

New year starts 8th annual Multicultural Market Day

Laconia Multicultural Market Day (MMD) isn't waiting for Groundhog Day or for the snow to melt to spring ahead with plans for their eighth annual festival which celebrates the diversity of our community's population.

The committees, led by Chair Carol Pierce, met recently to orchestrate the all day fair offering free fun to all on Saturday, September 12.

Early fundraising is most important in order to book entertainers. Many performances have fees in the range of \$1500. This task may be more difficult with today's economy. The most costly items that require donations are tents, sound system, entertainers and program publicity. Large or small donations are so important to balance the MMD "break even budget".

Crowds of thousands look forward each fall for the exciting choices of music, dancing, foods, crafts, exhibits, children's programs, concerts, local talent, social services, ethnic ceremonies spanning the cultures of our newest and oldest citizens. From petting an exotic animal to viewing an exotic Asian dance; partaking of the all American hotdog to sampling kielbasa or an Italian ice or hot tamale; or from doing the rain dance or the highland fling, it is recognized as a signature event in the historical setting of downtown Laconia.

Pierce welcomes new volunteers to join MMD at the next meeting on Thursday, February 12, 4:30 p.m. at the Laconia Main Street office on Canal Street. However one wishes to be involved - big time, one time, one special task, just the day of the festival, help is always welcomed. Some of the tasks involve fundraising, vendors, raffle, posters, ads, electrical, signs, entertainment, publicity, programs, traffic, parade, tent set-up and breakdown, tables and chairs, social services, cultural cooking and crafts, website updates, photography, hostessing, go-fers . . . there's a job for everyone. Call 524-2052 for more information.

300 words

Submitted by:
Dorothy Duffy
47 Whipple Avenue
Laconia, NH 03246
(603) 524-7683
DorothyDuffy@metrocast.net