

Ms. Brooks is one of my greatest teachers and mentors. What I have learned in the Marie Brooks Pan-Caribbean Dance Company is that dance is not only movement, but it sends a message and isn't sent by a voice. You can take expression and movement and turn that into dance.

I have learned teamwork and respect through Ms. Brooks' company. I've also learned that respect should be given to all, especially elders. This has helped me a lot in every day life. I have also learned that I deserve the same respect I have given to others.

— **Safiya Driskell, Student of Marie Brooks**

# marie brooks

Since joining the Marie Brooks Pan-Caribbean Dance Company, I have a greater sense of teamwork, spiritual and mental development as well as being more independent. I have more tolerance for taking constructive criticism and have learned to travel abroad.

In order for me to dance, I need to know the history of the people in Africa. I need to feel their problems and through dance that is how I can express my feelings.

This dance company has taught me to be more respectful, let my innate rhythm shine through and I'm sure these traits will help me in everyday life.

— **Yves DeRosa, Student of Marie Brooks**

## Thanks

Styles and techniques,  
From countries and streets  
different drums,  
different beats,  
all unique,  
so to speak

On Culture variations,  
Olympic invitations,  
dancing in all nations,  
constant celebrations.

Nothing is impossible,  
Never let an obstacle,  
Get in the path,  
Of what she liked to have.

Respect,  
Is what she gets,  
Steps,  
must be correct  
effects,  
is how she lets  
everyone know she's one of the best.

All she has she earns,  
One day it'll be my turn,  
But for now I thank Ms. Brooks  
because what she taught me I learned.

— **Kenya Hill, Ladi "Escobar" Love, Beacon High School**