



Lupe Ontiveros, left, and Jill Maschmeier represented National Carriers, while emcee city commissioner Joe Denoyer pulled winning tickets from a box Saturday night during Cinco de Mayo celebrations at the Activity Center. National Carriers donated 30 children's booster seats which were given away free to the winning ticket holders. L&T photo/Chris Linenbroker

By CHRIS LINENBROKER • Leader & Times    Cinco de Mayo brings a lot of people out and about to participate and watch the annual celebration.

They watch the parade through town, then go out to attend the evening of festivities at the activity center.

This is where they found National Beef and National Carriers supporting the local community. They were there to help bring more to the festivities.

"We have been looking for a way to give back to our community and could not think of anything more precious than our children," said Jill Maschmeier, safety director for National Carriers. "Transportation safety is our business, so it made perfect sense to give out booster seats."

These booster seats were given away through a drawing. Tickets were handed out by NCI staff to everyone that was interested – after some of the best musical chairs played by kids and adults. This had the crowd laughing and yelling for their favorites.

Then there were additional; events from eating hot peppers to a little dancing. After awhile, emcee Joe Denoyer, with help from Maschmeier and NCI staff, started the drawing for the booster seats. At first, when the numbers were drawn, no one claimed them. But soon after the first person received their free booster seat, the winners came to life and there was even a few running to make sure they didn't miss their chance. There were 30 booster seats to be given out, and this will help protect children in the community. A good deed can be as simple as a booster seat, but that deed could save many lives.

National Beef was also there and was one of the main supporters of Cinco de Mayo. The company had cinch bags for the kids and visors, as well as many other handouts and items. National Beef has always strived to give back to the community and has been a key player in assisting growth with events such as this.

Cinco de Mayo had many supporters and sponsors – from local churches to area banks. The volunteers that spent most of the year planning and getting the communities help to put on such an event were thanked by the Cinco de Mayo Committee.