Dear Dance Exchange Supporter,

Dance Exchange first hooked me with their New Hampshire Avenue Project a few years back. Like much of Dance Exchange’s work, I found myself in a community of people, in a non-traditional performance location, I was moving, and was moved! I remember feeling safe and supported as we walked across the lawns of the apartment complexes, while also embracing a sense of adventure as strangers made eye contact and smiled, moving through the space and seeing it in a different light. To this day, when I drive by those buildings in Takoma Park, it brings me back to Dance Exchange.

Fast-forward to today and that same spirit endures. It is who we are. We create work that makes participants feel safe while simultaneously expanding their horizons. Most recently that feeling came into focus for me when attending a performance of A body, home, a project led by Dance Exchange’s Elizabeth Johnson in collaboration with Nik Zaleski. The piece was beautifully balanced: on the one hand it raises awareness about the issues of sexual violence in our country by quite literally embodying the message; on the other hand, it shares dance that is non-threatening and inviting, celebrating the brilliance and resilience of survivors. This multimedia intergenerational dance also inspired 880 creative acts against sexual violence that have been collected digitally and catalogued to keep the dialogue going. Addressing socially relevant issues through movement is what makes us Dance Exchange.

In addition to these engaging performance experiences, core to Dance Exchange’s work is connecting to community through workshops and classes. We continue to serve as an artistic hub for the DC metro area, as we have for over four decades. Along with hosting our own classes (Takoma Park Moves, Dance Community Moves, Everybody Moves, Youth and Teen Exchange), our building in downtown Takoma Park provides space for thousands to gather, organize, teach, rehearse, and perform. Our biannual Organizing with Artists for Change Institutes bring together artists and changemakers from across the country to be in creative practice together. And this year we’ve launched our Creative Aging and Intergenerational Exchange Program where artists visit local residences with the aim to address social isolation experienced by older adults through workshops in dance and storytelling.

Your gift today will help us continue to impact lives in our region and beyond. Reaching our goal of $25,000 this year will bolster all of the ways we support artists, dancemaking, and community building. Thank you for your continued support, for considering a tax-deductible donation to Dance Exchange AND for inviting your friends and family to learn more about the creative work that we do!!

Sincerely,

Erica Bondarev Rapach, Chair
Dance Exchange Board of Directors

P.S. Save the Date! February 22, 2020 we will host our first annual Celebration of Giving event with a preview of a brand new dance & science collaboration with Michigan State University. Plus find out about renovations that will take place at Dance Exchange in 2020!