



THE BEAR

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DANCE MARATHON SMASHES FUNDRAISING GOAL

Student Government raises \$5,632.15 for Stead Family Children's Hospital

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804 hospital meals. 375 nights at the Ronald McDonald House. 22 wigs for children who have lost their hair due to chemotherapy. 3 semester scholarships for cancer survivors. 1 funeral expense for a child who is now "dancing in our hearts."

These are only a few of the possibilities for the record-breaking \$5,632.15 raised through the West Branch Student Government's 2024 Dance Marathon. The event, aiming to raise both funds and awareness to support

pediatric cancer patients and research, far surpassed its \$4000 goal while bringing students together to dance For The Kids.

The Student Government put together the Dance Marathon committee on Friday, November 3, 2023. From then, they vigorously planned and worked to make the 2024 Dance Marathon event that took place on February 9, 2024, a success. Madelyn Stout and junior Jordan Waters served as committee heads, rallying the group's fundraising efforts.

The early start to the fundraising process began the previous year, and Student Government advisor Abby Noelck attributes much of the group's success to both this and splitting committee head responsibilities among students

from different grade levels.

Noelck explained, "I think it's helped having committee heads where there's not just seniors—where it's usually somebody older and somebody a little younger—so that way the younger person gets to see the planning and then kind of replicate it the next year. And I think that's one of the reasons why this year was so successful. We had folks who were really involved last year and then could build off of that this year."

This year's first fundraising push included reaching out to local businesses in hopes of a donation of a silent auction basket. The team got six baskets in return. The Honey Den, Branch Out, Dillard's, Marisa Stout with Iowa Realty,

Roots Salon, and Scheels donated baskets.

On Monday, January 29, the baskets made their first appearance at the home boys basketball game, then on Tuesday, February 5, they were put out for bidding on Senior Night. The final day for bidding was Thursday, February 8, and by that time, the silent auction baskets made \$590 for the cause.

At the same time, the group looked for other ways to begin fundraising early for the event.

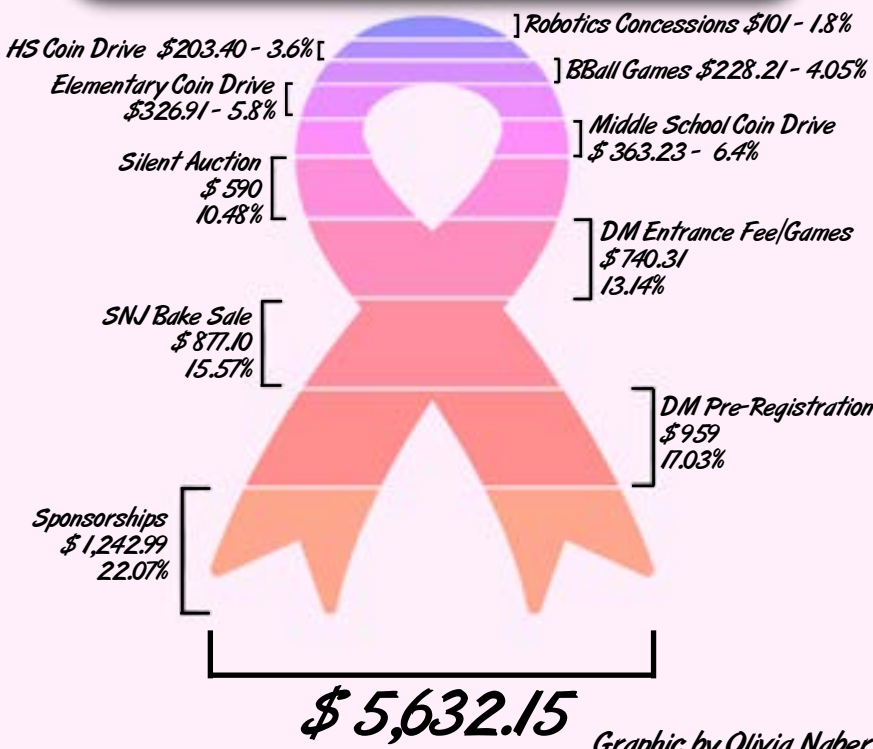
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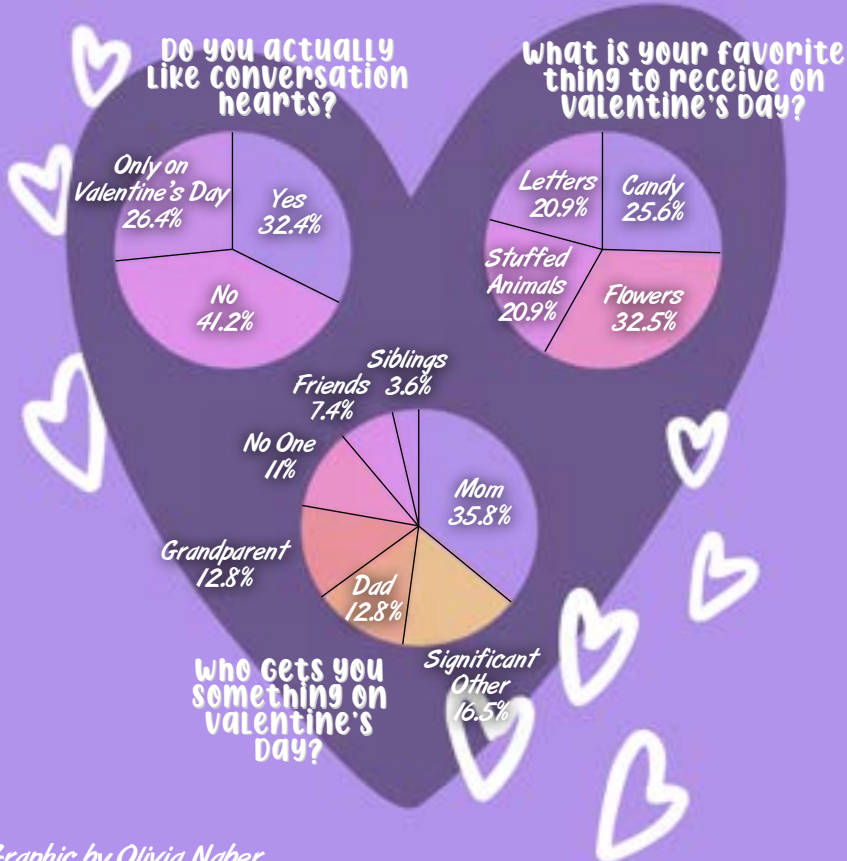
Student Government seniors Maddie Reed, Olivia Naber, Caleb Pedersen, Kaylee Kettler, Nina Torkelson, Madelyn Stout, Claire Jarrett, Maryam Martin, and Ashlynn Nash celebrate the record-breaking total of Dance Marathon funds, proudly lifting their money boards in the air. Photo by Larkin Brown.

Dance Marathon: The Numbers

It takes a gargantuan effort to put together a fundraising event like this. Student Government far surpassed their \$4000 goal... but how? Below lists every penny that goes to the Stead Family Children's Hospital and how Student Government earned it.



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