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OCCA partners with Roberto's Kids for sale

The Otsego County Conservation Association will add a new feature to its sixth annual garage sale, scheduled for April 26-27, by accepting baseball and softball equipment donations for Roberto's Kids, a nonprofit organization that provides sports equipment to disadvantaged children in Latin American countries. The sale will be held in the Cooperstown Farmers' Market in Pioneer Alley in Cooperstown.

Roberto's Kids is named after baseball Hall of Famer Roberto Clemente, who died on a relief flight to earthquake-stricken Nicaragua in 1972. It was created by Stephen Pindar of Oneonta and Steve Tremitiere of Newton, Pa., and is endorsed by the National Baseball Hall of Fame.

OCCA will accept donations of gloves, bats, balls, catcher's equipment, bases, batting helmets, cleats, sneakers, uniforms, hats and socks for Roberto's Kids, as well as garage-sale items for its sale, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. weekdays through April 23. Baked goods may also be donated by arrangement. Donors may make other arrangements by calling 547-4488. All donations are tax deductible, and OCCA will provide a form to any donors so requesting. Volunteers are also sought to assist before, during and after the sale.

Proceeds from the garage go to the general fund of OCCA, which is a private nonprofit environmental organization promoting enjoyment and sustainable use of Otsego County's natural resources through education and planning. Major endeavors funded by OCCA include development of a Susquehanna River trail for foot and canoe routes, assistance to farmers to carry out on-farm water quality improvement projects, invasive species inspection and eradication programs, and working with communities on land-use issues.

OCCA also publishes the outdoor recreational guide Otsego Walks and Paddles, a guide for recycling items not included in the county's recycling program, and an informational brochure on light pollution. All of the publications are available by contacting OCCA at 547-4488 or director@occainfo.org. A comprehensive overview of OCCA, its history, and its projects is available at www.occainfo.org.