

POWERED BY
BVM
 BEST VERSION MEDIA

Dance

NONPROFIT SPOTLIGHT

IN MOTION



BY ART & DESIGN INTERN **MADELINE GABEL**

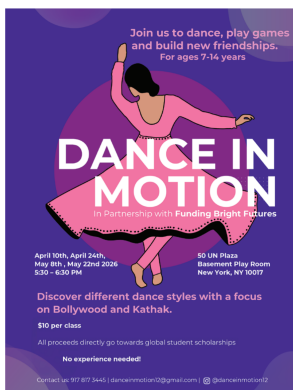
From the very moment Sutton Place resident Reyna Shah first began dancing, she immediately fell in love. Having started Bollywood dance at four years old and then Kathak at six, she has continued dancing for over twelve years and is now a sophomore in high school. Reyna always knew that she wanted to be able to share her

appreciation for the art of dance with others, motivating her to found the local afterschool program Dance In Motion. She strives to make cultural dance styles accessible to kids in the New York City area through her classes, teaching students about Indian culture and helping them build valuable skills while also fostering a sense of community.

Reyna's Dance In Motion project is operating in partnership with the locally based organization Funding Bright Futures, which is also student founded. Created in 2015 by teen Turtle Bay resident Jay Patel, now 23, the nonprofit specifically emphasizes its youth-led, class-based fundraising model for underprivileged students around the world. It represents a creative, peer-to-peer approach to educational philanthropy, leveraging young people's talents to create opportunities for the less fortunate with a clear path from local volunteerism to global impact. Jay still resides in the Sutton area at 50 UN Plaza, the basement of which will be the very location for Dance In Motion's upcoming spring classes!

A born-and-raised New Yorker of Indian heritage, Jay's initial inspiration came from a trip to his family's remote village in Gujarat, India. Witnessing the widespread poverty, with access to quality education limited for many, he sought to address root causes of poverty through education. Funding Bright Futures' core mission is to empower underprivileged children globally by supporting scholarships that enable them to attend school, breaking cycles of poverty with accessible learning opportunities. The ultimate long-term vision is to partner with at least one school in every nation worldwide, creating a global network dedicated to education access.

Headquartered in New York City, Funding Bright Futures stands out as a youth-driven initiative, primarily run by high school students and other young volunteers who serve as tutors and teachers. Revenue centers on hosting classes and workshops for children in the 7-14 age range, providing



enriching educational experiences and directing all proceeds toward scholarships for international underprivileged students. Along with tutoring in all academic subjects and various languages, these student-led classes include creative offerings such as art, debate, music (both vocal and instrumental), and, of course, dance.

Participation in classes often involves a fee, with funds raised going toward global scholarships (e.g., approximately \$700 covers one full year of schooling for a child in need). The organization also gladly accepts direct contributions. This model creates a virtuous cycle: students gain teaching experience, leadership skills, and community service opportunities, while revenue supports education in developing regions.

📍 50 UN Plaza Basement
 Playroom (46th & 1st) **FUNDING BRIGHT FUTURES**

📷 @DANCEINMOTION12
 📷 @FUNDINGBRIGHTFUTURES
FUNDINGBRIGHTFUTURES.ORG


ASSISTED LIVING LOCATORS NYC

YOUR NO-COST LUXURY SENIOR PLACEMENT CONCIERGE. FREE TO YOU!


If you are considering Luxury Assisted Living in NYC, let us be your guide. We will carefully curate best fit options for you or your loved one:

Sunrise at East 56th, The 80th Street Residence, Inspir Carnegie Hill, The Bristol, and more

212.653.0152 | www.assistedlivinglocators.com/nyc



HOWARD HOROWITZ
 Owner & Senior Care Advisor
 hhorowitz@assistedlivinglocators.com



MICHAEL WOLFSON
 Owner & Senior Care Advisor
 mwolfson@assistedlivinglocators.com