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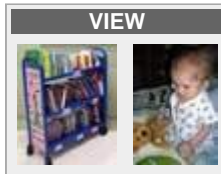
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VIEW

Kate's Kart has benefit for hospitalized children

Donations now being taken to fill cart that gives books to kids.

From staff reports

You're invited to celebrate children, reading and summer at the second annual ice cream social benefit for the Kate's Kart program.

Enjoy free Edy's ice cream, children's games and activities, magic shows and a mini book fair from noon-4 p.m. June 19 at Parkview Family Park, which is on the Parkview North campus near Interstate 69 and Dupont Road. The popular children's rock-pop band Madeline's Toybox will perform, along with 17-piece swing band The Conglomerates, who specialize in music from the '40s.

Learn more

For more information about Kate's Kart or to view a wish list of new books the organization would like to make available to hospitalized children, go to www.KatesKart.org.



The event will be postponed or canceled in case of severe weather.

People attending are invited to make a donation of money or a new children's book to the nonprofit Kate's Kart organization, which provides free books to children in 12 area hospitals, a news release said. Books given out must be new books to meet health standards.

Local Christian radio network WBCL, 90.3-FM in Fort Wayne, also will be at the ice cream social and will be collecting books and cash donations for Kate's Kart on Thursday at Barnes & Noble bookstores at Glenbrook Square mall and Jefferson Pointe shopping center, the news release said. WBCL selected Kate's Kart as its Summer 2010 Outreach Ministry recipient.

Barnes & Noble also will be helping out: When a shopper mentions Kate's Kart at the checkout, Barnes & Noble will donate a percentage of that sale to Kate's Kart, a news release said. The donation applies to books, games, gift items, home and office products, CDs and DVDs, café items, and more.

Kate's Kart was founded in memory of Katherine Anne Layman, who was born with heart and respiratory defects, the news release said. Kate underwent four open-heart surgeries and spent 150 days in the hospital while doctors tried to help her. She died Jan. 15, 2008.

The Layman family wanted to do something to give back to the medical community who took such good care of Kate, the news release said. They developed the Kate's Kart program because Kate loved to look at books and to have people read to her.



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The all-volunteer program began in June 2008 at Lutheran Hospital. It since has expanded to 80 volunteers helping a total of 12 hospitals, the news release said.

