



**JENNIFER
TREFELNER**

COLUMNIST

Dance for Food events help the hungry in our community

The fifth annual Artists for a Cause Dance for Food series is a great opportunity to help our community while enjoying quality entertainment. The popular “food-raisers” will take place Sunday and Nov. 22 in Stuart, Nov. 24 in Palm Beach Gardens, and Nov. 17 in Fort Pierce.

Admission to the events, which showcase the Treasure Coast’s finest contemporary dancers, is a bag of nonperishable food.

Artists for a Cause is based in Stuart and part of a national nonprofit organization that uses art to help charities raise money and awareness. The group is looking to start more Artists for a Cause school clubs in St. Lucie County, said Executive Director Terry Barber, and will have the Nov. 17 Dance for Food concert at the Fort Pierce Magnet School of the Arts, 1200 Delaware Ave.

The school’s 350-seat theater, including a balcony, is a great venue for the event, Barber said. And “it is a great way to forge a relationship with the school,” he added. “The program is a perfect introduction to contemporary dance, since it’s just an hour performance and varied material.”

Last year, through three Dance for Food events, Artists for a Cause collected more than 1,000 meals for those in need in St. Lucie, Martin and Palm Beach counties. This year’s goal is to attract more than 1,200 guests to the four concerts and provide more than 2,500 meals to the Treasure Coast Food Bank, WPTV News Channel 5 Bill Brooks’ Food For Families program and the Farmworker Coordinating Council of Palm Beach County.

“Our Dance for Food event is a perfect example of the arts as a catalyst to address a critical community need. The program produces significantly greater results than could be obtained through a more traditional fundraising event,” Barber said.

Guests will see a variety of professional dance company performances for an hour-long show at each location.

Other Artists for a Cause events include a performance by Barber, a celebrated countertenor, at The Lyric Theatre, 59 S.W. Flagler Ave. in Stuart. At the Dec. 1 concert, Barber will present audience favorites, then invite several Artists for a Cause performers to join him on stage.

On Jan. 11, the jazz ensemble “Jonathan Cummings and Friends” will present a tribute to the legendary jazz singer Mel Tormé in Palm City, and Barber will perform again Feb. 1. On March 15, Singing with the Stars will provide an entertaining evening of competitive singing, with professional singers paired with amateurs, to raise money for Artists for a Cause and Keep Martin Beautiful.

For more information, visit www.a4ac.org or call 772.419.8778.

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