

Evanston Now

By [Erin Crowell](#) on February 25, 2014 - 3:21pm



Northwestern University Dance Marathon hosts a 5K run around the university's lakefill on Saturday, March 8, with proceeds to benefit Team Joseph and the Evanston Community Foundation.

NUDM FUNDRAISING HISTORY

In its 40 years, Northwestern University Dance Marathon -- one of the largest student-run philanthropies in the world -- has raised more than \$14 million for more than 30 different charities.

TEAM JOSEPH

The 22-member NUDM Executive Board unanimously selected Team Joseph as the 2014 primary beneficiary. The non-profit organization funds cutting edge research to find a treatment or cure for Duchenne muscular dystrophy, a fatal degenerative genetic muscle disease affecting 1 in 3,500 boys. The life expectancy for those afflicted is in the early 20s.

Team Joseph was founded in 2008 by Marissa Penrod, who refused to let her son Joseph be defined by his diagnosis of Duchenne at the age of 5. Joseph is now 11. The organization has evolved into the strong movement it is today with the support of family members, friends and a network of volunteers.

Team Joseph has been actively partnered with NUDM throughout the year. Boys with Duchenne and their families visited Northwestern for a holiday party, Valentine's party and cheered the Northwestern Wildcat football team from the Ryan Field sidelines. For more information on Team Joseph, visit www.teamjoseph.info.

EVANSTON COMMUNITY FOUNDATION (ECF)

The Evanston Community Foundation (ECF) is NUDM's secondary beneficiary for the 17th consecutive year. The foundation builds, connects and distributes resources and knowledge for the common good through local organizations. ECF will receive 10 percent of the net proceeds this year. NUDM has given ECF \$1,031,263 since 1998, making NUDM one of the foundation's top four contributors. Through its 17-year partnership, the Evanston Community Foundation and NUDM have awarded 298 grants to 128 organizations. "Northwestern University Dance Marathon gives back locally and supports many Evanston causes through the Evanston Community Foundation," said Sara L. Schastok, president and CEO of ECF. For more information on the foundation, visit www.evanstonforever.org.

5K RUN

The pre-registration fee is \$20, or \$25 on the day of the event, all benefiting NUDM. Check-in starts at 10:00 a.m. at Norris University Center. Registration online [here](#).