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OUR OPINION

Benefit by WKU students very worthwhile

50 min ago

It's always uplifting to see people organize fundraising events that benefit people they probably don't even know.

Those who put on these benefits and charity events are selfless people with big hearts who want to help people in need, whether they are hungry, homeless or ill.

In Bowling Green, we see many events throughout the year in which these types of people come together to help others. This always inspires us, because these people could be doing other things with their time, but they choose to help others out of the goodness of their hearts.

One annual event that we are really glad exists is the Dance Big Red fundraiser. Now in its fifth year, the student-led event benefits the Children's Hospital Foundation, which raises funds for Norton Children's Hospital and its sister facilities in Louisville.

Dance Big Red originated in 2014 when Kelli Robinson, a Western Kentucky University student at the time, contacted the Children's Hospital Foundation about creating a dance event to support Norton. In the first four years, the benefit managed to raise more than $170,000 from community sponsors and individual donors.

On Saturday, more than 900 students went to the Preston Health and Activities Center at WKU for a late-night-blending-into-morning of dancing, games and fun. For eight hours, students stayed on their feet to raise money for this great cause. A host of scheduled activities throughout the night in addition to the dancing – including Zumba, a limbo contest and several group games – kept the energy high among the students. Many were obviously exhausted after 12 hours of physical activity, and understandably so. But their physical activity toward this cause is a true testament to them and their big hearts. By the end of the event, $71,780 was raised for the foundation.

This is a lot of money that can go a long way toward helping with research and those who are at Norton's Children's Hospital.

We couldn't be any more proud of these students for all of their hard, exhaustive work to help raise money for this cause.