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## A Special Day for Special Olympics

Submitted By: [Tony Hughes](#) | [Neighborhoodcircle.com Staff Member](#)



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Cody Gardine, 11, from Yorkville, changes a tire in the Pit Stop Challenge game.



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Volunteer Darlene Hensel from Oswego cheers attendees with a smile and balloon animals.



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Yorkville's Curtis Evans, 23, and Olivia Redmond, 12, make posters to thank the fundraiser's sponsors.



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Yorkville's Donna Jacobs and her dachshund Jimmy get some attention from Olivia Redmond, 12, from Yorkville.



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Handlers and their dogs from the Fox Valley Therapy Dog club conduct a demonstration for attendees.



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Aurora's Humberto Gonzalez admires a 1950 Ford owned by Roger Anderson of Bristol.



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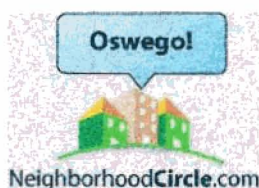
Oswego volunteer Jean Hilger sells raffle tickets for iPods, Cubs tickets, a guitar, a mountain bike and other prizes.

A heart for Kendall County Special Olympians seems to run in Deb Clason's family.

Since 1969, when Clason's sister Katherine founded Kendall County Special Olympics, the group has grown to include spouses, siblings, children and other family members.

When the workload got too big for the family, they enlisted help from families of Special Olympians. They called the group Friends and Family of Kendall County Special Olympics.

On July 21, Friends and Family of Kendall County Special Olympics held its third annual Family Fun



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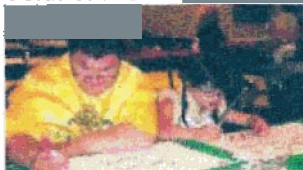
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Festival, bringing together more than 30 volunteers and 60 sponsors to benefit Special Olympians in Kendall County.

The event was held at the Yorkville American Legion Hall from 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Between games, karate and cheerleading demonstrations, there was plenty of food, refreshments and fun for attendees.

"The event this year is bigger than ever," Clasen said.

While previous fundraisers consisted of a motorcycle run and antique car show, this year, Clasen and her team added games, raffles, carnival rides and other attractions to appeal to a broader audience.

"It's been great so far," Clasen said. "The kids are having a blast, we're attracting more people and we're raising more money for special olympians."

Kendall County Special Olympians compete in games between September and June, culminating in a state-wide summer competition in every summer in Springfield.

"I like bowling and swimming best," said Curtis Evans, a 23-year-old Olympian from Yorkville.

Clasen said the fundraiser will bring in about \$10,000 to fund programs for Kendall County Special Olympics. Money goes to pay for uniforms, transportation, facility rentals and other program costs.

"We couldn't have done this without the generosity of sponsors and help from Olympians' families and our volunteers," Clasen said.

For more information, contact Deb Clasen at 630-553-5833 or [send her an e-mail](#).