

Fiery Faces fundraiser benefits Boys and Girls Club

Lee Veary is inviting people out to get creative, carve some pumpkins and have a good time while at the same time helping to support the Boys and Girls Club.

“I didn’t expect this much attention this quickly,” said Veary, referring to the amount of people who are offering to help him at the fundraiser taking place at the Boys and Girls Club’s Britannia location.

Veary’s sister, Cheryl, started the fundraising idea in Sarnia in 2007 when she decided to light a bunch of pumpkins around her house. Getting friends and family to sponsor her and pay a certain amount per pumpkin that she could light up, she would take that money and give it to a charity.

Veary liked the idea so much that he brought it to Ottawa last year and raised \$311 for the Make a Wish Foundation.

Veary, along with his wife Julia, three children Layla, Holly and Kieryn, as well as his friend Stacey Kirkpatrick, have been organizing this year’s fundraiser since mid-August and hope to raise a significantly larger amount than last year.

“I want to raise as much as possible - \$2,000 if we can,” he said.

Veary chose to host the event at the Britannia Boys and Girls Club and give back to it because he wants to make a difference in a child’s life.

Last year, he said he gave to a charity that helped children near the end of their lives, but giving to the Boys and Girls Club this year was helping children who had their whole life ahead of them.

“I have three kids of my own,” Veary said. “I want to do anything I can to make a kid feel welcome, or self-confident or give them a better outlook.”

Patrick Ciavaglia, spokesman for the Boys and Girls Club of Ottawa, said the event will generate funds in support of programs, but will also celebrate the community and could attract new volunteers.

“The funds raised will be used to support the club in its mission to provide a safe, supportive place where children and youth can experience new opportunities, overcome barriers, build positive relationships and develop confidence and skills for life,” Ciavaglia said.

Veary said families are welcome to stop by the club house from Oct. 28 to Oct. 31 to check out the pumpkins, carve some, and give donations. The event will have a Family Fun Day on Oct. 29 when visitors can see Little Ray’s Reptiles from noon to 5 p.m., and enjoy face painting. The club house is located at 2825 Dumaurier Ave.

“Our main focus now is just promoting it and getting people to come out,” Veary said.

For more information on the Fiery Faces fundraiser, visit the website at www.fieryfaces.com