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Eight-Hundred New York City Teachers Turn to Crowdfunding for Back-To-School Supplies

Teachers are spending an average of nearly \$600 out of pocket each year to equip their classrooms and students

New York, NY -- August XX, 2017 -- The back-to-school shopping season has begun, and Renaissance School of Arts (East Harlem) dance teacher, Danielle Winsko estimates that she spends up to \$600 of her own money on classroom supplies in preparation for each new school year. To supplement their classroom spending, more than 850 New York City teachers are turning to crowdfunding for back-to-school supplies using the nonprofit organization AdoptAClassroom.org.

Teachers like Winsko purchase supplies every year so their students don't go without. Winsko has spent as much as \$3,500 in a single year purchasing materials like books, dance attire, tickets to shows, musical instrument pieces, paint, writing utensils, notebooks, folders and the entire dance studio's cleaning supplies. An [AdoptAClassroom.org survey](#) found that the average U.S. teacher spends nearly \$600 of their own money each year on classroom supplies.

"The budget is not there for public schools to purchase these supplies for every classroom," said Winsko. "The students we serve do not all come from economically sound households and need a little extra support sometimes."

According to the [National Center for Education Statistics](#), nearly 97 percent of New York elementary and secondary schools, including Renaissance School of Arts, have Title 1 status. At least 35 percent of students in Title 1 schools come from low-income families, but at [Renaissance School of Arts](#) it's 83 percent of students.

In July, musical artist and actor, Common, partnered with AdoptAClassroom.org and Burlington Stores to surprise Renaissance School of Arts teachers with a \$10,000 donation. The funds, donated by Burlington, were equally distributed to all Renaissance School of Arts teachers so they can stock their classroom with supplies before the school year begins, without having to spend their own money.

"AdoptAClassroom.org has inspired my students with the guest visit from Common and given them hope that their artistic dreams can become a reality with hard work and perseverance,"

said Winsko. "AdoptAClassroom.org has also given our teachers the ability to teach with supplies, and passion, to continue to educate the students who call Renaissance School of Arts their second home."

Teachers turn to fundraising on AdoptAClassroom.org because they will receive 100 percent of the online gifts that individual donors designate for their classrooms through the website. All donations made through AdoptAClassroom.org are tax deductible for the donors.

About AdoptAClassroom.org

AdoptAClassroom.org empowers teachers by providing the classroom supplies and materials needed to help their students learn and succeed. As an award-winning 501(c)(3), AdoptAClassroom.org makes it easy for individual donors and corporate sponsors to donate funds to K-12 classrooms in public, private and charter schools throughout the U.S. On average, teachers spend \$600 of their own money each year to equip their classrooms - 20% of teachers spend more than \$1000 annually. Since 1998 AdoptAClassroom.org has raised more than \$30 million and benefited more than 4.25 million students. AdoptAClassroom.org holds a 4-star rating from Charity Navigator. For more information, or to adopt a classroom, please visit www.adoptaclassroom.org.

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