



Media Contact:

Jason Parent
NMCC Development and
College Relations Office
(207) 768-2808
jparent@nmcc.edu

News Release

October 26, 2009

NR09123

More than 250 children enjoy Kinderfest at NMCC; proceeds benefit Wintergreen Arts Center

Presque Isle - More than 250 children along with their families took part in fun activities at Northern Maine Community College on October 24 as the college hosted Kinderfest. The German-themed event for families in and around Aroostook County was held as a fundraiser for the Wintergreen Arts Center's renovation project at their new facility in downtown Presque Isle.

"I was grateful to have the opportunity to take part in this event, and what a successful day it was! My son Jacob had a great time in the bouncy house and making a gingerbread house. It was nice to see so many families come out to Kinderfest to support the Wintergreen Arts Center renovation," stated Shannon Smart, business administration student and event organizer. "This event wouldn't have been possible without the help of so many wonderful volunteers, such as Heidi Broad-Smith [early childhood education instructor], the NMCC Student Senate, and a number of students, faculty and staff here at the college, as well as Wintergreen Arts Center staff."

The Kinderfest activities included: face painting, Hansel and Gretel puppet show, karaoke by Pass-A-Hat Entertainment, a bouncy house sponsored by Cary Medical Center, and a movie matinee, *Monsters vs. Aliens*. Attendees enjoyed German-themed food provided by NMCC's food services, Aramark.

The celebration also included activities that reflected the German culture along with the Country's national colors. Heidi Broad-Smith, NMCC early childhood education instructor, coordinated the children's craft activities for the day. Children and parents had the opportunity to explore their creative sides by painting birdhouses and making gingerbread houses, German hats and felt gingerbread men. They also were able to create pictures with potato stamping, and make German flags and paper chains.

"I had fun helping Brittany [event volunteer] and the other kids make German hats. I also had fun singing karaoke with my mom," said seven-year-old Mitchell Cook from Ashland.

For the Wintergreen Arts Center, the Kinderfest event comes at an ideal time as the organization is in the midst of its \$100,000 fundraising campaign to conduct necessary improvements and renovations to its new home at 149 State Street in Presque Isle. Wintergreen was given a ten year lease from Tony and Glenn Burgess-Capp free of charge with the utilities included. The money will go toward electrical improvements, a new bathroom, floor and ceiling restoration, lighting, signage, furnishings, and landscaping.

“I just loved Kinderfest. I saw lots of new young faces at the party and I'm eager to introduce a new generation to Wintergreen II. It was such a privilege to be associated with NMCC's efforts. NMCC students and staff were awesome,” said Lara Cannon of Wintergreen Arts Center. “My children and family had a great time, as did hundreds of other families from throughout the area.”

Wintergreen Arts Center also hosted an Oktoberfest celebration during the evening of October 24 at the Shriners Club in Presque Isle. The event included a live band and German food.

“Oktoberfest was equally well attended and fun. Between the two events we had over 550 people enjoying a little Bavarian culture and celebration,” stated Cannon.



Libby Kinney, daughter of Lerae and Kevin Kinney of Mapleton, tries on her German hat at one of the many stations offered during Kinderfest.



Mitchell Cook of Ashland gets some help from his mother, Shannon, as he performs Karaoke during Kinderfest at Northern Maine Community College.



Lara Cannon, Director of the Wintergreen Arts Center, interacts with the audience during the Hansel and Gretel puppet show performance during the Kinderfest at Northern Maine Community College.