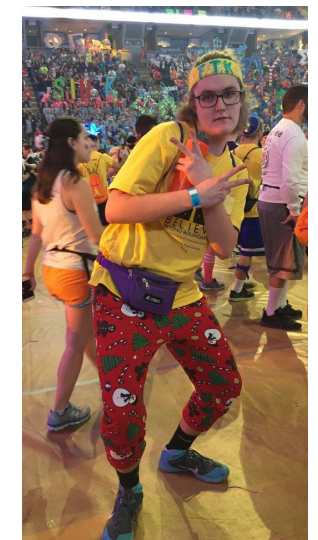


Hello,

My name is Eric Wildemann. I am a senior studying Fine Arts at Penn State University and have been a direct volunteer for Penn State's annual dance marathon, THON, for 4 years. I am contacting you on behalf of myself and fellow volunteer and dancer partner, Annelise Tarafas in hopes that you may be interested in supporting the fight against childhood cancer.

THON is a student-run philanthropy committed to enhancing the lives of children and families impacted by childhood cancer. Our mission is to provide emotional and financial support, spread awareness and ensure funding for critical research - all in pursuit of a cure. To date, our organization has helped 3,700 families and raised \$147,000,000.00 through the year long efforts of 16,500 student volunteers like myself. The money raised goes to our sole beneficiary, Four Diamonds at Penn State Children's Hospital. Four Diamonds offsets the cost of treatment that insurance does not cover, as well as expenses that may affect the welfare of the child. It makes it possible for 24 specialty care providers to be available exclusively to serve the physical, mental, emotional and spiritual needs of our patients and their families.

Childhood is a crucial part of a person's life. It provides a foundation for who you are, gives lessons and pleasant memories to reflect on in years past and, for most, is remembered as a time of love and innocence. For anyone to have the opportunity of a childhood handicapped by cancer is a tragedy in itself. Every kid deserves to "be a kid". Being involved in THON has provided me the chance to fight for each child's right to being a kid. It brings together motivated students that are characterized by positivity, enthusiasm and determination. From my experience on three Dancer Relations committees and this year on a Special Events committee, I can attest that THON really brings together the best of the best. To be a part of this valiant effort for the kids is truly a blessing.



THON's yearlong efforts culminate in a 46 hour dance marathon. To "dance" in THON means you are committed to not sleeping or sitting for 46 hours straight on the floor level of the Bryce Jordan Center. Around 700 students are granted the opportunity to "dance" at THON either through the club/organization they are in or independently. Every year, independent dancer couples are given the opportunity to dance THON Weekend without affiliation to a certain organization. Dancers are chosen through a weighted lottery, with chances determined by the amount of money that you and your dancing partner raise during the year. Annelise, my dancer partner, and I are dancing independently so our means of fundraising are all our own.

Through the link provided, you will be able to directly donate to THON and support our fundraising efforts as an independent dancer couple. The donation process is quick and simple, asking you're affiliation with THON and how you heard of it. (Also, if you do not want emails providing more information about THON and its updated efforts, be sure to uncheck the box at the bottom) Any amount is greatly appreciated and will make a difference in the life of a child fighting cancer right now. Fundraising closes **January 23rd** so ACT NOW! Thank you kindly for your time and consideration! I hope you and yours have a happy and healthy 2018!

Sincerely,

Eric Wildemann



<https://thon.donordrive.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=donorDrive.event&eventID=849>

