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Oklahoma State University Homecoming’s Oldest Tradition

Oct. 13, 2009

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A line for admission that didn’t appear to shrink brought a rush of people carrying canned goods into the Payne County Expo Center Tuesday.

The event was the OSU Homecoming’s Harvest Carnival. Residence Halls, Greek Houses and Student Organizations from campus came together to create an event aimed at educating and entertaining local children. The Carnival took place Tuesday, Oct. 13 from 6 to 8 p.m. at the fairgrounds.

Jill Bowman is a senior Elementary Education major and was this year’s Executive over the Harvest Carnival.

“The turn-out has been great this year,” Bowman said. The cold and misty weather was at first a concern, Bowman said, but it didn’t have a noticeable impact on attendance. “People came out to support the cause once again.”

That turn-out will turn into food donations for less fortunate people in the Stillwater area. Admission was one can of non-perishable food for two tickets, or one dollar for four tickets. Those donations supplemented those brought be the groups that set up booths for the Harvest Carnival.

Every student organization that participated had to bring a certain amount of non-perishable food items, Bowman said. Each group had a list of the kinds of food they were supposed to bring.

The canned goods gathered by the Carnival are donated to Harvest II. Amy Crawford is this year’s Harvest II Chair. Harvest II is a local charity group that donates the food to a number of other charities around Stillwater that then distribute them to those in need. Harvest II has been helping those in need in the Stillwater area for 20 years.

“We’re so thankful for OSU putting this Harvest Carnival on because they give us so much food,” Crawford said. The Harvest Carnival is one of the largest contributors to the organization.

There were 25 booths participating in the Harvest Carnival this year, Bowman said. A range of games and activities provided the children with fun and gave the student groups a chance to give back to the community.

Kaleb Summers is an Ag. Communications junior and member of the OSU Rodeo Team. The Rodeo Team had a booth that let children try to rope a fake calf. The Team’s booth had more than 60 children come by, Summers said. Some of the children came through several times.

While the booths provide fun for children, the cans of food that they donate to set up provide something for those less fortunate, Summers said. And for some people, that’s what it’s about.

“The main reason for us to come here is actually to give back to the community,” Summers said. “It makes us proud to put our name over the things that we do for people.”

**Sources**

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