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DCT benefit serves not only as fundraiser but a comfort to families

By MARY ANN ENDY

Debbie Imbriaco took her children to the recent 17th annual Lehigh Township Benefit Festival and Car Show held at Becky's Drive-In Theatre in Berlinsville.

The family attended to show its support for one of the area's largest fundraisers that benefits local seriously, chronically and terminally ill children between the ages of 4 to their 18th birthday. One hundred percent of all the money stays in the local area to fulfill the dreams of these special children. Dreams are whatever the child requests, which are family trips, meeting a celebrity, or special gifts such as a computer, redecorated bedroom, etc.

The Imbriac's have a special reason to patronize the benefit.

Seven-year-old Nadalyn is a Dream Come True child. While three of the children were busy jumping inside the bounce (amusement ride), their mother Debbie talks about the other people that participate or patronize the benefit saying, it actually humbles a person to know there are so many people out there who care.

Nadalyn was diagnosed with acute myeloid leukemia (AML) before her 6th birthday. She adds, "There is always something good that comes out of something bad. She went through so much . We are surprised to see that there are so many people want to extend their hand to see that her dream will come true." Her dream is to go to Disney down in Florida. The family plans to go in March 2005. Nadalyn is the daughter of Debbie and James Imbriaco Jr. of Palmerton and comes from a family of five children.

One of many fundraising activities at the festival was a Chinese auction by the Lehigh Township Lioness Club with all their proceeds being donated to Dream Come True. Nadalyn assisted the Lioness by picking the winning tickets at the end of the day.

Cindy Beck Deppe, benefit coordinator said, "Approximately \$11,500 was raised; however all the funds have not been turned in yet. The benefits held at Becky's Drive-In for Dream Come True have raised over \$148,500 for the organization since 1989."

She added that included in this year's total was a check to Dream Come True for \$3,000 from Wheels of Time Street Rod Association that was presented by member Leo Livengood of Lehigh Township. This year's festival, with perfect weather, featured a car show of 349 vehicles, flea market and craft show, tug of war, entertainment, walk-around clown, several kiddie rides, antique tractor and circus model displays, yummy festival foods, contests, plus so much more.