



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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crowdFunnit to throw a community birthday for alienated kids

Community to join Gabe Manus and other children alienated by their peers in a show of support

Salem, VA: [crowdFunnit™](#) is joining the Greater Roanoke/Salem community in a show of camaraderie and support for the many children alienated and bullied in their environment. Gabe Manus just wanted a birthday party, with friends. After several years when no one even RSVPed yes or no to his parties, he was ready to give up. Saturday, March 10th will change all that as the community comes together to celebrate him and all those individuals and families out there feeling the same alienation.

Stephanie Manus reached out to the 501(c)3 nonprofit [Cherab Foundation](#) through their initiative [crowdFunnit™](#), with a simple request that her soon-to-be 7-year-old son with autism know there is a world out there that doesn't hate him. [crowdFunnit™](#) is dedicated to improving the lives of those who are bullied and alienated, fostering acceptance, compassion and friendship through open-invite birthday parties.

Gabe is a caring, friendly child who loves to be around people. However he struggles in social situations, is ignored or left out by his peers and is often made fun of for being different. His birthday party excitement vanished last year when not one school "friend" RSVPed to his "race car" themed birthday party. This year's theme, with the help of [crowdFunnit™](#) and the community, will be a carnival-style party with games and food, and attendees are encouraged to dress up as their favorite character (cowboy, princess, etc.) in the comfort of a loving community. The [Mountain Grill food truck](#) is donating some food and drinks while opening up their full menu for purchase at the event. They welcome your visit and hope to make new friends in the process as well.

"Many families are struggling in the same way when it comes to our kids being bullied and ignored or worrying about what others might think of them because they are different," said Stephanie. "I want parents to know that it's ok to just bring your kids. If they have issues, if they're struggling, if they don't have very many friends, bring them out. We understand. There is a whole community of people who are in this same situation."

According to Lisa Geng, creator of crowdFunnit, "Children with communication impairments have a higher risk of socialization issues. [The Cherab Foundation crowdFunnit™](#) initiative proactively raises awareness about inclusion, anti-bullying, and even friendship through crowd-sourced events.

Some of the honored guests attending Gabe's birthday party are James, 14, Parker, 13, Matt, 12, and Peyton, 9 all of whom have special needs and share the feelings of alienation and frustration of being different. [crowdFunnit™](#) and the Manus family welcome families in the same situation to share their stories and come be a guest of honor at the party by contacting us at friends@crowdfunnit.org. Equally important is the presence of compassionate individuals and families of all ages to come out and join the fun, share some cake and make a few new friends.

Saturday, March 10, 1-4 PM at Bethel Baptist Church 1601 S Colorado St, Salem, VA 24153

<http://crowdfunnit.org/2018/02/22/gabe>

<https://www.gofundme.com/crowdfunnitgabe>

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1689751211067827>

crowdFunnit Crowd-Sources Special Events For Special Kids: crowdFunnit, a project of the 501(c)3 nonprofit Cherab Foundation, was created to bring people together, raising awareness about differences while fostering acceptance and compassion. Helping a friendless child celebrate a birthday is just an incredible mechanism in which to help make this happen. The party itself and any media attention it brings will help fight bullying at the root while the community connections will exist long after the party ends.