

# Project honors mothers

## Gift drive aims for luxury on mom's day

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Tables covered with pastel-colored bottles of shampoo, body lotion, perfume and more were crowded inside the Grenloch Community Center.

Huge containers overflowing with every beauty product imaginable were emptied and organized into gift baskets. It was like walking into a mini-drugstore.

It was also a signal that the Mothers Matter Gift Basket Project was under way.

"Our mission is to acknowledge women and their children on Mother's Day," said Susan Rose, executive director of Mothers Matter and the Lauren Rose Albert Foundation. She started the foundation after her daughter Lauren died in a car accident in 1999 and left three children behind. "The last thing many mothers do is buy for themselves," Rose said.

And so evolved the idea of pampering mothers in an unconventional way.

"Lauren's mom and friends wanted to perpet-



Photo provided

Danielle Magourik (left) and Ashley Hanscom prepare Mother's Day baskets from collected gifts.

uate her goodness," said Loretta Anthony, who helped kick off the Gloucester County College collection drive this year.

The GCC volunteers are among the many who helped sort through beauty-product collections from all over South Jersey recently so they could be distributed to needy women and single mothers in the area.

Basket delivery will begin May 8 and contin-

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■ For more information about the Mothers Matter Gift Basket Project and the Lauren Rose Albert Foundation, go to [www.laurenlegacy.org](http://www.laurenlegacy.org)

ue until Mother's Day. Drop-offs will be made to local day-care centers and nurseries.

Along with Rose, Lisa Moriarty, a close friend of Lauren's who is in-

involved in the foundation, looks forward to making deliveries every year.

"It's a wonderful feeling," said Moriarty, of Washington Township.

"One mom said she only doled out a little bit of lotion at a time so it would last all year," Rose said. "You really get a feeling of how many lives we touch with this."

More than 100 schools, businesses and organizations collected

beauty products, topping last year's records for numbers of helpers and products.

The volunteers are well on their way to meeting their goal of preparing 2,000 baskets to give area moms a luxurious Mother's Day.