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Save Our Community Day brings residents

October 9, 2011 By [justbrakes](#) [Leave a Comment](#)

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People from all over Jackson gathered beneath the trees of Muse Park to celebrate the importance of community during the fourth annual Save Our Community Day on Saturday.

The free event organized by the Statewide Organizing for Community eMpowerment featured introductions by Jackson Mayor Jerry Gist and County Mayor Jimmy Harris. The gathering featured musical performances by church choirs and school groups, as well as dance team performances, tae kwon do demonstrations and booths set up from organizations and nonprofits. Members of SOCM served free food.

Monica Kimball, the community organizer for SOCM-Jackson, said SOCM is a member-run organization that empowers citizens to take collective action to protect, defend and improve their quality of life. She said the group works on issues that directly affect the community, including anti-crime work, redevelopment and voter registration.

“Everybody did a great job pulling this event together, and it was good to see so many people come out and have a wholesome time together,” Kimball said. “People had the opportunity to get out in the sunshine and enjoy the company of others from different parts of the community, while discussing the challenges we face in Jackson and the work to do in the community.”

Kimball said such events are important because they bring together people who might not normally spend time with one another on a regular basis.

Martha White, chairwoman of SOCM-Jackson, said Save Our Community Day is a way for residents and members of different organizations to come together and share ideas about ways to make the city and county a better places to live.

“We are not backing a specific cause, but allowing attendees to come and voice their opinions about several causes that are important to them,” White said. “The attendees addressed various issues here today. Some were health-related, some were social and some were economic.”

Gareka Smith said she came to the event to hear her friend's daughter sing, but once she arrived, she was happy to see what was going on.

"I think I could see myself coming back to this event even if I didn't know someone who was participating," she said. "It's nice to see everyone having fun together."

White said around 500 people attended.

For more information, contact Kimball at 422-2500 or monica@socm.org.

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