

CHILLIN' WITH ANDRE B



Teens pose with local hip-hop artist Andre B, center, who signed autographs and danced with teens at the Niles Teen Center's Golf Mill Mall lock-in.

Photo submitted by Niles Teen Center

Teens enjoy night at Golf Mill

BY JASON LEE

Triblocal.com Reporter

Seventy-five teens turned out for more than nine hours of mall madness at the Niles Teen Center's 2nd annual Night in the Mall Lock-in party at Golf Mill Mall.

The overnight party from 9:30 p.m. Sunday, June 21 to 7 a.m. Monday, June 22 provided teens with a fun-filled evening of dancing, relay races, game tournaments, a movie on the big screen and plenty of food.

The Niles Teen Center, located in the mall at 373 Golf Mill Center, also offered teens a place to surf the net, play Guitar Hero or just relax.

Mark Williams, Niles Teen Center director, said the event was made possible through a collaborative effort with several local businesses, which donated food, materials and money to help cover costs.

"It's a great event, and this is one of those things that really shows what a great public-private partnership this has become," Williams said. "We rely a lot on the community to put this on."

Golf Mill Mall donated about \$2,000 in

materials, and Wal-Mart gave a \$100 gift card to help cover costs.

Meanwhile, the mall's movie theatre offered teens a viewing of "Paul Blart: Mall Cop" for only \$1. A Niles village employee served as DJ, spinning tunes throughout the night.

McDonalds donated 100 Egg McMuffins and drinks, Subway provided sandwiches and the mall's Shop N Save grocery gave fresh fruit and Danishes.

Despite a full night of activity, most of the teens made it through the night without a need for shuteye.

"I think we only had about six who passed out before morning," he said.

The center also raffled off about \$1,700 in prizes, including White Sox tickets—donated by the team—iTunes gift cards, a Chicago Bears jersey and a Chicago Wolves hockey hat.

Local hip-hop musician Andre B also made an appearance, dancing with the teens and signing some autographs.

For more information about the Niles Teen Center, visit www.vniles.com or call Williams at 847-375-8949.