

THE WOODEN FLOOR IS ONE OF ONLY FIVE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ORGANIZATIONS TO RECEIVE PRESTIGIOUS EMPLOYEES COMMUNITY FUND OF BOEING CRYSTAL VISION AWARD

SANTA ANA, CALIF. (November 5, 2013) - **The Wooden Floor**, an arts-based youth development nonprofit, received a Crystal Vision Award from the Employees Community Fund of Boeing California (ECF) at annual Awards Luncheon today. The nonprofit was one of only five Southern California organizations to receive the award this year and a \$50,000 grant, showing tremendous impact around the award's 2013 theme of "Youth Violence Prevention."

"The purpose of the 2013 Crystal Vision grants fund is to engender creativity and innovation around the theme of 'Youth Violence Prevention'," says Carrie Swanson, ECF Executive Director. "The goal is to seed or grow nonprofits' abilities to provide innovative programs that give hope, encouragement, alternatives to violence and a safe haven, and address the root causes that lead youth to join gangs."

Indeed a safe afterschool haven for 375 under-served youth year-round, **The Wooden Floor** is currently celebrating its 30th year of providing its students with free long-term dance education, focused academics programs, pre-collegiate mentoring, and family services. Since 2005, 100 percent of its graduates have enrolled in college—something accomplished by only about 30 percent of their peers.

"Boeing employees, through their Community Fund grants, have been steadfast supporters of The Wooden Floor's students for the past 17 years," says Dawn S. Reese, Executive Director and co-CEO of The Wooden Floor. "This Crystal Vision award is the capstone of their belief in the importance of our joint efforts to guide under-served youth away from destructive behaviors and towards successful journeys in school and life."

The Wooden Floor was founded in 1983 to provide a positive alternative to destructive behaviors such as gangs and violence. Its programs provide preventive action and have evolved to decrease youth risk factors. It has been successful in attracting youth because it taps into the same attributes that lead at-risk youth to gangs, but with positive activities and role models. The organization's after-school format keeps youth off the streets when gang recruitment and delinquent activity is highest, provides safe-haven and protection, positive peer influence, and an affirming environment in which to explore, discover and express themselves.

"Students describe The Wooden Floor as their second home," says Reese. "For over 30 years, it has evolved to be a place where youth find their confidence and learn to thrive. They find a positive alternative - hope and opportunity, tools and resources for success in school and life, and through dance and access to higher education, a way out of poverty."

About The Wooden Floor

The Wooden Floor is a 30-year-old nonprofit organization that annually gives 375 under-served local youth the tools to live fuller, healthier lives through a unique approach grounded in dance. We make a long-term investment in each of these young people, and they engage in intensive dance education supported by academic and family services that change the way they make decisions, helping them to discover and pursue their full potential. We are proud that since 2005, 100 percent of our young artists graduate from high school on time and go on to pursue higher education—a rate three times the national average for their peers.

About the Employees Community Fund of Boeing California

The Employees Community Fund of Boeing California ("ECF") is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, owned and operated by Boeing employees for the purpose of positively impacting communities where Boeing employees live and work through a pooled contribution fund. A Board of Directors comprised of Boeing employee contributors determines how the pooled funds will be invested in Southern California. The Boeing Company provides all of the administrative support through pro bono professional services, so that every dollar employees' donate is invested directly in our communities in Southern California. For more information about ECF, go to

<http://www.ecfboeingca.org/>.



Hundreds of families line the sidewalk in Santa Ana for a chance to enroll at The Wooden Floor.