

Miss Catherine, Founder and Director

Miss Catherine was born and raised in Chicago and has nearly 3 decades of dance training. Since the age of 3 she has been studying dance, performing all over the Chicagoland suburbs, competing for several years and sharing her love of dance with her community for over a decade. She has taught at park districts and dance studios in the Chicagoland suburbs and created, directed and implemented a worship dance program in Lake Zurich. This will be her 18th year working with inner city children in youth programs in Chicago and several years ago took over as director for children 3rd-6th grade. She has worked in the field of accounting for 11 years. She has a passion for dedication, commitment and perfection.

She was accepted to learn at the age of 3 to study under Mary Lou Troumanhouser (a student of Tommy Sutton) at The Dance Academy. Since then she has performed all over Chicagoland including the Copernicus Center, Navy Pier, The Children’s Museum, the opening of the Norwood Park Historical Society, won top in dance routines for Waucondafest Has Talent in 2011, and was given the opportunity to perform at the Pritzker Theater in 2011 and Carnegie Hall. She has performed at festivals and shows all over the Chicagoland suburbs and competed with high honors in competitions with companies such as Starlight, Rainbow Connection, Footlites, Starpower and StarQuest, most of those competing in tap. She has studied tap extensively (studying the sought after Tommy Sutton curriculum), jazz, ballet, pointe, modern, lyrical and hip hop. After studying for over a decade at The Dance Academy in Chicago she moved to the Barrington/Wauconda area, and immediately got involved in the community. She taught all forms of dance for several years at the Island Lake Park District and studied/taught at Dancer’s Pointe in Island Lake. At the same time, she traveled extensively downtown to Chicago to study under teachers at Joffrey Ballet, Chicago Human Rhythm Project, Lou Conte and several others. She has taken innumerable classes and workshops with the best for tap. Her favorite teachers to study from have been Tre Dumas III, Lane Alexander and Phil Brooks. She has studied all forms of dance under teachers such as Mary Lou Troumanhouser, Jeannie Sok, Kathy Demaira, Cari Holmes, Nell Heflin, Dionna Pridgeon, Chris Courtney, Step Afrika!’s Jakari Sherman, Melinda Wilson, JaBowen Dixon and many more.

She is currently studying at Lou Conte Dance Chicago under Melinda Wilson and private tap lessons with JaBowen Dixon, one of the top tap dancers in Chicago. She is excited to soon enroll her daughter at Joffrey Ballet and is already teaching her to prepare her. But not only is she excited to pass this love of dance to the 3rd generation of dancers in her family, she is excited to give back to the community and has a deep passion to work with children (and adults alike), training them in dance and expression and having that carry with them through the years to open doors for them as they grow.

Miss Kelly

My name is Kelly.  I am 23 years old and have been dancing since I was 6.  At the age of 12, I tried out for Maja Dance through the Wauconda Park District.  I competed through TDI and other competitions.  When I was 14, I tried out for the Wauconda High School Poms Dance team.  I went my high school career learning routines and technique on pom, lyrical, jazz, hip-hop, contemporary, and open-dance.

After high school was over, I volunteered my time with the Wauconda Cheer organization.  I was a coach that helped assist the girls (ages 4-5th grade) with their tumbling, stunting, cheering, and routine.  I continue to volunteer my time through my church as well.  I volunteer with our Promiseland and Special Friends ministry.

I am currently in school to become a Registered Nurse.  I graduate this year in September with my BSN.  I recently returned back from Kenya after being on a 2-week long mission trip.  For 2 weeks, we provided medical care to those that cannot afford health care.

I am super excited to coach these young girls who have the heart and interest in dance.  I cannot wait to help spread the joy of dance and help these ladies become the best dancers that they can be!

Miss Christine

My name is Miss Christine. I have been dancing since I was 5 years old. I attended The Dance Academy in Chicago, Dancer’s Pointe and Village of Island Lake dance program. I studied ballet, tap, jazz and hip hop. I was a cheerleader in the Wauconda Bulldogs Cheer program and an All Star Cheerleader at Cheer Fusion. I also danced with and competed with Premier Poms. I have also coached Rec cheer and poms. I just finished my third year as a Pre-K/Kindergarten teacher and am currently in school for my ECE Director’s Degree. I am excited and looking forward to meeting all our new dancers and bringing my passion for teaching children and love of dance to everyone!

Come back soon to see more bios of our part-time and full-time volunteers! More to come!