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FESTIVAL OF CHILDREN FOUNDATION BENEFIT RAISES \$246,601

Sanfilippo Estate in Illinois was site of Carousel of Possible Dreams fundraiser benefiting Easter Seals and Ronald McDonald House Charities

WHAT: A European salon carousel built in 1890 and housed at the Sanfilippo Estate in Barrington Hills, Illinois was the site of Festival of Children Foundation's most recent "Carousel of Possible Dreams" fundraiser.

A crowd of 147 attendees, many of them Carousel riders, tested their fundraising prowess as they climbed aboard the 19th Century French carousel to raise \$246,601 for Easter Seals and Ronald McDonald House Charities Chicagoland and Northwest Indiana.

Lou Canellis, the sports director at Fox 32 Chicago was the evening's emcee. He encouraged the participants to go round and round and up and down, armed only with their cell phones, calling friends and contacts to solicit donations for the two nonprofit organizations. Riders were not be allowed off the carousel until they reached their individual fundraising goals.

"We are proud to support the Festival of Children Foundation," said Jim Sanfilippo. "The Sanfilippo Foundation is committed to helping children and families in need. We look forward to sharing the magical Sanfilippo museum collection with our donor guests at the Carousel of Possible Dreams event."

Easter Seals' Dream

The Easter Seals team rode in support of *Make The First Five Count* campaign. The campaign is designed to get children at risk of developmental delays or disabilities the right support they need to be school-ready and build a foundation for a lifetime of learning. As the largest provider of early intervention services, Easter Seals staff, therapists and families know what's possible when kids get the support they need during the first few years of life.

Ronald McDonald House Charities' Dream

Supporters of Ronald McDonald House Charities of Chicagoland & Northwest Indiana rode the carouse to help fund a new transplant floor for children. For children who have undergone a transplant surgery and spent months in the confines of the hospital, a comfortable home, where they can live with their families while still having the security of their doctor's close by, might seem like an unattainable dream. But, in the new Ronald McDonald House near Lurie Children's, through the unique support of their Transplant floors, children can be released from the hospital to the care of their own families. With special air quality assurances, the children are free to live on these floors without the need for masks.

A representative from Ronald McDonald House Charities said that they will name the transplant floor to Festival of Children Foundation.

"I admit that using a carousel as a fundraising vehicle is a little out of the ordinary, but that's what makes it unique and fun. Working in collaboration with the Sanfilippo Foundation and the support of the community, The Carousel of Possible Dreams will make the dreams of Easter Seals and Ronald McDonald House Charities a reality," said Sandy Segerstrom Daniels, Founder & Executive Director of Festival of Children Foundation. "Or as we like to say at Festival of Children Foundation, 'together, dreams are possible'."

WHEN **Saturday, August 4, 2012**
5:00 – 9:00 p.m.

WHERE: The Sanfilippo Estate
Barrington Hills, Illinois

MORE INFO: www.festivalofchildren.org/chicago

About Easter Seals

Easter Seals is the leading non-profit provider of services for individuals with autism, developmental disabilities, physical disabilities and other special needs. For more than 90 years, we have been offering help, hope, and answers to children and adults living with disabilities, and to the families who love them. Through therapy, training, education and support services, Easter Seals creates life-changing solutions so that people with disabilities can live, learn, work and play in their communities. For more information visit www.EasterSeals.com.

About Ronald McDonald House Charities® of Chicagoland and Northwest Indiana

The mission of Ronald McDonald House Charities® of Chicagoland and Northwest Indiana is to improve the health, well-being and education of children through four core programs:

- 4 Ronald McDonald Houses® provide a 'home away from home' to keep families close while their children are being treated at a nearby hospital.
- Ronald McDonald Family Room® provides hope and hospitality right in the heart of Edward Hospital.
- Ronald McDonald Care Mobile®, in partnership with Advocate Hope Children's Hospital, provides essential health services to children in underserved areas in a mobile environment.
- Scholarship Program provides \$4,000/year renewable scholarships to academically outstanding, community-minded and economically challenged young people.

For more information visit www.RonaldHouseChicago.org.

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 actively work to improve the lives of children. Festival of Children Foundation gives a voice, guidance and support. 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. For more information visit www.FestivalofChildren.org.

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