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Remembering event founder Carol Bush, Encompass promises big fun for little kids at the 34th Annual Big Event

GREEN BAY, Wis., SEPT. 11, 2023 – The Big Event comes to Heritage Hill State Park on Saturday, Sept. 16, 2023, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. This community tradition, founded 34 years ago by the late Encompass champion Carol Bush, focuses on engaging young children with interactive hands-on activities.

New to the exhibitor line-up this year is Green Bay Action Sports Organization with a mobile skate park, FoxLUG interactive Lego display, the National Railroad Museum with a mass and velocity crash test wooden set, Building for Kids with an imaginative playground, and Paper Transport with vehicles for children to explore. Some of our favorite returning exhibitors include Learn to Fish, Schneider National, Fox 11 Storm Chaser, Green Bay Sail and Paddle, UWGB Basketball, YMCA, Festival Foods and so many more – nearly 40 interactive exhibitors in all!

As Encompass' major fundraiser for the past 34 years, the Big Event has raised \$1.9 million to support children and families at Encompass. These funds go directly to support our mission of providing the highest quality education and care for children and support for families with a commitment to compassion, excellence and advocacy. For over 100 years, Encompass has been the only local early education and care provider offering tuition assistance and wraparound support for families, making care accessible and affordable.

Encompass Executive Director Missy Schmeling says, "As a leader in the early childhood community, hosting the Big Event in the community is our way of providing a day to explore, play, and discover! I will always remember the words, 'It's for the children!' from our inspiring founder of the Big Event, Carol Bush, who passed away earlier this year. We will honor Carol with Carol's Crowns in the Encompass Zone the day of the event. The profits raised will continue to support our mission in serving children and families."

Tickets are for sale online for \$6/each and available at the door for \$8/each – children under age one are free. Food trucks and snack shacks will be available with food for purchase. Community members are encouraged to visit <https://www.encompasswi.org/events/the-big-event-2023> to learn more and purchase tickets before Saturday. Join us at the Big Event for this community-wide day for children and families to explore, play and discover!

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