

### ***Good Music, Good Food and A Glow***

LOUISVILLE, Ky (August 1, 2008) -As part of our 150 th anniversary celebration, it was decided to culminate this year's Community Days events with a balloon glow and race. It took more than two years of planning but, thanks to committee members, volunteers and Sisters, the two-day event was a success, despite a few "hitches."



Just before 6 p.m. on Friday, August 1st, people started setting up their chairs and blankets in front of the Sacred Heart Model School (Lexington Road side). A disc jockey started to play some music to get the crowd warmed up for the main band, "The Monarchs." It wasn't long before people were doing a few line dances, including our district's councilwoman Tina Ward-Pugh. Tina was also responsible for giving the Ursuline Sisters the funding they needed to put on the two-day event.

Inflatables were set up near the Motherhouse which the kids quickly started lining up for after learning they were free. The Louisville Metro Parks & Recreation Special Events Team soon showed up and started setting up games for all the children. In addition, they provided balloons for the kids as well as face painting. Pizza, pretzels and ice cream were also on hand for anyone craving a little snack during the event.

WAVE-TV anchor Dawne Gee acted as our mistress of ceremonies. She welcomed the crowd and helped get them ready for the fun to come. Dawne also introduced the new Leadership Team councilor Rita Ann Wigginton who explained to the crowd what our 150 th anniversary celebration was all about. Tina Ward-Pugh also said a few words before Dawne Gee introduced "The Monarchs."



They played mostly classic rock-n-roll and had a few people up and dancing. After about an hour and a half, the band played their final song and Dawne Gee thanked everyone for coming before directing them to the area where the balloon glow would take place. A thunderstorm warning was issued just before the glow was set to begin so most of the balloonists were forced to pack up. However, several balloons set up and gave the crowd a little entertainment. Fortunately, the race on Saturday morning would prove even more rewarding for those in attendance.



### ***14 Balloons Take Flight From Ursuline Campus***

LOUISVILLE, Ky (August 2, 2008) - Early risers were rewarded with a wonderful show the following morning. The weather had cleared overnight and it was a perfect morning for a balloon race. Right at 7:00 a.m. on August 2 nd, 16 balloon crews drove on to the Sacred Heart Hockey Field to set up their balloons. Just half an hour later, 14 balloons were in the air. It was incredible to watch a long piece of fabric grow into an eight story tall balloon and to watch the crews maneuver around each other to allow room for each one to take off.

There was another treat for those who stuck around to watch the last of the balloons take off from the field. Stuart Crawford with Crawford Balloons didn't take off, instead he tethered his balloon. He then offered to answer questions from the crowd about ballooning and to take the Sisters and children up for a quick ride.

Most of the Sisters and children watching were lifted into the basket and taken up about 50 feet before touching back down.

### ***Crowd Fills Bellies With Pancakes***

After everyone who wanted a ride, got a chance the crowd moved over to the Sacred Heart Gym where pancakes were hot and ready. Mrs. Kentucky, Ra'Tonya Willis-Friedman, was there to serve, dishing up pancakes as everyone came through the line. There was also sausage and drinks. The balloon crews were also fed after returning from their race. Each pilot was given a special gift as thanks for their participation in the event.

Our thanks to everyone who helped make the two-day 150 th event a rousing success. We saw lots of smiles and happy people all thanks to the hard work of our volunteers, committee organizers, U.S.A.E. staff and Sisters. We send our thanks to each and every one of you as we head into our next 150 years. **The next big 150th event on the agenda is the Habitat for Humanity house. Look for updates here and in community messages.**

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