

Anonymous Major Gift Received

by CDSS Executive Director Katy German

It is with immense gratitude that CDSS announces the receipt of an anonymous \$250,000 gift dedicated to furthering CDSS's mission and work across the continent. The donors, a couple who met through dance, have seen first-hand the power of dancing, singing, and making music together. Through their dance communities, they've forged lifelong friendships and witnessed people rally to support one another when times are hard. Their communities have warmly welcomed new folks seeking haven from loneliness and isolation and supported those seeking fun and recreation.

A message from the donors:

"When we called CDSS to give them the news, they asked—after the initial swell of gratitude—why CDSS? What was it about CDSS's work that inspired this gift? We met contra dancing, and we've seen what dancing can do for people. Bringing the joy and connections of dance to more people holds the promise of improving our North American culture. CDSS is the organization best positioned to increase opportunities for people to experience community and individual connections through dance and music. CDSS invests in training and leadership, provides resources for people organizing dances in their communities, and is working hard to help those folks connect with each other.

As to why we chose to give now, we want to do it while we're still around to see the difference it makes. We've worked hard to grow our resources to a point where we have what we consider a significant amount to give. We could have chosen to bequeath the funds, but we would miss out on the fun. In the past few years, we've been impressed by new directions CDSS is exploring and hope—for the good of the community—our gift can multiply these efforts."

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The donors have decided to make this an unrestricted gift spread out over the next 5 years, to provide a steady base for growth. CDSS takes seriously the reasons and inspiration for this visionary gift and will work to ensure that the funds are used to further **CDSS's mission to connect and support people in building and sustaining vibrant communities through participatory dance, music, and song traditions that have roots in English and North American culture.**

Opposite: Original photo collage incorporates a photo by Jennifer Wik taken during Family Week at Ogontz.