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"Building a Strong Foundation for a Bright Future"

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Haunted Central Raises \$18,000 In Its Final Year

In its fourth and final year, ***Haunted Central*** opened its doors on October 27th and 28th to raise money for the District 113A Educational Foundation and the Hope & Friendship Foundation in Lemont. And, like past years, the ghouls did not disappoint! The haunted house raised over \$18,000 in ticket sale profits and hosted over 2,000 guests over the two-day event. The proceeds from the event will fund innovative educational programs at District 113A and help local families in need.

"This was our most successful year in the four years we've been hosting the event," said Carolyn Cesarz, President District 113A Educational Foundation. "We especially want to thank CITGO our Diamond Level sponsor, and the many local businesses and volunteers for their generous giving and overwhelming support."

Transforming Central School, which has been shuttered since 2012, into a haunted house is no simple task. With over 200 volunteers, it is truly a collaborative community event. Cindy Kelly, School District 113A Board of Education member and the event organizer for the past four years, said, "We are so grateful to the hundreds of volunteers who made this event a success. They outdid themselves this year!" Volunteers included SD113A staff, numerous local businesses, Lemont High School, the Lemont Fire Protection District, Lemont Police Department and members from across the community.

Haunted Central offered evening tours through the haunted halls of Central School and a family-friendly daytime event for the more timid. Over its four-year run, it has raised over \$66,000 and hosted over 8,000 visitors. Dr. Courtney Orzel, District 113A Superintendent, greeted each visitor at the doors of Haunted Central. "It's been a fun four years! We look forward to supporting future fundraisers hosted by the Educational Foundation to benefit the students of District 113A," said Orzel.

The District 113A Educational Foundation provides financial resources to support education, innovation and enrichment in pursuit of academic excellence for the SD113A community. The Foundation provides funds beyond the normal operating expenses of the school district for specific educational programs and activities for students. The Foundation is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. Gifts to the Foundation are tax deductible as allowed by law. For more information about SD113A Educational Foundation, visit www.sd113AFoundation.org

The Hope & Friendship Foundation provides financial, emotional and physical crisis assistance to local Lemont families. For more information, visit www.hopeandfriendshipfoundation.com