

MEDIA ADVISORY

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For More Information Call: Brenda Reisch
Children at Risk, Volunteer Fundraising Chairperson
cell 613-261-4442, reisch@rogers.com

Halloween Howlings!

Local Celebrities Celebrate All Hallows Eve by “Carving for the Cause” October 24-27, 2013

Children at Risk, Ottawa presents their **Eighteenth Annual Celebrity-Carved Pumpkin Contest!!** This popular seasonal fundraising event is being held from **Thursday, October 24 to Sunday, October 27**. For over 34 years, **Children at Risk** (a local charity) has been providing supports to **Autistic children** & their families in the Ottawa Region – filling in “the gaps” in services available through government agencies.

2013 marks **18 years** that enthusiastic and talented local Celebrities, Politicians, Media Personalities and Businesses have been helping to recognize **October as Autism Awareness Month** by carving orange orbs into gorgeous gourds! Veteran Carvers will be challenged by first-timers, with over **100 pumpkins** being transformed in the name of charity!! Participants include **City of Ottawa Mayor Jim Watson, Ottawa Senators Foundation, Spartacat, Senatron and Alumni Shaun Van Allen, Ottawa 67’s Owner Jeff Hunt, Brian “Killer” Kilrea & Coach/GM Chris Byrne, MP’s Pierre Poilievre, John Baird, David McGuinty & Royal Galipeau**, as well as **MPP’s Yasir Naqvi, Bob Chiarelli, Lisa MacLeod & Phil McNeely** to name just a few - plus many other local businesses, radio, television and newspaper personalities. Participants compete for the lucky “Top Thirteen” list of carvers for 2013!

The pumpkin creations will be on display at **Merivale Mall** after our **Reception at 10 AM on Thursday, October 24** – then additionally at **Carlingwood Shopping Centre, Place d’Orléans and Lincoln Fields Shopping Centre from Friday, October 25 to Sunday, October 27**. Visitors to the Malls can vote for their favourite pumpkin or celebrity by donating spare change. Celebrities have also donated “Prize Packages” for silent auction bidding (on-site & on-line www.childrenatrisk.ca) Our Auction Site this year is with:

VONALITY ONLINE CHARITY AUCTIONS

With the support of the Celebrity Carvers and generous donations from our community, funds raised in the previous **17 years total over \$93,772!** All proceeds will help Children at Risk “fill in the gaps” in publicly-funded Autism services with their Community-Based Special Projects, which include **Camp Kaleidoscope** – our All-Day Summer Camp, Family Support Groups, Information Seminars and Educational Training Workshops. Children at Risk recognizes the importance of supporting the whole family as they cope with the daily challenges of raising an Autistic child. With the funds raised through events like the Celebrity-Carved Pumpkin Contest, these children can be provided with the best opportunities to achieve their maximum potential!

Not being able to speak is not the same as having nothing to say!

Other Participating Celebrities Include:

Carter & Sandra (KISS FM) Sue Sherring (Ottawa Sun)
West End Academy Beauty School Ian Black & Teri Loretto (CBC Television)
Brother Bob & Nida (98.5 The Jewel) Lianne, Jeff, Melissa & Sarah (CTV Morning Live)
Melanie & Cub (93.9 BOB FM) Jack May Chevrolet, Buick, GMC
Jock Climie (CFL Alumni & TSN Analyst) J.J. Clarke & Kate Eggins (CTV Television)
The Morning HOT Tub (The New HOT 89.9) Jill Skinner, Deputy Chief, Ottawa Police Services
Anthony Furey (Sun Media) Leslie Grant's Pampered Chef
Stuntman Stu, Angie & Trisha – Mornings (Majic 100 FM)
Heather Ray & Megan Sollars – boom 99.7 FM, Dylan Black & Amy Volume – The Bear 106.9 FM
Lowell Green, Steve Madely & Shelley McLean (CFRA AM), Mike Sutherland (TSN 1200)
Jen Traplin, Chelsea Miller & The LIVE 88.5 Startup – Katfish, Dave & Amal (LIVE 88.5)
City of Ottawa Councillors Bob Monette, Maria McRae, Diane Deans, Keith Egli, Mark Taylor & Jan Harder
Metroland Media, Nepean-Barrhaven News, Orleans News & Ottawa West News
Lesia Gilbert's AVON, Speedy St. Laurent, Orleans Family Dentistry, Sue's Sweets & Within The Grain,
Family Harmonies Familiales, Ottawa Safety Council, Paul Rushforth Team, Jim Durrell Capital Dodge
Tiny Hoppers Riverside South, Rockland, Findlay Creek, Barrhaven, Orleans, Kanata North & Bridlewood,
Lisa Zanon-Speech Therapy, Kelley Matheson's Epicure Selections, Western Union Business Solutions,
Cora's Lincoln Fields, Il Paradiso Spa & Strandz Hair Design, P.A.M.'s Coffee & Tea Lincoln Fields
Instead of Flowers, Wine Kitz, Minto, HostedBizz Inc., Boston Pizza Orleans, Home For Supper
Wine Rack Lincoln Fields, Jennifer Chamberlain – Royal Lepage Gale Real Estate, Suzart Productions,
Precious Bloom Baby Boutique, Causeway Work Centre, Orleans Extreme Auto Care, The Garlic King
BMO Orleans, Orleans Napa Autopro, Starbucks Orleans, CP Business Solutions, Sky High Snow Removal
Derick Fage & Lois Lee – "Daytime" & Mr. Hollywood (Rogers TV)
Vito Piliéci, Wayne Scanlan, Joanne Laucius, Lynn Saxberg & Chole Fedio (Ottawa Citizen)
Doc & Woody and Eric the Intern (CHEZ 106.1 FM), Country 101.1 FM
Ottawa 67's Alternate Captains Ryan Van Stralen, Taylor Fielding & Joseph Blandisi

Photo Opportunity

Celebrities have been invited, to deliver their pumpkin creations to Merivale Mall (Centre Court) at **10:00 AM on Thursday, October 24th**. Pumpkins will then be divided and transferred to Carlingwood Shopping Centre, Place d'Orléans and Lincoln Fields for Friday, October 25th with voting continuing until 3:30 PM on Sunday, October 27th.

Background -Autism is a lifelong neurological, developmental disorder that now affects **1 in every 88 North American children, with 1 in 54 boys** (boys more than 4 times more likely than girls to have Autism). With a **new case every 20 minutes**, these numbers reflect more children being diagnosed with Autism than with AIDS, Diabetes and Cancer combined! Autism impacts the typical development of the brain in the areas of social interaction and communication skills. Children diagnosed within the Autism Spectrum Disorders are often, without help, unable to speak, relate to others, be aware of dangerous situations and even play appropriately with toys. **Children at Risk** continues to help Autistic children and their families in the Ottawa area - solely supported on fundraising and donations. **Children at Risk** strives to address the gaps in government services for Autism, providing representation and community supports. Responding to the need, we piloted our **1st All-Day Summer Camp in 2011 and increased our spots by 58% in 2013, 158% from 2011!** Our Friendship Social Skill Therapy Support Groups help to provide the children with the tools to function in this complex world of communication and social interaction. Parents indicate that often this is the child's first positive social experience! Our Sibling Support Workshops allow brothers and sisters the opportunity to understand their disabled sibling. Our Seminars explore existing and new interventions to provide information for parents, caregivers and professionals. Information and Knowledge can lead to Understanding and Support, assisting children with Autism so as to improve the quality of life for both the child and their family!

Kids – Autism....Let's Help!