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## Family Fun Day set to invade River Valley Mall

By *JOE ARNOLD*  
*The Eagle-Gazette Staff*

LANCASTER - Families looking for a break from holiday shopping will get a chance to enjoy the spirit of the season at the River Valley Mall on Dec. 7.

The Holiday Family Fun Day, a joint venture between the *Eagle-Gazette*, Fairfield County Job & Family Services and *momslikeme.com*, will begin at noon and run until 6 p.m. inside the former Macy's location adjacent to the mall.

The exhibition will provide children the opportunity to create crafts, ornaments and wrapping paper for loved ones. They also will be able to decorate holiday cookies.

"The main thing we hope folks get out of this is to see that when different community partners and volunteers pull together, we can do some amazing things," said Rich Bowlen, director of Child Protective Services.

"This is really important for our kinship families. Even though they've made additional sacrifices to take care of children, it's hard for them to do everything for the children in their care, especially in a difficult economy. This is our opportunity to give them a chance to enjoy the holidays."

The event also will feature local exhibitors who will showcase their products and provide free food samples for families in attendance.

Cathy Ponsi and her husband, Joe, own and operates Butterfly's Magnetic Jewelry, a business run out of their home. The couple sells decorative jewelry that contains magnets. The magnets have been linked to aiding customers who suffer from chronic pain.

"Most of our advertising is done by word of mouth," Cathy said. "We've slowly built up a reputation for ourselves. Shows like these help us get the word out in different areas."

Cathy and Joe have been in business for four years.

"I'm really excited about doing this," said Cathy, who averages between 25 to 30 such shows per year. "I've always wanted the opportunity to do something in a mall. This is the perfect opportunity for that."

Donations that will benefit JFS's kinship programs will be accepted at the event, Bowlen said.

"This is something we're happy to be a part of," he said.

## Additional Facts

### If You Go

### How to Help

- **What:** Holiday Family Fun Day
- **When:** Noon to 6 p.m. Dec. 7
- **Where:** River Valley Mall (in the former Macy's location), 1635 River Valley Circle, Lancaster
- **Cost:** Free

Those wishing to donate craft items for the Holiday Family Fun Day can contact Ursula LaVeck, the public information specialist at Job & Family Services at 740-687-6706.

Exhibitors interested in participating in the Fun Day can call Risha Wagner at 740-681-4523 or e-mail her at [rrwagner@nncogannett.com](mailto:rrwagner@nncogannett.com).

Coats, hats, gloves and scarves also will be accepted at the event.

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