

Easter Baskets of generosity

Dance students' donations come all tied up with a bow -- ready to give other children

By By Renee Malone, Special to My Life

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Rows of decorative baskets filled with colorful candies and other Easter treats lined the tables March 28 during the Ballet On Wheels Free Dance Camp in Midtown.

Each holiday basket represented one camp-goer, because the baskets were tickets for admission into the three-hour session on ballet, modern, jazz and hip-hop dance. All of the Easter goodies have since been delivered to underprivileged children at Target House and Hope House.

"It's just our way to give back to the community," said Chauniece Conner, director of Ballet On Wheels Dance School. "It's good for students to start at an early age, learning and wanting to do something for other people."

Conner hatched the idea last year, and after seeing the impact the donated items had on the donors and the recipients, she decided to try it again. This year, they almost doubled their numbers, with more than 100 baskets collected.

"My parents always stressed the importance of community awareness and involvement," says Conner. "Those beautiful baskets are reminders of what we can all do, if even in a small way, to positively affect others."

For information about Ballet On Wheels Dance School, call 870-4348 or visit balletonwheels.org.

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