

on the MOVE

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Summertime volunteers:

"It feels good helping"

Chris Lentner thought he might have to struggle to find other teens willing to spend a summer Saturday pulling volunteer duty.

But as it turned out, Chris got a surprisingly strong response from teens in his parish, St. Thomas Aquinas/St. Lucy in Leicester and Retsof.

"I called eight people and seven of them said they'd come. Not bad," said Chris, 17, as he busied himself selling snacks inside a food tent at the Country Playpen in Leicester July 25.

Chris was working in that tent as part of an all-day jamboree to raise funds for Catholic Charities of Livingston County.

He was not alone. According to Julie Flanagan, youth minister at St. Columba/St. Patrick Parish in Caledonia and Mumford, a total of 22 teens and seven adults helped staff the event. Most of this gang, she noted, belong to St. Columba/St. Patrick and St. Thomas/St. Lucy.

Volunteers braved the hot sun as they staffed the parking lot, entrance gate and refreshment booths. Meanwhile, Katrina Lambert and Elise Gominiak — a

Story by Mike Latona

Photos by Greg Francis



St. Columba/St. Patrick youth-group member Stephanie Graham, 15, pours cheese on nachos at the concession stand during the Livingston County Catholic Charities Country Jamboree, held July 25 in Leicester.

pair of 14-year-olds from St. Columba/St. Patrick — were hard at work selling raffle tickets to jamboree participants.

"Sometimes they (jokingly) ask me to cheat for them," Katrina said.

Although Katrina had to bypass an overnight stay at a friend's house, and Elise missed out on a family gathering, neither said they minded staffing the jamboree.

"It sounded like fun. You get to meet people," Elise said.

Most of the teens worked in shifts lasting up to two hours. However, Chris said he was enjoying himself so much that he planned on staying all day.

"It feels good helping the community," Chris explained.

The jamboree volunteers are among a number of diocesan teens who sacrifice a portion of their summer vacation to perform service work. One such person is Mike Guerra, who helps with the summer religious-education program at Holy Ghost Church in Gates. Even though Mike no longer attends summer religious education (the Holy Ghost program runs only through eighth grade), he returned this year to help serve refreshments to younger students.

"I had a feeling they needed help this summer, and I had so much fun (in the past) that I

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