



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:

Jennifer Gordon

jgordon@festivalofchildren.org

(714) 438-3247

**CAROUSEL OF POSSIBLE DREAMS FUNDRAISER HOSTED BY THE SANFILIPPO
FAMILY TO BENEFIT THREE CHILDRENS CHARITIES**

Festival of Children Foundation's innovative fundraising program has raised nearly \$2 million for more than 60 charities nationwide

A one-of-a-kind fundraising event for three youth children's charities who offer programs and services to children will take place on Saturday, August 22, 2015 from 5:00 – 9:00 p.m. at the Sanfilippo Estate in Barrington Hills, Illinois.

Chicago civic, business, entertainment and philanthropic leaders will test their carousel riding prowess aboard the *Eden Palais*, a spectacular 19th Century European Salon Carousel housed at the private Sanfilippo Estate in Barrington Hills, Illinois. Armed only with their cell phones, riders will go round and round, raising money for Ronald McDonald House Charities of Chicagoland and Northwest Indiana, The Little Angels Center for Exceptional Care, and the National Diaper Bank Network.

"The Sanfilippo family is committed to helping children and families in need and we are honored to host the Carousel of Possible Dreams. The Eden Palais Carousel is the perfect venue for the event and it brings us great joy to see our guests ride the Carousel knowing it benefits so many families," says James Sanfilippo.

The Carousel of Possible Dreams launched six years ago by Festival of Children Foundation has raised approximately \$2 million for more than 65 innovative children's programs which otherwise may never have been funded. And, all the money has been raised through a magical activity enjoyed by all children – riding a carousel.

"RMHC-CNI is honored to be supported by the Festival of Children Foundation and its admirable efforts to fund local charities through this creative initiative," says Holly Buckendahl, CEO of RMHC-CNI.

RMHC-CNI is an independent not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization whose mission is to care for families of children with complex medical needs by providing a 'home away from home' while their child is being treated in the hospital.

"Our children and young adults at Little Angels enjoy very full, energized lives, in spite of their many challenges. But it does take extra support and assistance to help with all their activities and undertakings. This is where a fundraiser like Carousel of Possible Dreams is so invaluable in helping us provide the necessary equipment and services that our residents need to lead the kind of interesting life they want and deserve." – stated Mary Jean Adkins, Director of Development.

The Little Angels Center for Exceptional Care serves children and young adults with severe disabilities and extremely complex medical needs.

"The National Diaper Bank Network is honored to participate in the Carousel of Possible Dreams at the invitation of the Festival of Children Foundation. The opportunity provides NDBN with a unique platform to expand awareness of diaper need, and its impact on one in three moms who struggle to provide diapers for her baby." – said Troy Moore, Director of Communications & Development.

The National Diaper Bank Network (NDBN) is a nationwide nonprofit dedicated to eliminating diaper need in America, by leading a national movement to safeguard one of the most basic needs of all babies and their families...access to clean, dry diapers

The evening will include entertainment, estate tours, and reception.

"The Carousel of Possible Dreams is a fun and innovative way for charities to raise money for immediate needs, and bring in new donors to sustain them for long-term success" said Sandy Segerstrom Daniels, founder of Festival of Children Foundation, and managing partner of the world-famous South Coast Plaza shopping destination. "It also allows anybody anywhere to participate at any level. You don't have to be a philanthropist to make a difference. Together, dreams are possible." 100% percent of Festival of Children Foundation's administrative expenses are covered by designated funding allowing donations to go further in direct support of programs and services that improve the lives of children.

This is the 13th Carousel of Possible Dreams event to be held since 2009 at such venues as Central Park in New York City, King Arthur's Carrousel at Disneyland, South Coast Plaza in Orange County and the Eden Palais, a spectacular 19th century European Salon Carousel housed at the private Sanfilippo Estate in Barrington Hills, IL.

