

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Child Care Resource & Referral's Annual "Biggest Toy Sale Ever!" Fundraising Event a Success

Child Care Resource & Referral (CCR&R) held its 3rd Annual "Biggest Toy Sale Ever!" on October 17, 2009, at Troy Craughwell Elementary School in Joliet. This event gave families and educators an opportunity to purchase new, educational, and safe toys and other items for children that promoted learning that may not be available in local stores.

The event included a variety of vendors that represented many companies such as Barefoot Books, C & C Replay, Discount School Supply, Kaplan Early Learning Company, and Usborne Books.

Parents, families, and providers also had an opportunity to explore the many resources available such as the DuPage Children's Museum, Joliet Police Department, Troy Fire Department, and Healthy Childcare Illinois. There was also a car seat safety check lane sponsored by the Joliet Police Department and Grant's Appliances, Electronics, and More.

Children enjoyed age appropriate hands-on activities provided by Building Esteem Support Team, DuPage Children's Museum, Joliet Area Association for the Education of Young Children, Joliet Township High Schools' Infant Care Center, Kiwanis Club of Joliet, and the Will County Child Care Association.

Entertainment for the children included Jason Jerisha the Singing Cowboy and face painting was provided by Joliet Township High Schools Rachel's Club/ Y.E.S.S.

"This event not only is an event for Child Care Resource & Referral to raise funds in order to continue much needed services to parents, families, and providers, but also a great way for parents to obtain educational toys and resources for their children," stated Karen Nall, Fund Development Associate for the agency, "Many thanks to all of our sponsors, donors, and volunteers who helped make this event a success."

Sponsors of the event included: Troy Craughwell Elementary School, DeGeus & Klafter Insurance, Northern Illinois Steel, Senator A.J. Wilhelmi, Dominos Pizza, Home Cut Donuts, Starbucks, Fast Printing of Joliet, J-M Printers Digital Express, Martin Whalen Office Solutions, and various raffle prize donors.

Volunteers represented various organizations such as: Joliet Township West High School S.O.S., R.O.T.C. and Ms. Baker's class, Grundy Area Vocational Center Early Childhood, Joliet Junior College Ms. Biles' class, Carol Gavin, and many others who helped throughout the day.

One hundred per cent of the dollars raised from this event will go directly to providing programs and services to childcare providers, parents and grandparents. Child Care Resource & Referral, a not-for-profit United Way partner agency and part of the Illinois Statewide Child Care Resource and Referral System of IDHS, is dedicated to promoting and facilitating affordable, quality childcare through assistance, education and advocacy in Will, Grundy, Kendall, and Kankakee counties.

For more information about Child Care Resource & Referral's programs and services, or to find out more about the annual "Biggest Toy Sale Ever!" event, visit www.childcarehelp.com or contact Karen Nall at 815-741-1163 Ext. 221 or knall@childcarehelp.com.