

## Boulder Family Dance

### Support for Operations

*\$2,500 Grant from the Alex "Tink" Wilson Legacy Fund - April 2013*



Boulder Colorado has a very lively dance scene. Every week there are many traditional, modern and world dance events, but so little for kids! The Boulder Family Dance started in 2010 when Jessie and Seth Frankel, a Boulder family with three kids, grew tired of not going to the dances they loved from their college days because the kids weren't welcome. Reaching out to Teri Rasmussen, a regular in the Boulder folk music and dance scene, to see about setting up a regular event, the Family Dance event began and has been growing in support and participation ever since.

Through Teri's volunteer efforts, she brought the concept to the organizers of the Avalon's Colorado Friends of Old Time Music and Dance's (CFOOTMAD) twice-monthly adult contra dances. It was proposed that for 1 1/2 hours prior to the second contra dance each month a family dance be established during the school year to provide eight dances per year. Jesse, Seth and Teri agreed that live music and callers were critical to building an authentic dance experience.

CFOOTMAD offered a small start-up fund to help launch the program. This funding provided for both the initial 2011-12 and 2012-13 periods. The dances were successful, attracting anywhere between 30 and 60 people. Seth and Jessie Frankel provided marketing, created an email group, created/distributed flyers, newspaper and online postings, and donated event snacks. Teri provided music and calling, and its coordination. But after two years with preliminary successes, they saw that they needed further support to move into a more long-lasting success.



In early 2013, Seth Frankel and Teri Rasmusson submitted a proposal, complete with detailed plans and budget, to the Alex "Tink" Wilson Legacy Fund Committee. The requested funds would allow for the creation of a simple website, help with marketing, provide compensation for additional musicians and callers for the live dances, and provide a small amount of money for snacks.



"Our dances are always to live music, usually a fiddle, piano and perhaps a banjo and other traditional instruments," reads the Boulder Family Dance website. "A live 'caller' gives kid-friendly instruction before and during each dance. Most of the dances are traditional American and British Isles dances, although many are modernized and rather whimsical."

The Alex Wilson Legacy Fund grant helped support Boulder Family Dance throughout its 2013-14 season. It also enabled the organization to develop a website, <http://familydance.org/>. (All photos on this page are from the organization's [YouTube video](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LRxluNiSwk) at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LRxluNiSwk>.)