About Festival of Children Foundation

Festival of Children Foundation is a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization that serves to bring together and coordinate the efforts of charities, companies and individuals who work to improve the lives of children. 100% of the administrative costs are covered by designated funding, allowing donations to go further in direct support of programs and services that improve the lives of children nationwide. For more information please visit www.festivalofchildren.org

About Ronald McDonald House Charities

About Ronald McDonald House Charities® of Chicagoland and Northwest Indiana (RMHC® - CNI) RMHC-CNI is an independent not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization whose mission is to care for families of children with complex medical needs by providing a 'home away from home' while their child is being treated in the hospital. Every night, 153 families heal together because of the comfort, compassion and community at five area Ronald McDonald Houses® and three Ronald McDonald Family Rooms®. That's 43,000 nights each year where RMHC-CNI families are able to stay close to their child, helping them to heal faster and saving them over \$7 million in hotel costs. We are located near Advocate Children's Hospital, Loyola University Medical Center, University of Chicago Comer Children's Hospital, Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago, Edward Hospital in Naperville and Central DuPage Hospital. For more information visit www.RonaldHouseChicago.org. RMHC-CNI is rated as BBB Accredited Business & Four Star Charity Navigator.

About The Little Angels

The Little Angels Center for Exceptional Care serves children and young adults with severe disabilities and extremely complex medical needs. We do this by operating the Pat Wasmond Home and the Cathy Freeman Center for Developmental Training. Located in Elgin, Illinois, both programs offer a lifetime of expert care in a warm, loving environment. Our vision is to bring new meaning to 'the best life possible.' To see how this is achieved please visit www.LittleAngels.org

About the National Diaper Bank Network

The National Diaper Bank Network (NDBN) is a nationwide nonprofit dedicated to eliminating diaper need in America, by leading a national movement to safeguard one of the most basic needs of all babies and their families...access to clean, dry diapers. Founded in 2011 with the support of Huggies®, the network raises national awareness of *diaper need* (#DiaperNeed) and supports the development and expansion of diaper banks in communities throughout the country. Its active membership includes more than 240 diaper banks, diaper closets and food banks located in 44 states, the District of Columbia and Guam. More information on NDBN and diaper need is available at www.nationaldiaperbanknetwork.org, and on Twitter (@DiaperNetwork) and Facebook (facebook.com/NationalDiaperBankNetwork).

###

About the Beneficiaries and their Possible Dreams

Little Angels Center for Exceptional Care: \$50,000

The Little Angels residents need help being lifted in and out of their wheelchairs, beds, bathtubs—basically all mobility moves need assistance. The safest way to do this is with a Mechanical Lift. Little Angels uses these lifting devices all day long for every resident, so the wear and tear is great. As with all their equipment, they have made the lifts last longer than their normal life expectancy through careful use and thorough maintenance, but they need to start the process of replacing 17 lifts. <http://www.littleangels.org/>

Ronald McDonald House Charities of Chicagoland and NW Indiana: \$75,000

Families staying at the Ronald McDonald House near Loyola University Medical Center have big dreams for their children. Dreams that include being able to walk, unassisted, being able to eat and communicate freely, despite the realities of a cleft lip and palate. Families dream of their children being free of cancer and dream of their premature babies leaving the hospital, healthy and strong.

We share these hopes and desires with our families and dream of a refreshed and welcoming space to greet them following a long day at the hospital. A place where a friendly face of a volunteer will make them feel at ease in their 'home away from home.' The dream of a welcome center at the Ronald McDonald House near Loyola University Center can become a reality through the tremendous support of Festival of Children Foundation. <http://rmhccni.org/>

National Diaper Bank Network: \$50,000

NDBN's Possible Dream is to create and distribute 50 portable Diaper Drive Kits to member diaper banks throughout the country. Designed to be portable, reusable, and most importantly turnkey, the kits will provide the tools and collateral materials necessary to raise awareness of diaper need and collect donated diapers to be distributed to babies in need.

Community-based diaper drives serve as a primary source of donations of the diapers and dollars necessary to sustain individual diaper banks. An ongoing diaper drive program ensures that more infants and toddlers living in poor and low-income families get the diapers necessary to remain clean, dry and healthy.

<http://nationaldiaperbanknetwork.org/>