

Aha Experiences

Trick-or-Treating at Los Alamos Medical Center

by Amber Rushton, White Rock resident and Discover Action Team Champion

For 13 years, I've wondered why *anybody* in their right mind would entertain the idea of Trick or Treating in the *hospital*?

As luck would have it, I found myself at LAMC the Friday before Halloween, and in an instant, I understood! I entered by the cafeteria and was welcomed by Wreck-It Ralph, Fix-it Felix and all their candy-loving friends.

Further down the hall, I ventured into Jurassic Park. I was handed a steering wheel for my Jeep safari where I visited prehistoric dinosaurs and volcanos, before heading upstairs to visit the castle of Snow White, who was safely tucked behind her desk where Queen Grimhilde's jealousy wouldn't get the best of her. Across from the castle was a display of skeletons to rival any ordinary radiology department.

Turning back, I ran into Coco's favorite characters, including Abuelita, tucked into a quiet corner offering baskets of candy for the living, next to baskets of bread and apples for the dead. And down the hall: an opaque butterfly sanctuary.

Everywhere I turned, I was surrounded by familiar faces, enchanted by the beauty of it all. I found myself rediscovering the joys of Halloweekend in Los Alamos.

Before I knew it, we were at Main Street among swarms of Princesses, Superheroes, and Harry Potter favorites. Our plastic pumpkins (and our bellies) were filled to the brim. We stopped for a quick dance performance by a variety of black & white striped villains from DALA, then off to the High Tech Halloween at the Bradbury Science Museum.

"A-ha!" I thought to myself as I headed home, so this is why we Trick or Treat at the *hospital*!

