



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Jennifer Gordon  
[gordonj@southcoastplaza.com](mailto:gordonj@southcoastplaza.com)  
(714) 438-3247

**CAROUSEL OF POSSIBLE DREAMS FUNDRAISER AT GRIFFITH PARK BENEFITS THE ART OF ELYSIUM AND DEBBIE ALLEN DANCE ACADEMY**

*Festival of Children Foundation's innovative fundraising program first time in Los Angeles*

LOS ANGELES, July 14, 2015 -- Griffith Park Merry-Go-Round, a spectacular 19<sup>th</sup> century carousel that inspired Walt Disney's King Arthur's Carousel, was the site of Costa Mesa based Festival of Children Foundation's most recent "Carousel of Possible Dreams" fundraiser in Los Angeles benefiting The Art of Elysium and Debbie Allen Dance Academy. This was the first time the unique Carousel of Possible Dreams was held in Los Angeles.

On Saturday, July 11, 2015 from 6:00 – 9:00 p.m. guests and celebrities including Debbie Allen, Giovanni Ribisi, Norm Nixon, Sandy Segerstrom Daniels and Jennifer Howell tested their carousel riding prowess as they climbed aboard the Merry-Go-Round to raise funds to realize their dreams for the featured charities.

Mark Mester, anchor at KTLA5, was the evening's master of ceremonies. He shared personal stories and encouraged the participants to go round and up and down, armed only with their cell phones, calling friends and contacts to solicit donations for the two organizations.

"It was a nice intersection of friend-raising, fundraiser, and people working together to make dreams come true," added Jennifer Howell, Founder of The Art of Elysium.

"It was wonderful to be part of an organization that is built on dreams and dedicated to making them come true. It was a tremendous honor and a great help to the Debbie Allen Dance Academy." – stated Debbie Allen, founder of Debbie Allen Dance Academy

The Carousel of Possible Dreams is an innovative fundraiser created by Festival of Children Foundation, a California based non-profit. The organization has hosted the carousel fundraisers throughout the U.S. for different children's charities since 2009. "The concept of the Carousel of Possible Dreams is at the heart of Festival of Children Foundation. It's about people coming together collaboratively to make a positive difference for kids. Festival of Children Foundation supports children's charities across the country, including some extraordinary organizations in the Los Angeles area," added Sandy Segerstrom Daniels, Founder and Executive Director of Festival of Children Foundation.

### **About Festival of Children Foundation**

Festival of Children Foundation is a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization that serves to bring together and coordinate the efforts of charities, companies and individuals who work to improve the lives of children. 100% of the administrative costs are covered by designated funding, allowing donations to go further in direct support of programs and services that improve the lives of children nationwide. For more information please visit [www.festivalofchildren.org](http://www.festivalofchildren.org)

### **About The Art of Elysium**

The Art of Elysium is dedicated to enriching the lives of artists and critically ill children- believing that there is a powerful and mutual exchange of hope and appreciation that occurs when artists share their time and talent with children battling serious medical conditions. For more information please visit [www.theartofelysium.org](http://www.theartofelysium.org)

### **About Debbie Allen Dance Academy (DADA)**

Debbie Allen Dance Academy Founded in 2001 by Debbie Allen and Norman Nixon, the Debbie Allen Dance Academy is a non-profit organization committed to expanding the reach of dance and theater arts for young people in the greater Los Angeles area, and the world, enriching, inspiring and transforming their lives. For more information please visit [www.debbiealldanceacademy.org](http://www.debbiealldanceacademy.org)

###

## **ABOUT THE BENEFICIARIES AND THEIR POSSIBLE DREAMS**

**Organization:** Debbie Allen Dance Academy (DADA)

**Fundraising Goal:** \$69,000

**Possible Dream:** To fund their own portable stage and a mode of transporting it. With this stage, we will be able to break down the boundaries of four walls and a floor to perform. It is their desire to bring the arts to the masses through performance and interaction. The portable stage will give the Debbie Allen Dance Academy the opportunity to share the world of arts exponentially.

Debbie Allen Dance Academy is a non-profit organization that offers a comprehensive dance curriculum to students ages 4 and up. The founding principles of DADA are based on the belief that arts education defines discipline, creativity and self-confidence. These principles empower individuals whether they pursue a professional performing arts career or not. This is for life.

**Organization:** Art of Elysium (AOE)

**Fundraising Goal:** \$25,000

**Possible Dream:** To expand their arts programming. The Art of Elysium currently provides arts programming to hospitalized youth in Los Angeles and New York. The dream is to expand their programs to other populations in need of inspiration and creativity including homeless youth, urban communities and beyond. With the financial support to expand, Art of Elysium will be able to make this dream a reality.

The Art of Elysium is a non-profit organization which encourages actors, artists and musicians to voluntarily dedicate their time and talent to children who are battling various medical conditions. They provide artistic workshops in the following disciplines: fashion design, fine arts, music, theatre/media arts and arts based self-esteem.