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special needs kids sure do. The kids really look forward to these get-togethers, and they form such fast friendships with their buddy, that if the buddy doesn't show up — or only shows up once in a while — the kids are really disappointed, and that's the last thing we want to have happen here."

SSNY parties are held on Tuesday nights, starting at 6:30 p.m., at Fellowship Hall behind the Colts Neck Reformed Church on Route 537.

The dates for SSNY parties through May, 2007 are: October 10, November 14, December 12, February 13, March 13 and May 8.

SSNY was started by parents and local community leaders as a way to provide social activities for children with special needs. At SSNY parties, volunteer "buddies" team up with special needs kids, and together they complete an hour of activities. Parents and volunteers are always present.

SSNY needs donations to meet immediate needs and the organization's long-term goals. SSNY is looking for cash donations or in-kind donations, and there are many ways to donate.

SSNY is listed on E-bay as a 501(c) non-profit organization. An individual on E-bay can donate either all or part of their sale to SSNY. Or, they can call SSNY and make arrangements to drop off their in-kind donation. SSNY will list it on E-bay, sell it, and pass on a tax-



Breslin Ptaszynski is "the cotton candy kid" at the SSNY fall carnival.



Carly Whalen, Giana Scanelli and Carly Danzi are keeping an eye on Ethan Lenza at the SSNY fall carnival, held last month at the Colts Neck Reformed Church.

deductible receipt. In the past, folks have donated small items and one generous individual even donated a car!

"If you know a local civic group, a youth group, or a club," said Vince, "ask them if they would like to sponsor SSNY. Many groups are looking to raise money for a good cause. Or, if you have a contact and a number that you can give us, we can call them."

SSNY is always looking for volunteers and there are a number of volunteer opportunities, including serving on various committees. They include an activities group (to come up with ideas for activities for the monthly parties); a business/civic liaison; a golf committee or a walk/ride committee (to work on the first SSNY golf or walk/ride event for the organization's long-term goal of a Disabilities Social and Activity Center); a fundraising committee; and committee members to work on the organization's quarterly newsletter and the web site.

To learn more about how a child can benefit from services provided by SSNY or to volunteer or donate to the organization, contact Vince Scanelli, P.O. Box 94, Colts Neck, New Jersey 07722. Vince can be reached at (732) 431-4033, extension 222, Pam Wood at (732) 946-7511, or Associate Minister Chris Vande Bunte at the church office at (732) 462-4555. The SSNY website is www.ssnny.org.

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