



Name: Vanessa Mastroianni

Tell us about yourself: I have the pleasure of being the Family Service Manager for Dignity Memorial. Working in this industry we see first-hand how the support of COHA impacts families.

What year did you dance? 2019

What was your style of dance and why did you choose that one? As one could imagine we all had a style or song we thought would be good in our individual minds. Bless Jen and Dez our instructors for knowing better and guiding us in choosing a style. I would say it was Jazz.

How did you first learn about Swinging with the Stars? For years I was a vigil volunteer and was actively involved with COHA. My favorite event to attend each year was SWTS and each time I attended I knew one day I wanted to dance one year.

What was your connection to COHA at that time? I had the honor of serving as a board member.

What is your favorite memory from your performance? Connecting with all the teams and hearing their stories or reasons for wanting to be a part of the event. The moment we walked on stage and started the dance was also a very surreal feeling. Getting the "Audience Choice" award was pretty memorable.

Are you still dancing today? Not intentionally but I'm pretty sure there are some Tik Tok's out there of me that my daughter has secretly posted.lol

What backstage moments stand out to you today? Our dance was pretty emotional so I would say the staff at the Grand lining up in the back hall high fiving all of us as we went back to the green room.

Has this experience inspired you to do other life changing things? It has made me realize not to be afraid of trying new things or stepping outside of my comfort zone. Live in the moment.

Is there anything else you'd like to share? Working alongside the COHA staff and volunteers is amazing. Thank you for all you do and giving team Dancing with Dignity the opportunity to contribute to SWTS 2019.