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A mother's moves pave way for daughter's penchant for dance

By [Tri-State Defender Newsroom](#) | Published 05/21/2009 | [Arts & Leisure](#) | Unrated

Scholarships available to spiring dancers
by Amy Rosenberg
Special to the Tri-State Defender

Fifteen-year-old Charlie Mathews can't imagine her life without dancing. She's been on the move since before she could walk.

"Even when she was in my belly, she was always moving. I just knew she'd be a dancer," says Charlie's mom, Carlos Mathews, who immediately began to infuse into her daughter's life various kinds of music including gospel, jazz, pop, and classical.

"She had a very strong rhythm, always moving to the music," Carlos says. That's when Carlos began learning all she could about different types of dance. She would mimic the moves and steps she saw on TV, at local performances and in movies. Then, mother led daughter through the motions, every day for up to 30 minutes at a time until Charlie was old enough to begin dance lessons.

"Immediately, she started to show a real talent for dance, Carlos recalls, any chance we got, she was performing." But keeping Charlie in classes wasn't always easy, as the cost of regular lessons was a struggle given the family's finances. An on-the-job head injury forced Carlos out of work, and mounting medical bills put an end to dance lessons.

However, last summer Carlos and her daughter received an unexpected surprise. By word of mouth, they learned about a local dance company and school, Ballet On Wheels. Charlie was eligible to audition and, if selected, she might receive a scholarship.

"It was a Godsend, says Carlos, "and when we found out that she received a scholarship, I cried!" She was finally able to give her daughter what she had not been able to afford.

"To be part of this program and for my daughter to have a scholarship to satisfy her need to dance, I was so happy."



Charlie Mathews is pursuing her interest in dance with scholarship help from Ballet on Wheels. (Courtesy photo)

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At Ballet On Wheels (BOW), Charlie's talent has blossomed. But she and her mother agree that their involvement with BOW has been about far more than just dancing. "I have more self-esteem. I meet a lot of people when we perform and now I'm more confident, always," says Charlie.

Talented and aspiring dancers between the ages of 10 - 17 years old are invited to Open Call Scholarship Auditions, Saturday, May 30th at 11 a.m., 613 University Street. Applicants will need to perform a 1.5 minute prepared dance routine.

Call (901) 870-4348 for more information or apply online at www.balletonwheels.org.

(This story courtesy of Amy Rosenberg and Kingdom Quality Communications.)

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