

‘Check’ it out — Slope man gives big bucks to scammed Dancewave troupe!

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By Gersh Kuntzman
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He took the high road — and now the young dancers of Dancewave in Park Slope are closer to their dream of performing in Scotland.

Nick Kotsonis, owner of the S Club fitness center on Union Street, came through with a \$10,000 donation to underwrite the troupe’s July trip to an international youth festival in Aberdeen after a travel agent scammed the company out of more than \$10,000 last year.

He presented the check at the Fourth Avenue dance center on Wednesday. British Airways has also kicked in free airfare, after reading The Brooklyn Paper’s account of the scam. As a result of the outpouring of support Dancewave now has half the money it needs.

“I feel very heartened that the community has come forward to help us,” said Diane Jacobowitz, the troupe’s executive director. “For so many of these kids, this will be their first time out of the country. It’s going to be an incredible once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.”

That said, about \$20,000 still needs to be raised. Before the travel agency scam, the dancers raised their own money, hosting bake sales and setting up a baby-sitting service to pay their own way to the festival, where they will be the only American troupe performing.

To donate, call (718) 522-4696 or e-mail info@dancewave.org.

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