

Support Wheelchair Ramp Program at Spiedie Fest Hope Tent

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From Broome County Council of Churches:

The Broome County Council of Churches needs cash donations, new tools like tape measures and cordless drills, and gift cards from building supply companies to help their volunteers build wheelchair ramps this summer for people who can't get in and out of their homes.

The Council invites you to bring these items to the Hope Tent at the annual Spiedie Fest at Otsiningo Park on the weekend of Aug. 5, 6 and 7. Volunteers will be there with the Council's tool trailer which is clearly marked with the BC comic strip characters, "Youth Initiative," the Broome County Council of Churches logo, and logos from Peoples National Bank and the Kiwanis Club of Conklin, two sponsors of the project.

"We need all of these items and cash donations to help us build about 15 ramps this summer," said Joanne Kays, one of two directors along with Greg Jenkins responsible for the ramp program. "This program enables adult mentors to work with youth groups and guide them in their commitment to helping others who need easier access to their homes. The ramps are built at no cost to the recipients."

Under the Council of Churches' youth mentor initiative mission statement it says, "...the initiative is a volunteer mission to promote service, learning, and community involvement for youth." Last year about 110 young people worked on the program.

The volunteer work is done on weekends. Each ramp costs about \$1,500 for materials; 13 ramps were built in 2009.

The "Ramp It Up 2010" Program is sponsored by the Faith in Action Volunteers, a program of the Broome County Council of Churches.