



Omaha's 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Annual Great  
Pumpkin Tree &  
Family Festival  
*October 29, 2011*



*Huge pumpkin tree creates awareness of Fostering & Adoption*

Mark your calendars! For the third year a great pumpkin tree will “rise” over the Village Pointe center court. The month-long community event raises awareness for the nearly 4,500 children in Nebraska’s foster care system, 800 of whom are eligible and waiting to be adopted.

**First**, volunteers from HDR and Kiewit will construct the framework for the 17-foot tree starting the morning of September 30. **Then**, Forever Families Guild volunteers will “plant” nearly 900 pumpkins on its “branches.”

The tree, which has quickly become a favorite photo backdrop for family photos and even October weddings, will be up through the month of October.

On the morning of **Saturday, October 29**, the community will help carve the pumpkins. Volunteers will already have the messy work done! Everyone is invited to the pumpkin carving, at which foster families are the special guests. It all leads to the countdown to the evening lighting ceremony. Thanks to Brite Ideas, the carved jack-o’lanterns are lighted from the inside and the final display is spectacular (*see photo above*).

The event is organized by members of the Forever Families Guild, which provides volunteer support to children services at Lutheran Family Services of Nebraska. You can follow Omaha’s Great Pumpkin on Facebook.

**Lutheran Family Services of Nebraska** is a statewide community-based organization which impacts over 35,000 individuals annually, from 31 offices in 18 cities in the areas of behavioral health, children services and community services.

Contact:

Bev Carlson

402.978.5646

[bcarlson@lfsneb.org](mailto:bcarlson@lfsneb.org)

*Building and Strengthening Families*