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Riding for charity dollars



PHOTOS BY GEORGE LECLAIRE/gleclair@dailherald.com

From left, Renata Costa of Chicago; Jim Sanfilippo, director of The Sanfilippo Foundation; Paul Huebner, a Ronald McDonald House Charities of Chicagoland and Northwest Indiana board member; and Paul Sestak, vice president with Golden State Foods, one of the event sponsors, raise funds using their cellphones while riding the Eden Palais Carousel.

Supporters of 2 children's groups take a spin on Sanfilippo carousel in Barrington Hills for fundraisers

Daily Herald report

The Sanfilippo Estate in Barrington Hills proved to be a breathtaking backdrop Saturday for the Carousel of Possible Dreams, a fundraiser for Easter Seals and the Ronald McDonald House of Chicagoland and Northwest Indiana.

Armed with only their cellphones, guests rode on a 19th century French carousel and couldn't get off until they had tapped friends and contacts for enough donations to meet their individual fundraising goals.

Lou Canellis, sports director at Fox 32 Chicago, was the evening's emcee, encouraging participants as they went round and round and up and down.

Easter Seals and Ronald McDonald House Charities of Chicagoland and Northwest Indiana have a combined fundraising goal of \$115,000 between them.

Both are member organizations of Festival of Children Foundation, a Costa Mesa, Calif.-based nonprofit that strives to improve the lives of children by strengthening the charities that serve them.

All of the funds raised Saturday are going directly to the participating organizations.

Supporters of Ronald McDonald House Charities were riding to raise \$90,000 to fund a new transplant floor at the Ronald McDonald House near Lurie Children's Hospital for children who undergo transplant surgery and spend months in the confines of the Chicago hospital.

The floor will provide a comfortable home where they can live with their families while still having the security of their doctors close by. With special air quality assurances, the children are free to live on these floors without the need for masks.

"We are proud to support the



Lydia Wyse, 6, and her mother Cheryl Wyse, both of China, pick out dessert items at the Carousel of Possible Dreams charity fundraiser in Barrington Hills. Cheryl and her husband, Keith, are staying at Ronald McDonald House in Chicago while their other adopted daughter, Ester, 3, has surgery, before returning to China.

Festival of Children Foundation," said Jim Sanfilippo in a news release. "The Sanfilippo Foundation is committed to helping children and families in need."

"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 and executive director of Festival of Children Foundation.

"Or, as we like to say at Festival of Children Foundation, 'together, dreams are possible.'"

More information on the event's sponsors is at www.EasterSeals.com, www.RonaldHouseChicago.org, and www.FestivalofChildren.org.

Sandy Segerstrom Daniels, who founded Festival of Children Foundation in 2002, stands onstage directly below the word EDEN to welcome partner charities at the fundraiser.

