
The Adoption Fest of Austin Cosmopolitan Rotary Club

Background: This year Austin Cosmopolitan Rotary Club is celebrating an event which is designed to bring prospective adoptive parents and children currently in foster care together. While the event is a fun filled day, the objective is a very serious one; to allow the adults, who have already been cleared by Child Protective Services (CPS), to interact with the children in a relaxed atmosphere which nurtures the formation of bonds and provides emotional context.

Method: The members of the Austing Cosmopolitan Rotary Club provide games and activities which help the children and the adults to interact and collaborate with each other. We provide a hot lunch with beverage and dessert. Each child is provided with a back-pack and water bottle they can personalize.

This year our theme is a Carnival of Fun. We will have a variety of games for the children to enjoy. As the children participate, they will receive *Rotary Bucks* for scoring points in the games. The children will then spend their *Rotary Bucks* in the carnival Prize Store.

We collaborate with CPS and Christ Episcopal Church which allows us the use of their premises. Because of privacy laws we are not able to obtain specific information from CPS regarding the results in adoptions, but we have been informed that 100% of the children receive follow-up information requests and that the incidence of adoption resulting from our Adoption Fest is very high. We are honored that this event is considered one of the most successful of its type in Central Texas.

Needs: The Austin Cosmopolitan Rotary Club requests support for prizes and supplies, including but not limited to:

- Merchandise or gift certificates for the carnival Prize Store
 - In the case of clothing or other items that would be size or gender specific, we request that gift cards be provided instead so that any child may purchase the prize and use it
- Crafting Materials to decorate the water bottles and back packs provided to the kids.
- Cash or gift cards to defray the cost of groceries for lunch.

We respectfully request your collaboration in helping the Austin Cosmopolitan Rotary Club in our efforts to find loving homes for children in foster care. Your donation is tax deductible and will be greatly appreciated. Your name will be displayed in the Prize Store as a donor.

Thank you.

Heidi Wittenborn
Adoption Fest Coordinator
512-217-1675
hwittenbornrotary@gmail.com