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NIOSHA RAISES \$10,000 FOR CHILDREN'S CANCER BY FARANAK RAVON

I was thrilled to be part of Niosha Dance Company's annual fundraising event for children with cancer, held in Campbell , CA on May 13, 2006.

She is truly an inspiration! I'd like to share the day with you all:

Prior to the dance performance, Niosha gathered all the children backstage and while she held up photographs of the sick children in Iran she said, "Dear lovely students and talented performers: Remember what you are doing tonight is not just another performance or a school recital. You are helping all the kids your age (God forbid) who don't have as much fun as you do, or get to be among friends, or even enjoy the simplest joys of life. They are in hospitals awaiting their next medication. They have no money, and little hope. So, by dancing your best, and giving your biggest smiles, you will touch the audience's hearts and make them come back and support us every year. By sending the tickets' money to those kids, you give them a second chance in life. We don't know who would be next to go on the hospital bed (I hope no one we know, but unfortunately it could happen). We all need to keep in mind why we are here. Have FUN and do you BEST, and don't forget, put on your BIGGEST SMILES! You are all amazing for all the time and effort you've put in to this show and all the practices, and hard work is about to pay off!" Niosha was diagnosed with Non-Hodgkins Lymphoma in April 2002, just 3 months after the birth of her second son. On April 2003, she celebrated her victorious fight against cancer with her caring supporters in the community along with her devoted and talented students when they performed "The Comeback" show and donated all the proceeds to 'children with cancer'.

That is what she promised God during her treatment period -- that if she gets another chance to perform and be on stage with her kids, she will make a difference in the world. It has been 3 years that she's been given this opportunity. Niosha says: 'I am so grateful for what happened to me. It made a huge difference in my life and I live with a purpose and passion for life 'every day' ,since I got too close to the end. Now that I am able to breathe and work and enjoy my time again, I don't take anything for granted and I appreciate all I have. We all have so many things that if we want to enjoy them all, there won't be enough time. Unfortunately we spend most of our precious time nagging and worrying about the things we DON'T have and we miss all that we do.

I enjoy my ANGELS (2 sons before I was diagnosed with cancer, since they kept me going) and I cherish my MIRACLE baby (my 3rd son who was born 3 years after my diagnosis when doctors told me I couldn't have anymore babies!). Miracles do happen and I believe in them.

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Believe, Dream, Reach.

Niosha and her team, will be fundraising at this year's Relay for Life - Fight for Cancer on June 24th. Please see www.niosha.com for more information and/or to join the team or donate to the cause.

Faranak Ravon is a guest contributor for PersianMirror from San Jose, California.

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