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Children's home to hold flea market

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FORT MITCHELL - The Diocesan Catholic Children's Home will hold one of its largest fundraisers next month. Its annual flea market will be held on Aug. 5 and 6.

The home takes donations for the flea market throughout the year.

"We've ended up with a lot of Rookwood items. We get cut glass. We've even gotten clearance from Cincinnati Bell to sell an old phone booth," said Gene Weber, flea market chairman.

Weber hopes to raise approximately \$60,000 to \$70,000 to fund the 158-year-old home that serves children 6 to 14 years old with behavioral problems. However, he fears he'll have some problems meeting the goals this year.

"We haven't received as much as in the past - maybe because of Katrina or the rise of consignment shops," said Weber.

Preparing for the flea market is a year-round project. Weber and 12 volunteers meet from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. each Monday to sort, price and store donated items. Before the event, it then takes three days to display the items in three large tents and two buildings. Fifty additional volunteers help during the actual sale.

Weber has been involved with the sale since it began seven years ago.

"It started at a nursing home my sister-in-law was in," said Weber, a retired banker. "I wanted to give something back. They had a flea market and one of the women tapped me on the shoulder and asked if I would help. Then we moved to the Children's Home and it's been seven years. I enjoy what I'm doing."

After years of helping with the sale, Weber is still surprised by people's generosity. He recently came back from lunch to find a complete set of Germany china waiting for him. He appraised it at \$100 per setting.

"No note or anything. I'd love to meet the person that did that," he said.

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