

Fall Fest October 6 pays dividends for Kids

By MATTHEW CUDAHY

Smithtown High School West students will host a fall fair this Saturday October 6, with all the proceeds going to the Smithtown Children's Foundation.

The event, which is being called the Festival of Hope, will take place from 5 to 9 p.m. near the high school's baseball field. The festival will include carnival games, face painting, food and a showing of the movie Hocus Pocus starting at 7 p.m. Admission to enter is \$5.

The three students responsible for putting on the event are Matt Tockarschewsky, Victoria Holtje, and Thomas Killeen. All three are executive officers in the school business club, DECA. The club is the largest at Smithtown West, with around 300 members, and students involved compete in business competitions, do community service, operate the school store, and host events, according to the club's Twitter account.

Mr. Tockarschewsky said they have been planning the event since the start of school. Last year, the club hosted a successful Spikeball Tournament, and this year they wanted to build upon that success.

"We really wanted to host a nice, big event for our community and our school district, not only benefiting one family but many families going through

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The Smithtown High School West DECA Club, which is organizing Saturday's fall festival.

Fall festival Oct. 6 fundraiser for kids

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tough situations, so we came up with the Fall Festival of Hope," Mr. Tockarshewsky said. "We just want to get our community together in the beginning of the school year to really welcome fall."

The students worked closely with the Smithtown Children's Foundation over the last month or so to find sponsors and donations to make the Festival of Hope happen.

"We met with the foundation a couple times, and they had a bunch of great resources to get the event going. Their resources were very, very helpful," Mr. Tockarshewsky said.

The Smithtown Children's Foundation is a nonprofit organization providing financial and emotional support to families residing within the Smithtown School District, according to its website. Since 2008, the nonprofit has assisted families in crisis, by paying medical bills and overdue household bills, managing college scholarships and teacher grants, and chipping in to help families during the holidays. All of its funds come from fundraisers and single donations.

So far, Mr. Tockarshewsky says they have collected a little more than \$1,300 in donations. He hopes that the community will come out to support a good cause.

"We really want a lot of kids, not just from the high school, but kids from all over the community to come together, welcoming fall," Mr. Tockarshewsky said. "This is just our way to give back to the community, and hopefully we raise a good amount of money for the Smithtown Children's Foundation."