

Finally, you can follow the Annual Gala on Twitter. To conveniently receive updates on new presenters and performers, visit the Annual Gala page on our website and click the blue link that says [Twitter the Gala](#). With Twitter, not only can you receive updates but you can also contribute personal information you think others may want to read, such as “This gala is the most fun event I have ever been to.” If you don’t already have a Twitter account, it only takes a few minutes to set one up and it is a really fun tool to stay in contact with friends, family and other non-profit organizations in which you may be interested. Our Twitter user name is CTFDGALA.

It is gratifying to see the numbers of clients, potential clients and general public who are flocking to our website. If you haven’t already seen it, please take a few moments to experience the vast array of new information and services available. And if you’re already familiar with [careertransition.org](#), make sure to view some of the Video Career Conversations or use the National Career Network.

Scholarships nationwide harder to receive More dancers than ever seeking support

Students applying for scholarships are finding it harder to solidify funding as providers, hammered by falling investments, returns and declining support in donations, are being forced to cut back, as reported by the [New York Times](#).

The recession has made many foundations, corporations, government organizations, and colleges reduce their support for students who cannot afford college tuition. As reported by [Peterson’s](#), a college preparation website, the number of scholarship awards rose by almost 21% in 2008, from 1.4 million to 1.7 million, yet the average amount of scholarship money awarded dropped by almost 7%, from \$4,607 to \$4,300.

As a result of cutbacks, Career Transition For Dancers has seen a substantial increase in scholarship requests from dancers nationwide.

As of June 30th, the organization has awarded over \$228,000 in 2009 to dancers seeking retraining and post-performance degrees, an **increase of almost 30%** from \$176,100 in 2008.

If this trend continues, the organization will award over \$456,200 in grant and scholarship money, \$125,000 more than our budgeted amount for the year.

To ensure that no dancer is denied an opportunity for education, the organization has asked many of our loyal donors to make gifts that will meet the growing demand for educational scholarships. We have also initiated a special campaign dedicated to closing our funding gap of \$125,000 by inviting donors to create a \$2,000 named scholarship. Some have opted for an installment plan of \$170 per month for one year, making this a financially accessible option. If you are interested in supporting this program, please contact us or make a donation on our secure website. You may also return the enclosed reply envelope and state that you want your gift to be dedicated to educational scholarships. Every dollar given to this initiative will be awarded directly to one of our many deserving dancers-clients.

Mail call

Letters from our clients

Steven Davis

Mrs. Vivian Milstein,

Thank you for your support of Career Transition For Dancers. The counseling they provide has been invaluable and the grant I received will be a great help in my transition from a wonderful, ten-year career at American Ballet Theatre and Ballet West to my undergraduate studies in International Relations at Brown University.

All the best,
Steven Davis

Sabra Perry

Dear Mrs. Anka Palitz,

I would like to express my gratitude for your generous support towards my tuition at Empire State College, where I just completed my BA.

I have been a professional dancer for seventeen years. Since 1999, I have been a member of Complexions Contemporary Ballet, and continue to perform with the company both in the United States and internationally. The program at Empire State College allowed me to continue my studies while maintaining a full rehearsal and touring schedule. The scholarship I received ensured that I was able to complete my degree before retiring from performing, and thus be better prepared to make a transition to a new career.

With sincere thanks,
Sabra Perry

Stephanie Pope-Caffey

Dear Ms. Mary Lou Westerfield of Actors’ Equity Association,

I have recently received a grant to help cover Liability Insurance for my new business, Bikram Yoga – East Harlem opening in September of this year. It is comforting to know that after 20 years of giving my all on stage to the Broadway Theatre Community, the same Community is able, in its own very special way, to give back through these grants.

I cannot begin to tell you how much it is appreciated!

With regards,
Stephanie Pope-Caffey

Renee Stork

I have been deeply touched by the support I have found at Career Transition For Dancers. Had I known about your organization earlier, I would have been at your door years ago. Learning that an organization like yours exists has made a significant difference in my life. I often felt that most of the transition process would be a solo act without much of a supporting cast, but I know now there is a solid support system out there which helps and understands people like me.

Knowing that a group of people, who acknowledge me as a former dancer transitioning into a new career, and support me in this significant way has been a meaningful assurance during an exciting but challenging time. Thank you for your support.

With sincere gratitude,
Renee Stork