



FIRST WE CARE EVENT HELD – The Garrett County Public School's Special Education Department and Family Support Services recently hosted the first We CARE (community awareness and resource extravaganza) event at Smiley's, Deep Creek Lake, for families of students from birth to age 21 receiving Special Education Services. The goal was to familiarize the families with the resources available within the community. While the children were treated to fun on the go-carts, bumper boats, and other activities, the parents were able to talk with the 15 vendors who shared information about their agencies' services. Door prizes and a pizza dinner were also provided. In the photo at left, Daylen Teets, a Southern Middle School student who has a visual impairment, enjoys the bumper cars. In the background is volunteer Kenzie Smith, graduating senior and president of Southern High School's Best Buddies program. At

right is Chayce Kinsinger (in the stroller), who won the grand door prize. With him are his parents, Myka and Austin. Event vendors included Garrett County Head Start, Penn-Mar Low Intensity Support Services funding, the Division of Rehabilitation Services, Service Coordination Inc., Abilities Network, GC Judy Center, Infants and Toddlers, Healthy Families, Priority Partners, Parents Place of Maryland, Special Olympics and Unified Sports, AT/Preparing for College, the Comprehensive Transition and Postsecondary Program, and the GC Sheriff's Office. Partners included Smiley's, the Judy Center, The Alley, Garrett 8 Cinemas, Browning's Shop N Save, and McDonald's of Oakland. "Many students from Southern and Northern high schools volunteered and helped make the evening enjoyable for the children and parents," noted an event spokesperson.