



Pat Farmer
Founder/President

Allegro Foundation...*a Champion for Children with Disabilities*

Pat Farmer, internationally renowned movement education specialist and Founder/President of Allegro Foundation, has devoted more than three decades to the education and advocacy of children with disabilities.

Remarkably, by the age of 17, Pat Farmer had firmly conceptualized her life goal: to develop an empirically-based method for teaching children with disabilities, following her extensive volunteer experience in a mental institution for individuals with mental retardation.

However, it was not until 1991, after many years as a professional dancer, choreographer in the entertainment industry with noted celebrities including Dolly Parton, Michael Jackson, and Barbara Eden, and movement educator that Ms. Farmer's dream came to fruition when she founded Pacific Foundation for the Performing Arts, a nonprofit organization in Los Angeles.

In Pacific Foundation's 8 year history (1991-1999), Ms. Farmer worked with the Los Angeles Music Center, Hollywood Bowl, City of Hope, Los Angeles County Schools, as well as Special Olympics with the Kennedy family and Maria Shriver. Among Pacific Foundation's many crowning achievements, ABC television's "Kidsview" program highlighted Pacific Foundation in a half hour special that won an Emmy Award in 1996.

Following the death of her husband in 1998, Ms. Farmer closed Pacific Foundation and transferred its 501(c)3 status to her hometown of Charlotte, North Carolina where a year later, she launched its continuation, Allegro Foundation...*a Champion for Children with Disabilities*. Since 2000, Allegro Foundation has empowered more than 3,200 children with disabilities through movement education, teaching vital health-related, social, emotional, and academic skills.

Lead by Ms. Farmer, Allegro Foundation combines movement instruction with educational and medical expertise, creating a NEW vehicle to teach children with disabilities and enhance their quality of life. Allegro currently teaches more than 500

children with mental retardation, Down syndrome, orthopedic challenges (wheelchairs and walkers), spina bifida, cerebral palsy, learning disabilities, muscular dystrophy, visual and hearing impairments, children at risk and children with cancer in FREE movement education classes each week. Allegro Foundation's techniques and philosophies have been published in numerous scientific reference books, including "The Owner's Manual for the Brain" by Dr. Pierce Howard.

Pat Farmer was officially recognized as a national leader in working with children with disabilities when in 2004 Allegro Foundation made history as the first organization of children with disabilities to perform at **The White House**. After an excellent reception, the First Lady personally invited Ms. Farmer to return with Allegro to perform at **The White House** again in 2005.

Most recently, Allegro's students with disabilities and one-on-one teaching assistants returned to **The White House** in December 2008 to perform for the President's private party of Ambassadors from around the world in the State Dining Room. As a result of this event Ms. Farmer was introduced to the Ambassadors of Monaco and Ecuador who are partnering with Allegro in a series of fundraising formal balls attended by Charlotte's most influential and prestigious citizens.

In 2007 Ms. Farmer was appointed by the President to select nationally recognized Coming Up Taller Award recipients on a committee chaired by First Lady Laura Bush. On a return trip to Washington, Allegro's students also performed for the National Independence Day Celebration at the Washington Monument and at Walter Reed Army Medical Center for wounded soldiers returning from Iraq and Afghanistan.

On an international level, Ms. Farmer periodically presents Allegro's techniques to delegates from the political, educational, and medical fields, including those from Ukraine, Russia, Hungary, Egypt, Monaco, Ecuador, and Yemen in partnership with the United States State Department and the Library of Congress. Additionally, Ms. Farmer has presented her techniques and philosophies to students earning their graduate degrees at UCLA, University of North Carolina, and Duke University, and most recently has lectured at Carolinas Medical Center, Society for the Arts in Healthcare, NC Arts for Health Training Institute, and the VSA International Conference in Washington, DC.