

Community Center's Spaghetti Dinner has "wonderful" turnout



Families dined Sunday evening at the Creekside Restaurant & Bar. The dinner was a fundraiser for the Catskill Community Center (Susan Campriello/Hudson-Catskill Newspapers)

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CATSKILL — Catskill Community Center Director Kellie Darling deemed the center's first fundraising spaghetti dinner held Sunday evening a success shortly before 6 p.m., when the event was scheduled to end.

More than 100 people attended the meal, held at the Creekside Restaurant & Bar in Catskill, she said in between collecting dinner tickets and greeting each newcomer by name.

"Oh my goodness," she said of the more-than-expected turnout. "(It) is wonderful."

Diners were still arriving minutes before 6 p.m. and a handful of families were waiting to be served. Several patrons opted for take-out dinners, Darling said.

In addition to spaghetti, the \$10 fee bought sausages, salad, bread and dessert, all prepared by Creekside staff.

Darling said the funds raised will help fund programs such as the popular children's gymnastics class and bugle and drum corps.

The center will offer a new program for children to run during the February break from school, a new art program, and a "Mommy and Me" program, which will begin Feb. 11.

"We are planning ahead to offer good programming for the kids of our community," Darling said.

The center, which runs on an annual budget of \$260,000, served 1,200 children last year, and a number of adults, she said.

The center is funded by Greene County, the Town of Catskill and local banks as well as by contributions made by individuals and foundations. Its second annual fundraising golf tournament will be held on Sun. May 2 at the Catskill Golf Club.

Darling, the center's only full-time employee, works with five part-time staff and volunteers.

Diners Sunday could also enter a 50/50 raffle or purchase \$1 raffle tickets for a tour for four of Olana, the home of Frederick Church, for tickets for the Broadway musical "Next to Normal," for an mp3 player and for a gift certificate at Kingston's Twaalfskill Golf Club in Saugerties.

The prizes were made possible by radio station WDST and Rondout Savings Bank.

Darling hoped the dinner and raffle proceeds would net \$500.

Catskill Town Councilman Kevin Lennon, who was one of the many Catskillians in attendance, called the center a "vital aspect of the town" because children, families and seniors are brought together through its programs.

Catskill Village President Vincent Seeley agreed, saying that the center's contributions to the community "continue to be huge."

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