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Delta House celebrates 25 years serving youths

ASHEVILLE — Students attending the BOOST after-school program at the Delta House Life Development Center spent a recent afternoon assembling goodie bags for their elderly neighbors at Aston Towers, the Altamont, Bartlett Arms and the Garden Apartments.

“When we first started this service project, the children were fairly hesitant,” said Marjorie Locke, tutor and Delta House board member. “I think they were nervous about knocking on a stranger’s door. But when they saw just how much their neighbors appreciated the visit and the goodies — well, they started to get excited about it. Now they ask, ‘When are we going to give out presents again?’”

In 2008, the Delta House will celebrate 25 years of service to young people in our community. The free program provides a safe space, directly across from Asheville Middle School, for students to get academic assistance while also encouraging artistic development and social graces.

“We offer something special to our children,” said Shirley Whitesides, board chairman. “Every day our students have access to quality tutors and mentors. During the spring we work on gardening projects, and right now the students are working with Dr. Erin Tapley, associate professor of art education at Western Carolina University, to create a mural at the Delta House.”

The Delta House is a member of the Asheville-Buncombe Education Coalition. To learn more about Delta House contact Elisabeth Bocklet at 252-5936 or ebockletabec@bellsouth.net or call the Delta House at 254-6008.

From staff reports