



BARRY GLASSMAN

HARFORD COUNTY EXECUTIVE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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For more information, contact:

Cindy Mumby

Director of Governmental & Community Relations

410-340-5376

camumby@harfordcountymd.gov

Harford County Seeks Volunteers, Sponsors for Wheelchair Costume Workshops; Applications Open for Participants; October Trunk-or-Treating Planned at Mt. Zion Church

BEL AIR, Md., (July 21, 2021) - Dressing up in costumes and trick-or-treating is a fun tradition in many families, but it can be a challenge for some children who use a wheelchair. To make these kids' dreams come true, volunteers and sponsors are needed to build costumes for an inclusive Halloween event this October at Mt. Zion Church in Bel Air.

The event is being sponsored by Harford County government in partnership with Mt. Zion Church and the Harford Center.

Harford County children who use a wheelchair as their main form of mobility may participate for free, but space is limited and applications must be received by Wednesday, September 1, 2021. The application and additional details are on the county website at <https://www.harfordcountymd.gov/2737/Costume-Workshop>.

Kids will help create the design ideas and teams of volunteers will work to transform their visions into costumes that can be wrapped around a wheelchair without impeding its function. Costumes will be built at the church from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday, October 29 and from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, October 30. On the second build day, children will be fitted for their costumes and can go trunk-or-treating in the parking lot with the entire community from 4 – 7 p.m. Everyone is welcome to trunk-or-treat.

Businesses and other organizations that would like to be a part of a design team, volunteer, contribute materials, or host a trunk-or-treating station should contact Rachel Harbin, Office of Disability Services, at raharbin@harfordcountymd.gov.

“Our inaugural Wheelchair Costume Workshop in 2019 was outstanding and resulted in 12 children getting dream costumes made for them by over 100 local volunteers, and our vision is to create another unforgettable day for kids who use wheelchairs,” County Executive Barry Glassman said. “We want all children in our community to feel included and have a chance to join in activities with their peers. Whether it’s trick-or-treating, riding a bike, spending time at our award-winning Sensory Trail, or learning to play baseball, every child should experience the joys of being a kid.”


Expanding recreational opportunities for individuals with differing abilities has been a priority of the Glassman administration. In 2016, the Harford County Office of Community Services first sponsored iCan Bike Camp, a five-day clinic that offers bike riding instruction to individuals with differing abilities. The program hosts 32 riders each summer. In 2019, the Glassman administration was recognized with a National Association of Counties’ Best in Category Award for the Schucks Road Sensory Trail, designed for individuals with sensory sensitivities. County Executive Glassman also designated land at Schucks Regional Park for Harford’s Miracle League baseball field. The field is the first of its kind in the region, designed so that individuals of all abilities, including those in wheelchairs, can participate in baseball games with their peers.

More information about opportunities for citizens with differing abilities is on the Harford County website, www.harfordcountymd.gov.



2019 Wheelchair Costume Workshop participants and volunteers

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