Students reach out to community with Safe Trick or Treat

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Hundreds of little ghosts, princesses, superheroes and witches visited The University Sunday for the annual Safe Trick or Treat held on campus. Students joined children from local neighborhoods and communities in the spirit of Halloween as they went door to door through the residence halls. Ellen Judge, administrative assistant for the Center for Service and Social Justice, organized the event.

"Children registered at 12:45 p.m. and were assigned to groups and corresponding student volunteers," Judge said.

Judge said the children were escorted through some of the residence halls.

"The dorm rooms were prepared with students who signed up to greet the trick or treaters," Judge said.

Jackie Cavanagh, a junior, said she volunteered to escort the children through the dorms.

"A lot of people participated and the little kids were so happy when they got the candy from the dorms," Cavanagh said.

Cavanagh said her favorite part of the event was working with the children.

"I volunteered because I loved trick or treating when I was little and I thought it would be nice to take the children around campus," Cavanagh said. After trick or treating, Judge said the children were brought to the fourth floor of the Patrick and Margaret DeNaples Center for lunch and a small party held by student government and fencing clubs.

"The clubs were set to provide activities, crafts and games for the children to participate in," Judge said.

Anna Coutts, a junior and a member of the Fencing Club, said the event was a great way for the students to get involved in the community.

"I was at the Fencing Club table helping the children that came through to make ghosts out of tissue paper," Coutts said. "It made me really happy to see that the children were having such a good time."

The event, which ran 1 - 3 p.m., has been a Halloween tradition for the last 15 years.

Judge said that this year the event included 250 children, 42 clubs, 300 residents handing out candy and more than 200 student escorts.

"It's a great way for students to help out and have fun," Judge said. "The children have fun and get a chance to look at The University first hand."

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