**Dance For Disabilities**

My lifetime of teaching dance has been so enriched by my work with people with disabilities. When you consider who needs movement the most, I believe it is people who are often forgotten, who sit in the corner, who are never given a chance to show the rest of us who they really are. Dance and music provide this opportunity and it just takes a nudge and a strategy to open up their world that often stays hidden.

I have been teaching dance and music programs for people with disabilities since 1986 through Very Special Arts of Indiana and various programs presented by the Fort Wayne Dance Collective. Residency sites include Easter Seals Arc of Northeast Indiana, Turnstone, Passages Inc. in Huntington, IN, Pathfinders Inc. in Columbia City, IN as well as through local schools. I was also a team member for the Jesters of St. Francis, a performing group of 80 individuals for three years.

I was presented with a Lifetime Achievement Award by Bi-County Services in Bluffton recognizing 25 years of programming in 2018. I have created workshops that train resident artists on the integration of props, percussion instruments, art and singing to design appropriate and exciting lessons for this population. I am also certified as a Music Together® teacher. In addition, I have worked extensively in facilities that serve people with dementia, Alzheimer’s and I am certified to teach Dance for Parkinson’s Disease.

My services include on-site programming as well as trainings for people interested in including dance and music for this population. Let’s do it!