

Walkin' & Rollin' COSTUMES

*Creating one-of-a-kind costumes
FREE of charge to the families*

Walkin' & Rollin' Costumes
26050 W. 143rd Place, Olathe KANSAS 66061

Walkin' & Rollin' Costumes is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. EIN: 47-5478453

CONTACT: Lon Davis, Owner
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Creating Costumes for Kids in Walkers & Wheelchairs – FREE OF CHARGE!

Olathe, KS – Started in 2015, Lon & Anita Davis created the 501(c)(3) non-profit “Walkin' & Rollin' Costumes” to build costumes for kids in walkers and wheelchairs, FREE OF CHARGE to the families who receive them. On August 20, 2005, their 2-month old son, Reese, was diagnosed with Neuroblastoma, a childhood cancer. The tumor crushed Reese’s spine and left him without the full functionality of his legs. After Reese received his first wheelchair when he was 3 years old, Lon began building Halloween costumes incorporating his wheelchair. Since 2015, with a combination of financial donations on Kickstarter, PayPal and GoFundMe, and over 100 volunteers around the nation, Walkin' & Rollin' Costumes has built numerous costumes for families throughout the U.S. in just a few years. Each costume averages \$250 in materials and requires at least 120 hours of build time. An additional \$100 is needed if the costume needs to be shipped to the family.

Walkin' & Rollin' Costumes hosts workshops in the fall to invite volunteers to work on multiple wheelchair costumes for kids. In a single day, an average of 5 costumes can be completed. Workshops typically occur in September to get ready for the Halloween season. However, costumes are built year round with comic cons, birthdays, parades and other events that the children would want their wheelchair costume to appear in.

Teachers from around the nation have started signing up to have their classes work on a costume as a class project. The students learn from meeting the child and their family, taking photographs and measurements of the equipment, and solving real world engineering problems that fits into the academic STEM/STEAM curriculum. The reward is exciting for the students and it often touches their hearts to see the expression on the child’s face when they receive their costume.

“As a parent of a special needs child, I know how difficult it is at Halloween to find costumes that fit, or are comfortable for a child in a wheelchair. There aren’t any websites that sell them either, so we have always made them ourselves. Reese loved the attention he got from his classmates and for the first time was thought of as just another kid. His self esteem skyrocketed. We decided to share that experience with other families in similar situations and the response and feedback has been both amazing and humbling.” – Lon Davis

www.WalkinRollin.org



[Facebook.com/WalkinRollin](https://www.facebook.com/WalkinRollin)



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How Walkin' & Rollin' Costumes Works

To Request a Costume:

1. The parents/guardians of the child completes the form on our website at www.WalkinRollin.org/Apply and includes a short video about the child and what the theme/character that they would like the costume to be.
2. Our staff and volunteers reviews every submission to the website and chooses which costumes we can build based on the timeframe, resources, and volunteers available in the area.
3. If your family is chosen to receive a costume from Walkin' & Rollin' Costumes, you will be contacted by us and plans will be made to meet the builders, gather photos and measurements of the wheelchair, and set out a timeline for when the project is completed.
4. At least one test fitting will usually take place with a basic frame to assure that the costume will fit properly.
5. The final reveal will be organized with the family to make sure they can have anyone interested in attending to be there for the reveal.

To Become a Volunteer:

1. Volunteers sign up on our website at www.WalkinRollin.org/Volunteer.
2. Include your skill set in the form. This includes you into our database to along with your city and state.
3. When a request comes in from a child in your city, we will pair up you and other volunteers in the area to work together with the family to work with the family in creating the child's dream costume.
4. The child selects a theme/character that he/she would like.
5. You, along with a team of artists, carpenters, engineers, and other volunteers, design a costume custom-made especially for the child's wheelchair.

To Organize a Team:

1. Volunteer builders organize in their community, creating a "local build team". (This can be teachers with their classes, Scout troupes, church groups, theater clubs, etc.)
2. Sign up as a team on the Sponsor page at www.WalkinRollin.org/Sponsorship
3. A build team locates a deserving child in their area – whether via the submissions made at www.WalkinRollin.org/Apply, local children's hospitals, or other such organizations.
4. The child selects a theme/character that he/she would like.
5. The team of artists, carpenters, engineers, and other volunteers design a costume custom-made especially for the child's wheelchair.