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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**MIAMI CITY BALLET’S COSTUME DEPARTMENT
MAKE PROTECTIVE MASKS FOR NICKLAUS CHILDREN’S HOSPITAL**



(Miami City Ballet Costume Director Eleanor Wolfe makes masks for Nicklaus Children’s Hospital © Alexander Iziliaev)

MIAMI, FL – As hospitals around the globe sound the alarm about the low supply of protective masks available for staff and patients, the dedicated employees of [Miami City Ballet’s](#) (MCB) costume department have stepped up to put their creativity and skills to good use. Today, they are busy making protective, functional masks for **Nicklaus Children’s Hospital** with an added dash of joy and playfulness to lift the spirits of patients, families and staff during this most unsettling time.

MCB is actively looking to find ways in which they can give back to the community that has so generously supported them throughout the years. Understanding that protective masks are in dwindling supply, Miami City Ballet’s talented costume staff went fast to work.

MCB and Nicklaus Children’s have been collaborating on various dance medicine-related initiatives for a few months. The hospital provides Miami City Ballet School and its Community Engagement programs with nutrition, injury prevention and dance sports medicine information services. Partnering with the hospital seemed a natural fit and a way in which MCB could positively impact the community.

Eleanor Wolfe, MCB Costume Director said of the project, “It has never been lost on me that sewing is a valuable skill. That it would become a lifesaving one is humbling at least and motivating at best! I am not surprised to see that all over the country people are pulling out their sewing machines to fulfill a need industry cannot meet.”

Dr. Chad Perlyn, Pediatric Surgeon and Director of Operating Rooms at Nicklaus Children’s states, “There is a great expression that says, ‘dancing with the feet is one thing, but dancing with the heart is another.’ We are so touched by the outpouring of love and support from the entire staff at Miami City Ballet. Their efforts to turn their costume shop into a mask factory is a dance from the heart. On behalf of all the staff and patients at Nicklaus Children’s Hospital, we thank you MCB.”

Jay Massirman, Children’s Health Ventures Chair, Board of Directors and member of the Nicklaus Children’s Health System Board of Directors and Lisa Massirman, member of MCB Board of Directors, who were instrumental in uniting the two organizations add, “Dance and music heal the soul. Doctors heal the body. The collaboration between Nicklaus Children’s Hospital and Miami City Ballet is a natural. We are so proud to be a part of these amazing institutions.”

Although Nicklaus Children’s has been able to keep a supply of personal protective gear for its clinical teams, like many hospitals across the nation, there is a risk of running low on these resources. Nicklaus Children’s plans on using the donated masks for its patients, families and staff.

For information on how the community can assist Nicklaus Children’s Hospital with actions and ideas, please visit <https://www.nicklauschildrens.org/bearshare>.

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ABOUT MIAMI CITY BALLET

Miami City Ballet, celebrating its 35th anniversary season, has a diverse roster of 53 dancers and a repertoire of more than 130. As one of the most renowned ballet companies in the country, Miami City Ballet performs for nearly 125,000 patrons annually during its South Florida home season in Miami, Fort Lauderdale, West Palm Beach and tours to major cities domestically and internationally, including recent visits to New York City, Washington, D.C., Chicago, Los Angeles and Paris.

Miami City Ballet School, the official school of Miami City Ballet, is one of the most respected ballet training academies in America. The School trains students, ages 3-18 year-round and grants more than \$650,000 in scholarships annually.

Miami City Ballet's Community Engagement programs and initiatives touch the lives of more than 14,000 young people, seniors and community members, annually.

Executive Director Tania Castroverde Moskalenko and Artistic Director Lourdes Lopez lead the company. Lopez was recently awarded the prestigious Dance Magazine Award in 2018 and was named one of "The Most Influential People in Dance Today." She is on the Ford Foundation Board of Trustees, the first artist to ever serve on its Board.

Miami City Ballet was founded in 1985 by Miami philanthropist Toby Lerner Ansin and Founding Artistic Director Edward Villella. It is headquartered in Miami Beach, FL, at the Ophelia & Juan Js. Roca Center, a facility designed by renowned architectural firm, Arquitectonica.

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Major funding for Miami City Ballet is provided by the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, a national foundation with strong local roots, investing in journalism, in the arts, and in the success of cities where brothers John S. and James L. Knight once published newspapers. The Foundation's goal is to foster informed and engaged communities, which they believe are essential for a healthy democracy.

Miami-Dade County support is provided by the Miami-Dade County Tourist Development Council, the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs, the Cultural Affairs Council, the Mayor, and the Miami-Dade County Board of County Commissioners.

Support for Miami City Ballet in the Palm Beaches is generously sponsored in part by the Board of County Commissioners, the Tourist Development Council and the Cultural Council of Palm Beach County.

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