarship will receive a scholarship in the amount of \$1000.00 to be used for dance lessons at a mutually agreeable location. Upon selection, the recipient (and family) may select a dance center in a convenient location within the United States. A member of our board of directors will contact the center to confirm authenticity. The payment will be made directly to the dance center of the recipient's choice.

*Scholarship recipients will be acknowledged at the JMBHF 6th Annual Celebrity ScoopFest at Shaw Farm in Dracut, MA on Tuesday, June 4th from 4-7pm.



Dance Scholarship

Qualifications

*The application is open to all students in Kindergarten through Grade 12.

Application Contents:

*Completed applications should be mailed to the foundation at P.O. Box 428 Dracut, MA 01826. Please be sure they are postmarked by **Friday May 24th**.

- ✓ Application Form
- ✓ Parent/Guardian Commitment Form and Photo/Video & Media Waiver
- ✓ Essay
- ✓ Letter of Recommendation:
All students must provide a reference from an adult who is not a family member. Examples of references would be a schoolteacher, a coach, religious education teacher, martial arts teacher, or day care provider, etc.



Dance Scholarship

2019 Application Form

Applicant Information:

Applicant's Name: _____ male/female (circle one)

Address: _____

Current School: _____ Current Grade: _____

School Address: _____

Age: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Has the applicant taken dance lessons before? Yes/No (circle one)

Dance activities the applicant is currently participating in or has participated in during the last year: _____

Parent/Guardian Information:

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Email Address: _____

Parent/Guardian Home Phone#: _____

Parent/Guardian Cell Phone #: _____



Dance Scholarship

Parent/Guardian Commitment Form

I understand that attendance at scheduled lessons is very important and is a reflection of my family's commitment to my child's dance education. I will provide transportation for my child and will do everything in my power to ensure expected participation. Recurring missed lessons without a valid reason and/or "no-shows" may result in termination of the scholarship.

In signing this, I agree to actively support my child's dance development and will ensure regular attendance at lessons.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Photo/Video & Media Waiver

I give permission for my child, _____, to have pictures or videos taken and to be highlighted in media releases to announce the scholarship recipient and to publicize his/her progress and learning as his/her lessons and experience transpire. The pictures/videos and media releases can be posted on the following (check all that apply):

The Joseph Middlemiss "Big Heart" Foundation Website and Social Media pages

Newspaper or magazine articles about the scholarship

Signage or advertisements for the "Big Heart" foundation or this scholarship

I **do NOT** consent to any of the above *(Please note: Checking this will NOT impact your child's status and standing with regard to the scholarship application review process.)*

I have read this waiver, and agree to be legally bound by its terms. Should I change my mind on this matter, I will notify the scholarship coordinator, Kate Middlemiss, in writing.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Dance Center Director Signature

Date

Scholarship Coordinator Signature

Date



Dance Scholarship

Applicant Essay:

Please use the space below or attach as separate sheet. If the applicant is not able to complete the writing task on his/her own, he/she may dictate the ideas to an adult for recording.

In a short essay of 750 words or less, please express why you want to take dance lessons.



Dance Scholarship

Reference/Recommendation

Each applicant is asked to provide a reference/recommendation from an adult who is not a member of the applicant's immediate family.

The following is to be completed by the adult recommending this applicant:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone #: _____

Relationship to applicant: _____

How long have you know the applicant? _____

Please provide a brief summary of why the applicant would benefit from this scholarship for dance lessons:

Signature: _____ Date: _____

www.jmbigheart.org

P.O. Box 428 Dracut, MA 01826