

*There's some of Goofus and Gallant in us all.
When the Gallant shines through, we show our best self.*

Gallant Kids

Collecting Costumes for a Cause

Halloween is a favorite holiday for Emma Rose Shapiro. "I like that you can be a totally different person for one whole day," she explains. Trick-or-treating and dressing up make it a special time of the year. But Emma Rose's favorite part of Halloween is providing costumes for kids in need.

When she was 11 years old, Emma Rose was cleaning her closet and found old Halloween and dance recital costumes. Her mom told her that some kids can't afford new costumes every year. "I knew I would never wear them again, and other children could probably use them," says Emma Rose.

Then she had an idea: what if other people had costumes to give away, too? Emma Rose asked Scout troops, schools, and businesses if they would help collect donated costumes. To build excitement, she gave each site a big box and colorful posters.

The boxes filled up quickly. Emma Rose's goal was to collect 1,000 costumes. Thanks to all of her hard work, 2,000 new and used outfits were donated!

Halloween Helpers

Emma Rose collected all the boxes and took them home. Piles of costumes filled the basement. She and her mom spent hours sorting and folding. They made sure that each outfit was clean and complete. Many different kinds of costumes were donated, including an unusual one—a six-foot-tall mummy. "It was a really scary costume," remembers Emma Rose.

She asked a local athletic league to host a shopping day. At each location, personal shoppers



If Emma Rose Shapiro has her way, every kid who wants a Halloween costume will have one!

helped kids find just the right costume. "The children were really thankful to have someone fulfill their dream of becoming whatever they wanted to be for that one special day," says Emma Rose.

Her program, Halloween Helpers, has inspired people all over the country. "My mom and I spoke to many kids and their parents about starting similar programs in their own communities," she says.

Choosing the perfect costume is part of the fun of Halloween. What was Emma Rose's favorite outfit? "My purple-grapes balloon costume!"

Because of her idea, other kids can have great Halloween memories, too.

Highlights is proud to know this Gallant Kid.

—Jeannine Norris