

## GIVING AND LIVING

# Pair helps scare up funds

**WHO ARE THEY?** Joe Hubbs, 32, of Wayne and his cousin Jay Warner, 26, of Westland have spent weeks helping to build a two-story haunted house that opens Friday to raise money for Cass Community Social Services.

**WHAT ARE THEY DOING?** The cousins are building monsters, mazes and fanciful scary things for the haunted house at Cass Community United Methodist Church, 3901 Cass Ave. in Detroit. Money raised will go to services for homeless women and children. Hours are 7 to 11 p.m. Friday and Saturday, and 7 to 10 p.m. Sunday. The same hours repeat Oct. 27-29. Hours for Oct. 30-31 are 7 to 11 p.m. Admission: \$10 for adults; \$7 for children 10 and younger, who must be accompanied by an adult.

**WHAT DOES THE AGENCY DO?** The nonprofit Cass Community Social Services provides meals, shelter and programs for the homeless, mentally ill, elderly, AIDS patients and drug abusers.

**HOW DID JOE GET INVOLVED?** He's a skilled trades worker at the Ford Livonia Transmission plant on semi-layoff status. The company hasn't needed him for a while but pays him in case it might. "I could sit in a room all day for eight hours and read and collect my pay," he said. Instead, Ford offered him and others volunteer work. Some colleagues were skeptical about volunteering in Detroit's infamous Cass Corridor, but Hubbs was happy to have something to do. He started just after last Christmas. "I feel like I work here now," he said. "I'm glad I did it. It's been very rewarding. "You get to see the people you help." He jumped at the chance to work on a haunted house, something he's wanted to do since he was a teenager.

**AND JAY?** Both cousins said Halloween is their favorite holiday. Like Joe, Jay always wanted to work on a haunted house. When his cousin told him about the one on Cass, he didn't need to think twice about volunteering last month. Because of poor health, Jay, who got a heart transplant a year ago, hasn't worked for about five years but has experience building things. He has spent a lot of time at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit, where he had his transplant, but never much time on Cass. Now, he goes there daily. "It's not as bad as people make out," he said. "People's perceptions need to change a little." The anniversary of his transplant is Oct. 27, during the time the haunted house is open. "Every month, I notice I feel better than the month before," he said. The Rev. Faith Fowler, pastor of the Cass Community church and director of Cass Community Social Services, said Jay deserves an award. "Here he is volunteering his time to make things better for others when he has come through quite a scare himself," she said.

**WHAT'S THE BEST PART?** "I don't want to give too much away, but there's a werewolf involved," said Jay. Joe's favorite thing is a 15-foot monster with glowing red eyes and a black cloak that guests must pass through to get to other rooms. But the best part about their work is that it raises money for a good cause, they said.

By Tina Lam



ED HINGELBERG

Jay Warner, left, and Joe Hubbs enjoy creating the scary props.

"I don't want to give too much away, but there's a werewolf involved."

**JAY WARNER** of Westland who, with his cousin Joe Hubbs of Wayne, is creating scary stuff at Cass Community United Methodist Church's haunted house.

## Got any good news?

Got a story about volunteering or other acts of kindness you'd like to share with Free Press readers through the Giving and Living column? Call Tina Lam at 313-222-6421 or Jack Kresnak at 313-223-4544, or e-mail them at giving@freepress.com.