

MAKE MIRACLES BY REACHING FOR THE STARS

The Official Alumni Newsletter for Dance Marathon at SDSU

MIRACLE WEEK 2020

WHAT DOES MIRACLE WEEK 2020 LOOK LIKE?

Though every year is more special than the last, Miracle Week 2020 will be our most unique yet. For the first time ever, we will be hosting this annual week-long event **totally virtually**. Our Leadership Team has prepared a plethora of exciting activities and virtual events, and we can't wait to introduce our cause For The Kids to a whole new group of participants, donors and supporters. We hope you'll tune into the programming we have scheduled for Miracle Week 2020, because for the first time ever, you'll be able to no matter where you are in the world!



MIRACLE WEEK CALENDAR:
MONDAY 10/19:
INSPIRATION DAY
TUESDAY 10/20:
RECRUITMENT DAY
WEDNESDAY 10/21:
EDUCATION DAY
THURSDAY 10/22:
FUNDRAISING DAY
(PUSH DAY)
FRIDAY 10/23:
APPRECIATION DAY



MEET ALEXIS Your Alumni Coordinator!

Hi everyone! My name is Alexis Rivkin and I am so excited to be the 2020-2021 Director of Alumni Relations for Dance Marathon at SDSU. I was born and raised in San Diego, and being the injury-prone little kiddo that I was, I found myself getting treated at Rady Children's Hospital for a multitude of ailments over the course of my childhood. After learning about Dance Marathon my freshman year, I instantly knew it was an organization I wanted to be a part of, so that I could give back to the hospital that had given me so much over the years. I feel so honored to be in the middle of my third year fundraising For The Kids, and this my second year on the amazing leadership team. I can't wait for our 2021 event!

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

MEET SAM OCHSE

Graduated: 2018

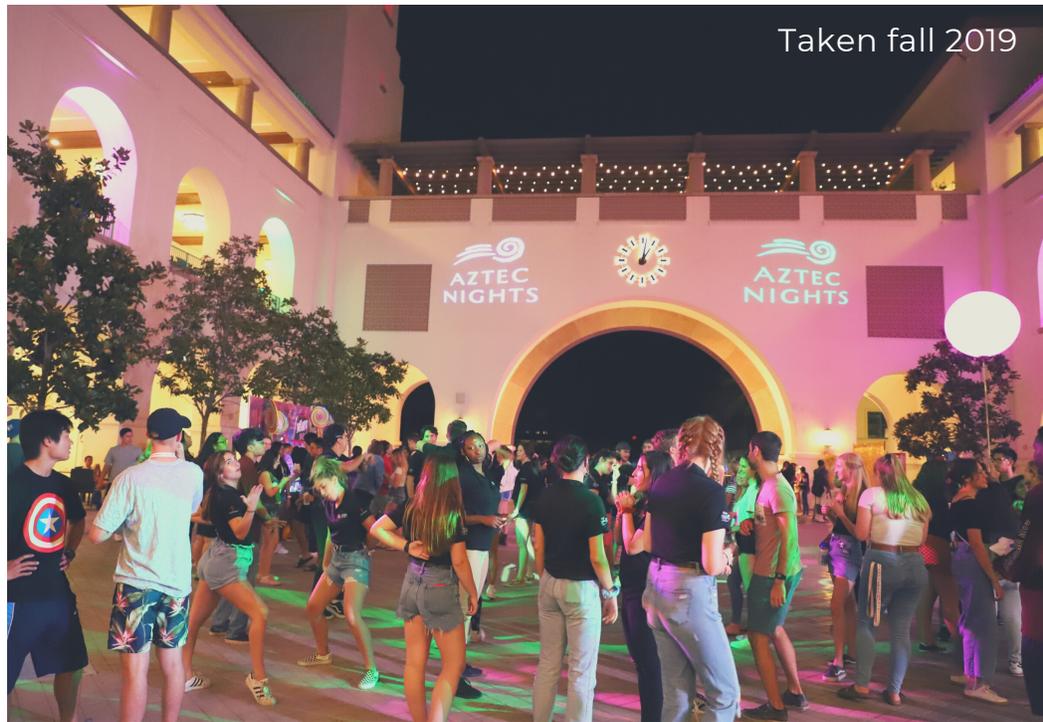
My name is Sam and I had the privilege of serving on the Dance Marathon Board as a Family Relations Team Member and the Vice President of Internal Affairs. While my time with Dance Marathon at SDSU came to an end, I feel so honored to continue to lean into my call as a child life specialist at a children's hospital. I wear many hats here at the hospital; I help children and families cope with the stress and uncertainty of illness and injury by providing developmentally appropriate interventions. This includes therapeutic play to help normalize the hospital environment and familiarize patients with medical equipment, providing preparation for upcoming procedures, offering education for new diagnoses, and providing distraction during invasive and painful procedures to reduce fear, anxiety, and pain. I'm only a month into my career, but I finally understand what it means to "identify what it is that you love, and you'll never work a day in your life."



