



Farm Hill Road kids raise \$1,249 to help out Wallingford family

The weather report said it was to rain all day. The clouds in the morning were not looking too good. However, the optimistic kids on Farm Hill Road in Wallingford had other things on their mind. They wanted their penny carnival to be a success.

Ever since March, Amanda Palmer, Drew Puig, Kelley Mudzinski, Laura Violette, Eric Palmer, and Teddy Violette, have been planning the event. They run the Annual Penny Carnival for charity in Wallingford to benefit families in need. The carnival consisted of games for all ages, a raffle with something for everyone, a Moonbouncer, and a lot of great food. The carnival took place on Saturday, June 5.

The games were a great hit. Ring the Rhino, Fishing, and Bean Bag Toss with SpongeBob were some of the very popular games included. All being less than a dollar to play, these homemade games gave out toys and candy for the winners. They were perfectly suited for younger children and some were very entertaining for the older ones. The raffle was a big money maker. A kids raffle was held giving away prizes such as toys and games. The adult raffle had an amazing selection of tickets and prizes. Some of the things included were tickets to amusement parks like Lake Compound, a digital camera, tickets to baseball games, car stereos, and gift certificates as high as \$50 to some of Wallingford's most popular restaurants. Pizza, hot dogs, and cookies were donated, and all were sold out by the end. And as always, the Moonbouncer donated by Boing! Moonbouncers was enjoyed by countless kids. The weather held out for everyone, and it turned out to be a great day.

About \$1,249 was raised and will be donated to Jonathan Narducci and his parents. So how exactly is this carnival planned? The "Carnival Crew" begins by planning out the future weeks and distributing jobs. For the next few months many things must be done, including making games, obtaining donations from local businesses, purchasing supplies, distributing flyers to the community, finding volunteers, and other miscellaneous tasks. It's very busy and hard work, but ask anyone who organizes the event and they will not complain. The group enjoys working together and must face many challenges. Also, they like the rewarding feeling they get when the carnival is going on and when it's all over and they realize the amount of money raised.

The carnival was started 13 years ago by Kim Chapman and Kelly Hebrank. In 2001, Kelly was in college and Kim was getting ready to go to her university. The neighborhood children decided to take over the large responsibility. At the time, most of them were in Yallesville School and one went to Dag. Now, all attend Dag Hammarskjold Middle School except Amanda, who is a freshman in Lyman Hall. For the past three years, the group has been trying to raise \$1,000 and they have been focused on that goal. When they found out they made the amount they did, it certainly made them happy.

Amanda Palmer