

Fund for sick child hits \$95,000 mark

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A young student from the Haag-Leviton Suzuki Academy of Performing Arts concentrates on her part [above] as a group of students performs at the benefit for Chrissi Miller Friday. Miss Piggy [right], also known as Carol Ehorn, a friend of the Miller family, gives Chrissi a lift during the benefit.

Fund for sick child hits \$95,000 mark

By Patricia Tennison

THE FUND TO help a Des Plaines girl prepare for a needed liver transplant has reached more than \$95,000, thanks to two more benefits over the weekend.

A children's show Friday at Maine West High School, Des Plaines, raised about \$4,000 to help 3-year-old Chrissi Miller.

"It was a packed house. Almost all 1,200 seats were filled," said Karen Argianas, a Des Plaines resident who organized the benefit. The benefit featured appearances by the Chicago Bears' Honey Bears and Bugs Bunny from Marriott's Great America, Gurnee, as well as local musicians and dancers.

ANOTHER \$2,600 was raised Friday at the Fountain Blue Restaurant, 2300 S. Mannheim Rd., Des Plaines. All of the proceeds from drinks at the bar—including the bartenders' tips—from 11 a.m. Thursday to 1 a.m. Friday

went to the fund, said Gus Sizopoulos, an owner.

Before the weekend events, the fund at the First National Bank of Des Plaines had reached \$89,000. A transplant operation could cost \$60,000 to \$100,000, plus the cost of continuing care and medication, according to neighbor Don Meseth, who has been helping the Miller family.

Chrissi suffers from neonatal hepatitis, a rare liver disease, and has been waiting for a suitable liver donation.

Another benefit is being planned for May 16 at the Axle Roller Rink, 9840 Milwaukee Rd., Niles. The North Maine Fire Department is organizing the roller skating evening and the rink owners have donated the use of the facility.

The \$3 tickets for the skating event will go on sale later this month or in April. The group hopes to raise another \$10,000 for Chrissi, firefighter Michael Bronk said.

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The Melody Makers, a song and dance troupe made up of 40 children from 6 to 12 years old, sing their hearts out at the benefit for Chrissi Miller held at Maine West High School. The show raised about \$4,000 toward the fund that will help pay for a liver

transplant Miller needs. Almost all 1,200 seats were filled for the show, which also featured appearances by the Chicago Bears' Honey Bears and Bugs Bunny from Marriott's Great America in Gurnee.