

Dream Come True-PaddleFEST nets \$4,000 at MCLP



By GAIL MAHOLICK

Smiles on the faces of two Dream Come True children who learned to paddle kayaks on Sunday contributed to the success of PaddleFEST 2004.

Little Voula Sabol, daughter of Kay and Adam Johnson of Palmerton, and Daniel Brandwein, son of Nick and Jeanne Brandwein of Lansford, were among the 300 people on the water at Mauch Chunk Lake Park.

Proceeds of over \$4,000 raised at PaddleFEST will benefit the Blue Ridge Chapter of Dream Come True. The chapter recently organized to raise funds to fulfill children's dreams in Carbon County and surrounding communities.

Participants came from all over to learn to paddle kayaks and try out various types of water craft provided by Pocono Boat House, Blue Mountain Sports, Appalachian Outfitters, Nestors, The Adventure Lodge, and Pocono Whitewater. The variety of boats included whitewater boats, river kayaks, play boats, sit-on-tops, recreational boats and ocean kayaks.

Members of the Lehigh Valley Canoe Club and staff from Northeast Pennsylvania Kayak School were on land and in the water giving paddling information, demonstrating paddling strokes, and teaching people water safety. Also on hand were staff members of the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission who informed people about safety issues on the water.

On shore there were many activities for the non-paddlers, including live music by the Dream Kids, Jourdan Irene, Wayne and Becky Duggins, Styll, and Jim Cimms.

The funds were raised through various activities and events.

Coordinating the water events was Mike Hopstock, while Gail Maholick, a member of the Dream Come True Board, was the event coordinator.

"Everyone seemed to have a good time, from the participants who were there to learn and try out boats, to the volunteers on the water," said Maholick. "We had a lot of people on the water who might never have tried kayaking and we raised a lot of money for our kids."