Y Strong Kids benefit from special birthday party

■ By Claire Stanbridge OAKVILLE YMCA VOLUNTEER

atie Lynes' birthday was not your typical nine-year-old's party.
Yes, it was at a popular local clay studio.

And, yes, 10 of her closest friends attended.

But instead of bringing gifts, Katie's friends donated money to the YMCA Strong Kids Campaign.

They raised \$200 for the YMCA Strong Kids Campaign that day.

The YMCA Strong Kids Campaign is a fundraising effort that uses donations from generous members to support the kids and youths of the families in Oakville who need financial assistance to attend Y programs.

Katie's mom, Nicole Davey, has been taking Katie and her older brother, Ben, 11, to the



YMCA of Oakville since they were babies.

Now Katie has fun at taekwondo and swimming, and has



SPECIAL TO THE BEAVER

HAPPY BIRTHDAY: Katie Lyons with her stuffed toy, Pongo, at her birthday party.

also attended the Y's March Y

While at taekwondo, Katie saw posters for donating to the

break camp

Y Strong Kids campaign.

This was Katie's first time ever doing something like this, but she thought it would be nice if other kids got to do all the things that she and her brother are fortunate enough to do all the time.

Mom Nicole is really proud of Katie for doing this.

"I thought it was great; it was a really nice thing to do," she said.

Katie has now been bitten by the philanthropy bug and says that her birthday turned out to be a lot of fun, and that she would want to do something like this again.

For information about the YMCA Strong Kids Campaign or to make a donation, go to www.ymcaofoakville.com, or call the Y at 905-845-5597, ext. 317.

The YMCA of Oakville is a charitable association open to all, dedicated to providing lifelong opportunities for health enhancement and personal growth.

— Submitted by the YMCA of Oakville

Co. of Women shop for season

The sixth annual Christmas Show hosted by Company of Women will be held Tuesday, Nov. 18.

The show will be at the Oakville Conference and Banquet Centre on Wyecroft Road at Bronte Road.

It will boast more than 50 booths, with live entertainment, a psychic and handwriting analyst on hand to take a glimpse into your

future, hand massages, winetasting and dinner.

"All the vendors are women who own their own businesses and it is our opportunity to support them," said Anne Day, founder of Company of Women.

A portion of the proceeds from the event will be donated to Wellspring Cancer Support Centre, and people are asked to bring an unwrapped gift for a child or youth that will be distributed by the Salvation Army to families in need.

"This is one of our biggest events of the year," said Day.

The cost for the evening, including dinner is \$55 + GST. To register, contact www.companyofwomen.ca or 905-338-1771 or pay \$5 at the door for just the shopping.

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