

\$311,000 RAISED FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS AT THE WOODEN FLOOR'S 31ST ANNUAL CONCERT

Santa Ana, Calif. (June 10, 2014) – **The Wooden Floor**, an arts-based youth development non-profit, was joined by 200 supporters at an exclusive backstage event at the **Irvine Barclay Theatre**. The evening celebrated the opening night of the organization's 31st Annual Concert: *Front door, blue sky*, a staple of Orange County's dance calendar that features a unique and invaluable collaboration between 175 under-served youth and three of the nation's top contemporary dance choreographers: **Jeanine Durning, Yanira Castro, and Melanie Ríos Glaser**. The concert raised \$311,000 for the organization and its successful year-round dance, academic, and family service programs for 375 low-income youth.

Concert underwriters include Honorary Underwriters **Joan & Don Beall, Jane & Jim Driscoll, Ginnie & Rich Hunsaker, Yvonne & Damien Jordan, Socorro & Ernesto Vasquez,** and **Linda & Tod White Charitable Foundation**; Associate Underwriter **Helen Sperry Lea Foundation**; Concert Underwriters **Gochnauer Family Foundation, Sharon & Terry Hartshorn, Marilyn McIntyre, The National Endowment for the Arts,** and **Jack & Katy Schoellerman**; Concert Supporters **Beth Burns & Mark Gorman, Bobbi Cox, Davis/Dauray Family Fund, Mary & Pat Dirk, Cath MacIver & Jim Slaughter, Judith F. Posnikoff, Tappan Foundation, The Thompson Family Foundation,** and **Mary & Gary Tolar**; and Concert Partners **The Glaser Family, Ruth D. Wetherbee, and Barbara & Bill Yingling**.

Guests were welcomed by **Chairman of the Board of Directors Ernesto Vasquez**, who thanked attendees for their steadfast support of the organization. **Executive Director and Co-CEO Dawn S. Reese** and **Artistic Director and Co-CEO Melanie Rios Glaser** outlined the ambitions to see the organization's model help more low-income youth over the next 30 years through artistic excellence, a hallmark of The Wooden Floor's success. Additionally, stories of student success were shared by 11-year-old **Elizabeth Quintanilla** (Class of 2021) and high school senior **Jossue Murillo** (Class of 2014), who were among the 175 cast members performing later that evening.

Unlike any collaboration of its kind, The Wooden Floor's Annual Concert showcases progressive contemporary dance work performed by low-income youth. Over 2,600 tickets were sold for the Annual Concert's four performances.

About The Wooden Floor

The Wooden Floor, founded in 1983, is a Santa Ana arts-based organization that delivers hope and opportunity to 375 low-income youth annually. Dance education and performance are the core transformational elements through which youth change the way they think about themselves and aspire beyond the grip of the poverty cycle. In the dance studio, rigorous training, creativity, and self-knowledge lead to confidence, leadership, teamwork, well-being, and joy. Academic programs, pre-collegiate mentoring, and college scholarships ensure that students succeed in school and are college-ready. **Since 2005, 100 percent of graduates from The Wooden Floor have enrolled in college**, exceeding the national average for their peers threefold. Family Services at The Wooden Floor, including counseling, crisis intervention, and social service referrals help families overcome hardships and navigate challenges. Community support enables these year-round programs to be offered free of charge. Bringing about generational change to break the cycle of poverty in our community is the long-term goal of The Wooden Floor.

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High-resolution images of the performance and the backstage reception are available upon request.