

## Print Version

[Print Page](#)

Last modified: Monday, August 17, 2009 2:58 PM EDT

### Aug. 22 Lynnfield yard sale supports special cause

By Robin Kaminski / The Daily Item

LYNNFIELD -- The 22nd annual North Shore Special Needs Yard Sale and Raffle will be held Saturday, Aug. 22, complete with antiques, clothing and Boston Red Sox tickets.

The event, which raises funds for educational and recreational programs for special needs young adults in the North Shore area, will take place from 9 a.m., to 2 p.m.

Frances Soderberg, mother to Karen, 38, started the event to not only raise money for the group, but also to engage her daughter in social activities.

"There aren't that many activities out there for those with special needs, so we tried a yard sale 22 years ago and it took off," Soderberg said. "There is always a lot of community support from people who save items for when the event is going to happen, or from those who are moving and have items that are too good to throw away."

Those items will include clothing, collectibles, books and antiques for guests to sift through, along with a raffle and silent auction items for purchase, including pavilion seats for the Red Sox. Starbucks coffee, sold at just 25 cents, and Honeydew donuts will also be available.

"The funds then go to support a variety of group events," she said. "We went on an Odyssey cruise once, went dog sledding, and saw High School Musical at the North Shore Music Theatre. Karen and others in the group know each other through special education classes and in order to promote continued friendship, you have to have a medium to make that possible and that's what our group does."

The yard sale typically raises around \$1,000, but Soderberg said a lot depends on the weather.

"The Soderberg family got this going, but no one can do anything alone," she said. "One of our employees (Soderberg Insurance) donated the Red Sox tickets and other items have come from work as well."

Although the funds are meant for supporting group activities, Soderberg said in the aftermath of the 9/11 tragedy proceeds from the yard sale were donated to the Red Cross. Items that are not sold at the events are donated to the Salvation Army.

"Karen always says the most important thing is friends, so we have to keep those friendships alive," she said. "She's hoping that if you're cleaning your house, moving or just getting organized, that you might let her and her friends sell your items at the event."

For more information or to donate items, contact Frances at 781-334-3437 or 781-593-9393, ext. 10.



Karen Soderberg, shown here with her dog, is looking forward to working at the annual yard sale her family started more than two decades ago to benefit young adults with special needs.