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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Middle school student raises money for autistic adults

A seventh-grader at Holten Richmond Middle School in Danvers, Mass. spent part of her summer raising money for a Merrimack Valley-based nonprofit serving adults with autism and their families.

Ashley Osborne, 12, spent weeks collecting items from relatives, neighbors and friends for a yard sale to benefit the Katydid Foundation Inc. of Haverhill and Newburyport. Her cousin, Laura Flynn of Middleton, also helped with the event.

“Ashley is an amazing lady. With no prodding from the adults in her life, she decided to help raise money for the foundation’s current fundraising campaign. She planned the yard sale, enlisted the help of her cousin and then donated the proceeds of the event to the foundation,” said M. Brenda Smith, Katydid Foundation treasurer. “Ashley is a caring, responsible and resourceful person. We were proud to accept her donation.”

Ashley’s grandmother, Anita Perkins of Newburyport, founded the Katydid Foundation. Ashley’s aunt is a resident at the foundation’s Haverhill home.

Ashley is the daughter of Jill Osborne, and granddaughter of Russ and Beverly Osborne of Danvers. When she’s not helping others, she enjoys art, music, camping, ice-skating and horseback riding.

The Katydid Foundation is a three-year-old nonprofit 501(c)3 organization. It provides independent housing to adults on the autism spectrum and support for their families. The foundation helps families find options in housing and community living outside the typical group home setting. Future plans include creating additional specialized homes for adults on the autism spectrum who need support for non-traditional options.

Photo JPEG: *Ashley Osborne prepares for a yard sale outside her Danvers home.*

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