

Parenting

Dance for Food: It's Not a Fundraiser—It's a "Food Raiser!"

4 Great Performances for the Entire Family... and for a Great Cause

Did you know that more than 100,000 people on the Treasure Coast don't know where their next meal will come from? Here in our region, which includes Indian River, St. Lucie, Martin and Okeechobee counties, 16% percent of the population struggles with hunger, including nearly 35,000 children. Artists for a Cause (A4AC), a Stuart-based 501 (c)(3) nonprofit, is doing its part to help fight hunger by producing their sixth annual *Dance for Food* event.

Dance for Food is a program designed to bring dancers and audiences together to collect food for the hungry. The unique family fun performance events are not fundraisers but rather a "food raiser," using art to assist struggling families throughout the Treasure Coast and the Palm Beaches.

The annual *Dance for Food* event convenes many of Florida's finest contemporary dancers to showcase their talents in front of an audience whose only admission fee is a bag of unexpired, nonperishable goods.

"Thanks to the hard work of Artistic Director, Anna Preston, we have more professional dance companies and gifted young artists involved than ever before," said A4AC founder Terry Barber. "This season's *Dance for Food* promises to be the most entertaining and most effective to date. Audiences will experience innovative contemporary dances and pre-show entertainment by some of the most gifted young artists in our network. Come, be entertained, and do your part to help end hunger."

In the past, *Dance for Food* has raised over 6,000 meals for families through a single performance. Last year's series collected almost 5,000 pounds of food, which was distributed to those in need through charity food bank partners. This year, the Treasure Coast Food Bank will partner with A4AC for the first three *Dance for Food* events, and the Farmworker Coordinating Council will partner the last event. This year there are four shows scheduled throughout the month of November, and all Treasure Coast families are welcome to attend. While there is no monetary admission fee for the events, attendees are instead asked to donate a bag of nonperishable foods.

Artists for a Cause is a Stuart-based, national nonprofit organization that helps visual and performing artists to use their talents for community improvement, stimulating



culture, while addressing the critical needs of communities. Some programs help artists and charities to get the most out of their collaboration, while most produce results directly by feeding the poor, healing the sick or solving other problems through unique artistic solutions. No program is merely about art for art's sake—Artists for a Cause is about the arts as a solution.



"Our *Dance for Food* event is just one of the many ways we are able to fulfill our mission of creatively building better communities," added Barber. "This performance serves three special purposes. It provides a cultural experience for residents, serves as an educational and professional opportunity for dancers, and gathers food for those in need."

The four *Dance for Food* events will take place on:

Sunday, November 9, 3:30pm at The Flagler Place (201 SW Flagler Avenue, Stuart) *Get there early as Ryan Cox, a gifted young saxophonist, entertains audiences with pre-show music at 3:10pm.

Sunday, November 16, 3:30pm at Arts Magnet School (1100 Delaware Avenue, Fort Pierce, FL

Friday November 21, 7pm *Produced and Performed by the South Fork High School Club (10205 SW Pratt Whitney Rd, Stuart)

Sunday November 23, 3:30pm at Eissey Campus Theater (11051 Campus Dr. Palm Beach Gardens) *Get there early to listen to the talented solo vocalists from the A4AC Club at Dreyfus School of the Arts entertain audiences with music before the show at 3:10pm.

To learn more about Artists for a Cause, the *Dance for Food* performances or how artists or charities can register, please visit www.a4ac.org. Those who are unable to attend the events can donate nonperishable goods and drop them off at any of these locations: Artists for a Cause located at 1211 SW Sunset Trail in Palm City. Feel free to contact 772-419-8778.

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