

# Television star lights up faces at Canal Park

Hi-5's Karla headlines benefit performance

By Aman Ali

Beacon Journal staff writer

A television star had Canal Park rocking Saturday.

Karla Cheatham-Mosley, cast member of the popular show Hi-5, gave two live performances to benefit Hattie Larlham, a nonprofit organization in Mantua aiding people with mental retardation and developmental disabilities.

The 25-year-old was the featured guest of the fourth annual Family Affair, a festival promoting disability awareness.

"Special needs people are such a growing population," Karla said. "Nonprofits are a basis of everything that's good in this world."

Karla, who doesn't use her last name on the show, said Hi-5 is an educational program that uses song and dance to teach its viewers.

"The main focus of Hi-5 is for kids to get up out of their seats and start dancing," Karla

said.

The show can be seen on The Learning Channel, the Knowledge Network, Comcast on Demand and the Discovery Kids Channel.

During her second performance, a satellite linked Karla and the audience to the rest of the show's cast members, who were on the set in Sydney, Australia.

Between the concerts, some families got to talk to Karla during a luncheon.

"My daughter has been watching Hi-5 since she was a year old," said Christine Geringer of Medina.

Her daughter Callie, 4, said she enjoys singing and dancing with the show.

Parents at the luncheon brought their kids from near and far for a chance to meet Karla.

"I told Karla I came all the

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JOCELYN WILLIAMS/Akron Beacon Journal

**Brian Luck, 6, of Akron, takes his best shot at knocking down bowling pins as Diana Mishler from Midway Lanes looks on at the fourth annual Family Affair to benefit Hattie Larlham.**

# Hi-5

Fans from Key West  
come to see TV star

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way from Key West to see her," Alexa Kleinman, 9, said. "I like the music on the show, and I like her enthusiasm."

Kleinman and her mother, Debbie, were in town visiting family.

Jeff Bauman, a resident of Beaver Falls, Pa., drove his daughter Emily, 3, to Akron for the event.

"I like the dancing on the show," Emily said. "She (Karla) said thank you for coming from Pennsylvania."

Karla's fans took pictures with

her and asked for her autograph. Natalie Siglow, 4, of Rootstown gave Karla flowers and a sign that made a reference to *Three Wishes*, a hit song on the show.

Aside from Karla's appearance, other events at Family Affair included, food, games and rides from local sponsors. All proceeds for the event went to Hattie Larlham.

"We hope to gain more awareness in the community and raise funds that would offset the costs that run our location," said Beth Hensley, Hattie Larlham's director of corporate communications.

Hattie Larlham will hold another fundraiser, a motorcycle run, at noon today at the Greater Akron Motorcycle Club in Akron.

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