



## WRITING SAMPLE

Publication: HomeCity

---

### Colleyville Cook-Off Nets \$25,000 for Special Olympics

Written by Gretchen Heber

Colleyville's annual Old Tyme Bar-B-Que — a fundraiser held in April — enabled the North Texas city to recently present a check for \$25,000 to Special Olympics Texas.

The family-friendly, nonprofit street party and cook-off features a night of free catfish and a day of competitive cooking. The event has grown to include about 80 cooks from surrounding cities and from across the country, from Louisiana and Oklahoma to Wisconsin. Participants enter the competition to cook chicken, ribs, brisket or beans. Winners are awarded trophies, medals and prize money.

The City of Colleyville, in conjunction with the town's police department, organizes the event, which has raised around \$145,000 for Special Olympics Texas since the cook-off's founding in 2001. Detective Kevin Walling, who spearheads the event, said the police and Special Olympics have a special relationship.

Special Olympics Texas senior development director Doug Ray, who accepted the check on behalf of his organization, said Special Olympics is "a vehicle to get people with intellectual difficulties involved. But the bigger picture is it helps provide self-esteem, self-confidence and teamwork. It makes them better in school, it makes them better at the job, it makes them productive in the community."

"That cannot happen without support from the people," he added.

The cookout event, which attracts hundreds of families from throughout the Metroplex and even those checking out Colleyville, Texas, real estate while looking for homes for sale in Colleyville, TX, raises funds for the Special Olympics organization through ticket sales, donations and registration fees.

For example, Colleyville's Hall's Grocery has donated food to the event for 12 years.

This year, the business donated 75 pounds of catfish, 150 pounds of fries, 120 pounds of brisket, 25 whole chickens, 30 pounds of sausage, 35 pounds of hotlinks and 80 pounds of pork.

Faye Hall, who co-owns Hall's Grocery, said it's important to give back to a cause. "This is our event. We have friends and family who are special needs," she added.

While the Old Tyme Bar-B-Que focuses on food and philanthropy, the family-friendly gathering also offers plenty of fun kids' activities, including an inflatable maze and bouncy houses, which sources say are almost as nice as Colleyville luxury homes.