



FOCUS | FAITH

Carnival celebration

Face-painting fun drops in on Grizzlies Center

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Carnival's three C's -- commerce, community and celebration -- were personified as Carnival Memphis King John Hull Dobbs Jr. and Queen Kate Orgill Smith, along with the infamous Boll Weevils, Carnival executives and members of the grand krewes surprised the youth at **Memphis Athletic Ministries' Grizzlies Center** with an afternoon visit during Carnival Week in early June.

MAM boys and girls were alerted to the arrival of the Carnival's "traveling circus" by sirens from the motorcycles of the Shelby County Sheriff's Office escort service. And once the king and queen made their entrance into the gym, the children quickly delighted in the occasion, gathering around the royalty and the Boll Weevils.



Carnival Memphis volunteer Rebekah Shappley (left) paints a scary design on Charles Becton, a rising fifth-grader at Norris Elementary, while MAM youth coordinator Ben Glisson enjoys the playful spirit of the moment.



Carnival Memphis volunteer Rebekah Shappley (center) lets MAM kids Charles Becton (left) and Nicole Hayes paint her face.

The fun began with the Carnival guests playing basketball with the children, followed by each child receiving a royal hat to commemorate the day. But all children agreed that the most fun activity was getting their faces painted to look scary, beautiful or just plain funny-looking.

In addition to all of the frivolity, **MAM** enjoyed another benefit from Carnival Memphis. **MAM** was one of the three charities chosen to receive a donation as part of the Carnival's Children's Charity Initiative.



Stephanie Turner (left), 12; Raven Wright, 18; Brandy Davis, 14; and Trevontea Scott (far right), 15; gather around Queen Kate Smith. After winning a dunking contest, Brandy was rewarded with the privilege of holding the queen's scepter.



Robert Sumner (left), Memphis Athletic Ministries neighborhood director, and Richard Marks, MAM youth coordinator, enjoy the merriment caused by the invasion of Carnival Boll Weevils during their visit to the MAM Grizzlies Center.

The Children's Charity Initiative is dedicated to assisting non-profit agencies that serve the needs of children. This year, more than \$180,000 was raised, with the help of matching funds, to assist the 2011 Children's Charities of Carnival: Hope House, an organization that works to improve the lives of HIV-affected children and their families; Shelby Residential and Vocational Services, a service provider for people with disabilities; and **Memphis Athletic Ministries**, an organization that uses organized sports to share and model Christ to urban, at-risk young people, as well as foster unity among diverse segments of the community.