



**Biography- Pat Farmer, Founder/President
Executive/Movement Director**

In 1991 movement education specialist, Pat Farmer, founded an organization that would annually serve more than 480 children with disabilities weekly in Charlotte, North Carolina.

In her 30-year career based out of New York and Los Angeles, Ms. Farmer worked with many well-known celebrities including Dolly Parton, Michael Jackson, and Barbara Eden. Ms. Farmer partnered with the Los Angeles Music Center, Hollywood Bowl, City of Hope, Los Angeles County Schools, and the Special Olympics to provide movement education to the region's children with disabilities. Moreover, ABC television's "Kidsview" program highlighted Ms. Farmer's work in a half hour special that won an Emmy Award.

In 2004, under Ms. Farmer's leadership, Allegro Foundation's students made history as the first group of children with disabilities in our nation's history to perform at The White House. The spectacular presentation prompted another invitation by the First Lady the following year to perform at The White House in 2005.

Pat Farmer and Allegro's students with disabilities returned to Washington, DC in July 2006 to present at Walter Reed Army Medical Center for wounded soldiers returning from Iraq and Afghanistan, as well as for the National Independence Day Celebration at the Washington Monument.

On December 6, 2008, Ms. Farmer and twenty of Allegro's students with disabilities performed once again at The White House for the President and his private party of Ambassadors from all over the world. The Allegro participants had the unique experience of greeting the President as he disembarked from Marine-1.

In addition to her leadership role within the organization, Pat Farmer shares her expertise as a lecturer throughout the state and country. Ms. Farmer has presented Allegro's techniques and philosophies to graduate students at UCLA, the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, Queens University, and Duke University, among others. Ms. Farmer also leads seminars at Carolinas Medical Center and Presbyterian Hospital for registered nurses and physicians.

Ms. Farmer has also served as a member of the National Jury for the President's Council serving with Chair, former First Lady Laura Bush, to select recipients for the "Coming Up Taller Awards."

Finally, Pat Farmer of the Allegro Foundation in partnership with the U.S. State Department lead a workshop for educational and medical professionals from the Ukraine in 2005, teaching valuable skills to a nation whose children are born with disabilities and birth defects as a result of the Chernobyl accident. Ms. Farmer has been invited to Japan, Hungary, and Monaco to lead similar presentations, bringing Allegro's techniques to their countries. Pat Farmer's top priority is to serve more of the 15,000 children with disabilities in Charlotte and to share in the community what Allegro's movement education program does for these students with disabilities.