

# Lucky leprechauns raise money for Indiana's disabled



Hundreds of families attended the Share Foundation fund-raiser.

By Karin Braedt Qasawa

Staff Writer

LaPORTE - Hundreds of families went on a hunt Sunday hoping to find leprechaun figurines hidden in the heart of the fields, outside the crops.

The 24 dummies were hidden in old trees and higher weeds, each with dollar figures inscribed at the bottom, entitling hunters to cash up to \$1,000.

The event, a fund-raiser for the Share Foundation, a Michigan City organization that operates group housing and camps for mentally handicapped people, serves LaPorte, Porter and Lake counties.

The 10-year-old foundation not only houses six residents, but it also offers summer camps for other mentally handicapped adults.

Elizabeth Bell of Michigan City, whose 25-year-old daughter has been attending the camps, attended the event at Sharing Meadows with her family to support the cause.

"We are having a good time and we are helping raise money for a good cause," Bell said. "It's also good entertainment."

While some visitors were pursuing the trail for the leprechauns, others were listening to Irish music.

Meanwhile dozens of volunteers of the Share Foundation, were selling cards, ceramics, grilling and serving food.

Marrelle Joseph, came from Louisville, Ky., to volunteer and assist her brother, Phillippe A. Joseph, the chef.

Joseph, who runs the kitchen at Innsbruck Country Club in Merrillville, had his entire family pitching in.

Among other things, he fixed hundreds of pounds of pasta, cucumber and potato salad. Also, part of Joseph's menu was cabbage, lamb and beef.

William Heuer of Michigan City enjoyed the food.

"It's some of the best food I have ever eaten," Heuer said. "It's a nice crowd and everything is outstanding."

The Rev. Dennis Blaney of Sacred Heart Parish in Michigan City and president of the organization, prefers to call the mentally handicapped "other abled adults."

Blaney was responsible for organizing the event and hiding the leprechauns. "I hid them all over," he said. He even crossed two swamps, carrying a box and hoping to find the perfect hiding place for the figurine.

"Anybody that didn't come, missed a great day," Bell said.

**A horse-drawn carriage** passes leprechaun hunters at Sharing Meadows Saturday, carrying people who wanted to ride instead of walk. Twenty-four leprechaun figurines were hidden all over Sharing Meadows by the Rev. Dennis Blaney of the Sacred Heart Parish in Michigan City. One of the figurines was worth \$1,000 to the person who found it.

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