



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **MICHIGAN CITY HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION CONTINUES PARTNERSHIP WITH STUDIO M TO OFFER DANCE WITH ME PROGRAM**

*Dance with Me is a 6-week creative movement program for people with disAbilities*

**MICHIGAN CITY, Ind.** – March 1, 2019 – In celebration of DisAbility Awareness Month, Michigan City Human Rights Commission (MCHRC) is pleased to announce its continued partnership with Studio M to offer “Dance with Me,” a creative movement class designed for people with disabilities. The program is an opportunity for dancers to experience joy through the art of dance. The 6-week class will start on March 5 and run to April 16. The Tuesday classes will take place at 6:20 p.m. until 7:05 p.m. at Studio M located at 703 Pearl Street (behind the MC Police Department) in Michigan City. The partnership was built with the disability community in mind but is open to ALL people so that everyone has an outlet where they can enjoy the freeing nature of dance and music. The 6-week program costs \$50 and will be led by Mr. Larry Payne.

“Creative dance is a form of dance that provides the potential for improved social skills, increased self-esteem and a joyful way for people to explore movement through music,” said Larry Payne, Instructor, Studio M. “I have to tell you being with the dancers and seeing their smiles since we launched the program last year has made an impact on my life. Thanks to them, I’ve become a better person and am able to see things through a different lens now.”

Dance with Me is offered to all dancers with a disAbility. Care-takers, respite workers and parents are required to accompany dancers and stay the length of the program each week.

“Dance and music are both universal languages that encourage self-expression and exploration for people with all abilities and we are fortunate to have been able to secure such a valuable partnership with Marilyn,” said Joanne Tedesco, Michigan City Human Rights Commissioner and MCAS School Board Member. “As a Mom of a child with a disability, I find this program invaluable as activities and programming for this community of people is a bit limited.”

The Dance with Me program kicked off in March 2018 in celebration of Disability Awareness Month where six dancers danced for free thanks to local support from the Michigan City Human Rights Commission, Living Way Church, Lighthouse Restaurant and Sophia’s Restaurant. During the programs inaugural season, Dance with Me dancers performed at the Guy Foreman Amphitheater on May 2, 2018 to showcase favorite dance moves to the community. Dance with Me continued to offer people with disabilities with programming throughout the summer months, which focused on a Beach party theme and into the Fall/Winter during the months of November and December. For more information about Studio M visit <http://www.studiom-dance.com/> or call (219)874-9663.

The Michigan City Human Rights Commission provides all citizens with equal opportunities in the areas of employment, housing, and education. The Commission is committed to the citizens of Michigan City and to provide and promote equal opportunities by enforcing Human and Civil Rights issues and advocating for anti-discriminatory systems and tolerance of all people. For more information, visit [www.emichigancity.com/cityhall/departments/humanrights](http://www.emichigancity.com/cityhall/departments/humanrights).

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