

OUTFIT RECYCLING CAMPAIGN

Halloween treat: Free costumes for needy kids



TRIBUNE PHOTO BY JAYSON MELLOM

Suzanne Mulay drops off Sleeping Beauty and Frankenstein costumes at the 'Recycling Is Bootiful!!!' booth during San Luis Obispo Farmers Market last Thursday. Grade Potential is sponsoring the program, designed to provide kids costumes to needy families.

Owner of SLO tutoring firm leads campaign to make sure no county child need go undisguised this year

By ANN MARIE CORNEJO
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David Serwitz wants to make sure that no child goes without a Halloween costume this year.

Earlier this month he launched the "Recycling Is Bootiful" campaign to collect costumes for underprivileged families and children.

As the owner of a San Luis Obispo in-home tutoring company called Grade Potential, Serwitz works firsthand with families and knows the struggles some of them face.

His company is partnering with

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other businesses and nonprofits to gather the costumes, wash them and distribute them on Oct. 28 at three county locations.

"We know how expensive Halloween costumes are and that many families cannot afford to purchase them," said Serwitz. "Costumes are worn one day and then tossed — it just makes sense to do something like this."

THERE'S STILL TIME TO DONATE COSTUMES

Drop off costumes (for 2- to 15-year-olds) at the following locations:

- Grade Potential, 1411 Marsh St., Suite 207, San Luis Obispo
- Paul's Cleaners, 1211 Marsh St., San Luis Obispo
- United Church of Christ, 11245 Los Osos Valley Road, San Luis Obispo
- Exploration Station, 867 Ramona Ave., Grover-Beach
- Paso Robles Children's Museum, 623 13th St., Paso Robles

For more information regarding the program, call Heather Hellman at 215-8545 or visit www.GradePotential.com.

Costumes for children between 2 and 15 years of age are welcomed. The costumes should be in decent shape and not missing buttons or zippers or other wise in need of repairs.

Paul's Cleaners on Marsh Street has volunteered to dry clean the costumes free of charge.

Please see COSTUMES, B2

Costumes

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Grade Potential and the United Church of Christ, San Luis Obispo, will collect costumes at their booths at Thursday's Farmers Market in San Luis Obispo. The

church will collect costumes only this Thursday.

If families are unable to drop off a costume, they can call Grade Potential at 548-8867 and it will be picked up.

"It is disheartening to me to think that a kid might not be able to have the same fun

I did when I was a kid because their parents can't afford a costume," said Serwitz. "Halloween is such a fun thing — especially for elementary-age kids."

The donated costumes will be available Oct. 28 from 5 to 8 p.m. at three locations in the county: Fami-

ly Care Network, 3765 South Higuera St. in San Luis Obispo; Exploration Station, 867 Ramona Ave. in Grover Beach; and Paso Robles Children's Museum, 623 13th St. in Paso Robles.

Reach AnnMarie Cornejo at 781-7939.

Democrats have proposed a \$9.4 billion bill that is intended to improve California's aging water infrastructure and address environmental problems with the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, the estuary that serves as the conduit for moving water from Northern California rivers to the south.

A companion bill