



News Release

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Naka-Kon Reunion picnic raises funds for Robert and Emily DeJesus

KANSAS CITY, Mo.—[Naka-Kon Anime Convention](#) donated 50 percent of proceeds from the annual Naka-Kon Reunion picnic last Saturday to Robert and Emily DeJesus, and its attendees donated an additional \$55. Giselle DeJesus, Robert’s sister, [died of cancer on June 13](#), leaving the DeJesuses with debt from medical care costs.

The picnic, affectionately known as “Re-Kon” by fans, attracted 87 convention fans to Kill Creek Park in Olathe, Kan.

“The staff of [Ohayocon](#) put out a request for donations last week,” said Naka-Kon Convention Committee member Jackie Bowin. “The DeJesuses have been great contributors to Naka-Kon, both as guests and for giving advice with convention planning and organization, so we wanted to give something back to them in their time of need.”

Throughout the day, a large glass jug on the registration table filled up with bills and change – a testament to how much the anime community cares for manga artists and writers like Robert and Emily.

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Despite the rain, Matt Schott, Naka-Kon Director of Online Media, grilled burgers and hot dogs for the hungry fans for nearly 10 hours.

“Everyone had a really good time, even though the weather didn’t cooperate,” said Schott. “They were soaked from water fights earlier in the day anyway, and dozens of them started a spontaneous dance party on the park lawn despite the rain.”

The leftover hot dogs and hamburgers were donated to the Lawrence Community Shelter.

Re-Kon 2010 will be held during the summer at Shawnee Mission Park.

Naka-Kon Anime Convention is organized and operated by approximately 40 uncompensated staff members, many of whom are students and most of whom live in the greater Kansas City area. Naka-Kon was first held in 2005 at the University of Kansas Memorial Union in Lawrence, Kan. In 2009, nearly 3,000 attendees gathered at the Hyatt Regency Crown Center for a three-day, paid convention. Naka-Kon 2010 will be held at the Hyatt between February 19 and 21. Traditional features include industry guests, panels, game shows, contests, showings rooms, a vendor room and a video game room.

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