AZTEC NIGHT FINDING YOUR INNER KID!

OCTOBER 2020

Thank you for coming and hanging out with us at Aztec Night on September 12th! We had such an amazing time finding our inner kid with you all. Head over to our [blog](#) to read more about this incredible night!



Taken fall 2019

KIDS DESERVE HOPE

Our Dance Marathon 2021 Goal

We are so excited to reveal our theme for this year... Kids Deserve Hope. For the first time ever, DM at SDSU 2021 will not aim to raise a certain amount, but instead will focus our movement on bringing together our SDSU and Rady Children's communities, raising awareness and embracing change. This is a year unlike any other, and that requires energy and innovation like no other. Although we are all facing challenges right now, nothing can compare to having a sick child. Today and every day, we encourage our DM at SDSU participants, donors and community members to learn more about kids' health, reflect on your "why." Check out our [campaign video](#) and head over to our [blog](#) to learn more!

REMEMBERING MADI



October 15th marks 3 years since the Taylor family lost Madi after a years-long battle with cancer. Today and every day we hold the Taylor family in our hearts, think of precious Madi and remember her amazing story as our "why" for when things get tough.



MEET HANNAH:

In February of 2014, then 5-year-old Hannah was diagnosed with bilateral Wilms' Tumor, a form of kidney cancer that almost exclusively affects young kids. Her disease affected both of her kidneys so Hannah had her first surgery to implant a port and started her 6-month chemotherapy regimen right away. She then had radiation to her lungs and flank, followed by surgery to remove her left kidney and part of her right one. Hannah handled everything like a champion, singing her heart out during radiation treatments and even creating a "cancer commercial" to teach other kid cancer fighters about what they can expect and show them how brave she's been. Today, Hannah is 11 years old and, as of September 2020, has been cancer free for 6 years. Thanks to the care she received at Rady Children's Hospital, Hannah just started the 6th grade and is thriving.

PUSH DAY UPDATE

This past Push Day, on the 14th of September, we set out to fundraise \$6,000 in honor of Hannah being 6 years cancer free. Our every expectation was far exceeded and we raised **\$18,287.77 in one day!** A huge thank you to our wonderful Alumni Team who participated!

ALUMNI FUNDRAISING UPDATE: **\$1653**

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Next Push-Day: 10/22
100 Days Until Event: 11/18

MERCH STORE

Open now - 11:59PM 10/23

LIVE AUCTION

Open 10/19 8:00AM - 10/22 11:50PM



RADY ROCKSTAR REESE!

OCTOBER 2020



Reese (left) and her older sister Sydney (right).

We are thrilled to announce Reese as our 2020-2021 Rady Rockstar! Check out our [Summer Alumni Newsletter](#) to read more about Reese!



WANT TO GET INVOLVED?

Want to get involved? If you are interested in joining the SDSU Alumni Team or would like to donate, please reach out to dmsdsu.alumni@gmail.com. If you are interested in contributing to the cause as a corporate sponsor, please reach out to dmsdsu.partners@gmail.com.

CONNECT WITH US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Alumni Facebook Page: [Dance Marathon at SDSU Alumni](#)
Instagram: [@dmatsdsu](#)
LinkedIn: [Dance Marathon at San Diego State University](#)
TikTok: [@dmatsdsu](#)

NOTE: Photos were taken prior to the COVID-19 pandemic