



VONALITY

ONLINE CHARITY AUCTIONS

Helping autistic children and their families

September 17, 2018

Dear Community Supporter,

Join Children at Risk as we celebrate over **TWO DECADES** of Pumpkin Fundraising! My name is Brenda Reisch and I am the Volunteer Fundraising Chairperson for Children at Risk. For over 39 years, Children at Risk continues to support families raising a child diagnosed within the Autism Spectrum Disorders. We invite your participation this Halloween in Children at Risk's **Twenty-Third Annual Celebrity Pumpkin Contest!**

2018 now marks **23 years** that Children at Risk has observed **October as Autism Awareness Month** by asking local Ottawa Celebrities and Personalities (like you!) to decorate/carve a pumpkin, helping to raise awareness and funds for Autistic children. This Fundraiser is key in helping to finance supports like our summer day camp, Camp Kaleidoscope, where our service has grown **89 to 356 weekly camp spots** from 2011-2018 - a **400%** increase! For twenty-two years, we have been fortunate to receive tremendous support and outstanding pumpkin creations, raising **\$155,951** to date!

Here's how our fundraiser works:

Monday, October 22 & Tuesday, October 23 – We deliver your pumpkin to you. Pumpkins can be decorated, painted or carved in any fashion. Since our displays will run from Thursday, October 25 to Sunday, October 28, we suggest not to work on (if you are carving) the pumpkins earlier than Wednesday, October 24 (to keep them fresh!). Pumpkins can also be decorated, painted and other wise dressed-up as an alternative to carving (easier if your schedule requires you to get your pumpkin ready earlier!) and it makes for a fresher display – as carvings do ripen quickly when sitting in a warm mall...

We also encourage you to participate in the **CELEBRITY PRIZE PACKAGE CHALLENGE!** For the past several years, many carvers have donated a Prize Package to go with their pumpkin. Prizes Packages can include memorabilia, gift certificates, concert or sporting event tickets, etc. Silent Auction Bids are received on the pumpkins – both an on-site and an on-line Auction (once again with **Vonality Charity Auctions**), helping not only to raise a carver's standing (see the enclosed Top 13 list) but, most importantly, to raise additional funds for the children!!

****NOTE: Prize Packages help increase funds raised to 2-3 times in recent years!!**

Thursday, October 25 - We ask you, if possible, to deliver your creation to **Merivale Mall** at **10:00 AM**. We encourage media coverage and if you or a representative cannot attend, we can arrange a pumpkin pick-up.

After the Reception, **Pumpkins will be displayed** in Merivale Mall for Thursday and then **Friday, Saturday & Sunday, October 26-28 at Merivale, Carlingwood Shopping Centre, Place d'Orleans and Billings Bridge Shopping Centre**. Pumpkins will be distributed to the other malls on Friday morning. We will inform you (or let us know if you have a preference) which mall will display your pumpkin! Visitors to the Malls will be encouraged to vote on their favourite personality or pumpkin by donating spare change. Each day, the pumpkin with the most donations wins! Updates will be daily!! This Year we are changing up the Auction in that it will be **TOTALLY on-line** – NO more paper bid sheets. On **Sunday, the 28th**, the **Vonality On-Line Auction** closes at 3 PM and the Winners will be directed to the Malls to pick up their Pumpkin & Prizes! Additionally, once again this year we are also encouraging cash donations with valuable Prize draws by Ballot Purchases!

Children at Risk is a community-based charity that provides programs, services and supports for Autistic children and their families. All these activities are **100% financed** through donations and fundraising events like the Celebrity-Carved Pumpkin Contest! With the incidence of diagnosis now being estimated at **1 in 66** children (1 in 44 for boys), there is a critical need for these supports. Feel free to call if you require more details or to confirm your participation.

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