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6 p.m.



Purdue University's Dance Marathon kicked off with roaring applause from participants as the event went underway featuring various performances from The Neon Cactus' piano man Bruce Barker and Indianapolis-based band South Six Five. Dancers were encouraged to continue raising donations and

showing support by standing for a cause, as FarmHouse fraternity brothers shaved their heads and dancers could sign-up to become bone marrow donors. Marathoners learned of why they were standing after hearing stories of fortitude from several Riley Children's Hospital families.

# PUDM 2013

Dance Marathon participants danced from 6 p.m. to 12 a.m. to raise a record-breaking total of \$1,000,471.03 for Riley Hospital for children

9 p.m.



Members of the PUDM committee taught a dance to different groups of participants at different times accompanied with a collaboration of several popular, upbeat songs.

Other activities included many small group games such as "Ninja" and "Little Sally Walker". Students were happy to write letters to the children, as well as watch people battle each other in a made-up boxing match with oversized inflatable gloves.

Riley Hospital kids were dispersed throughout the participants and seemed to be overwhelmed with happiness and support.

3 a.m.



DJ Tim gave an hour of non-stop rave music to keep the participants' adrenaline flowing through their veins. Lively laughter and energetic fist pumps could be seen throughout the hour.

Shannon Castek, a sophomore in the College of Pharmacy, said even though she was tired, the rave strengthened her determination to keep going.

"The rave gave me a lot of energy, but it also took a lot out of me," Castek said.

Cassi Bacon, a 9-year-old Riley kid, had her left arm amputated because of existing blood clots in the area. But now she lives a normal life, even being chosen as the student council representative for her third grade class.

12 a.m.



The festivities were in full swing and participants were lively and full of energy. In between learning dances, the crowd was able to hear testimonies from current or past Riley patients. One young woman shared her story of how Riley helped her as she went through the process of cancer

treatment and coping with the loss of one of her legs.

"I'm glad I'm doing something that makes a difference. It's about helping kids and doing something that is bigger than yourself," said first-time participant Matthew Vale.

To give the students a small break

from dancing, a hypnotist took to the stage, putting a group of 12 participants under hypnosis. While the volunteers were hypnotized, they performed numerous comical acts such as pretending to be runway models and acting like rock stars playing air guitars.

6 a.m.



As day broke, Riley kids took to the stage, inspiring participants with their dance moves and vocal skills. Mason Kurmay rocked the crowd with his miniature dance moves and ukulele playing.

Olivia Pierce, another Riley kid who struggled with eye cancer, dedicated her vocal performance to kids like herself who feel alone at Riley.

Pierce's mother joined her later on stage to provide a mother's perspective. "I'm always scared. I'm always nervous ... but when you see kids hopping down the hall, you know that's the right place for you," she said.

PUDM president, Stephanie Nitschmann, pushed participants for a final fundraising surge, challenging them each to raise another \$50.

9 a.m.



Dancers had been at it for 15 hours already, but the energy in the gym was still palpable. When it looked like PUDM was running just shy of its \$1 million goal, the decision was made to extend the donation deadline to 11 a.m. Over \$70,000 was raised in the final two hours as dancers

took to their phones seeking last minute donations from friends and family. This effort ensured that PUDM met their goal with \$1,000,471.03 raised for Riley Children's Hospital. This is the first time in Purdue's history the million dollar mark was made.

PHOTOS BY SUMANTH CHINTAMANI, TYLER GREEN, MUJTABAA HASAN, RHIANNA MOORE, AIMEE NGUYEN AND MICHAEL TAKEDA

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