

BLESSED TRINITY'S CARNIVAL

Jami Brady has fond memories of attending New England-area state fairs when she was growing up, helping in her grandmother's craft booth. The BT Carnival chair for the past 4 years, Jami has had some involvement with the carnival for 12 years – volunteering for 5 years under chair Kathy Adams, and then co-chairing the carnival with Nicki Hanon (2 years) and Mollie Miranda (1 year). This year's event will be her last at BT. Her son Camden will be graduating from 8th grade in May 2019.

The annual carnival is the school's largest fundraiser, clearing \$150,000 each year and funding the big-ticket items such as improved school security and technology in the classroom. The carnival committee estimates that over 100,000 people attend the 4-day event, 75% of whom are not BT families. While some attendees find out about the carnival from advertising or the carnival's Facebook page, many families have been coming every year for decades. Saturday night attendance has been so heavy in recent years that entrance gates had to be set up at the request of the fire marshal and police officers staffing the event.



David, Camden, Jami, & Tyler Brady

The annual carnival is the school's largest fundraiser, clearing \$150,000 each year and

funding the big-ticket items such as improved school security and technology in the classroom. The carnival committee estimates that over 100,000 people attend the 4-day event, 75% of whom are not BT families. While some attendees find out about the carnival from advertising or the carnival's Facebook page, many families have been coming every year for decades. Saturday night attendance has been so heavy in recent years that entrance gates had to be set up at the request of the fire marshal and police officers staffing the event.



This year's carnival will be the 69th since it began in Marion County near the site of the old Six Gun Territory. It began as a very small school carnival with a cake walk, bake sale, and a few games. Eventually BT took it over and it moved to the school campus. Dreamland Amusements, the NC-headquartered carnival ride company, provides such spectacular rides as the Dream Catcher, the Zipper, and the Himalaya every year. One new feature this year – armbands can be purchased for use on each night of the carnival.

Jami credits numerous parents and



businesses for the carnival's success each year. A core group of businesses routinely sponsors the BT carnival. "Frank Deluca & Deluca Toyota donate a car for our raffle every year," said Jami, "and there are lots of parents who pull double shifts. Henry Franco runs our Fried Dough concession all four days!" Other multi-day contributors include the Knights of Columbus. Their organization staffs a boiled peanut and corn-on-the-cob concession from Friday to Sunday. In addition, Jami wants to thank her family for their support as they allow her to be on-site from open to close all four days of the event.

Asked what she will she miss the most when this year's event is over? "Thursdays during the day the teachers will bring the kindergartners to check out the rides. They are SO excited, they are almost beside themselves!"

