

# Hospital of horrors finds home in downtown Fairfield



Amber Bowen, left, and Julian Bear Runner of Vallejo make their way through the Demon Dreamz Haunted House in Fairfield, Oct. 10. The Demon Dreamz Haunted House will be open on Friday and Saturday nights until Nov. 1. (Aaron Rosenblatt/Daily Republic)

By [Amy Maginnis-Honey](#) October 26, 2014 |

FAIRFIELD — Only one thing scares Eric Land – that people won't like his Demon Dreamz haunted house located in downtown Fairfield.

Slasher movies, zombies, bumps in the night and haunted houses are easily handled by Land. Two weeks of construction, hundreds of props being moved out of storage and months of planning are all put on the line when the doors open.

His fear seems unfounded as Land reports long lines of people waiting to tour the hospital of horrors in the old Cornerstone Quilt Shoppe at 1001 Texas St.

Land started doing haunted houses four years ago in Vacaville. He moved Demon Dreamz to Fairfield last year, setting up shop in a 2,000-square-foot building that once housed an auto dealer.

He has about 3,200 square feet of space and lower ceilings this year. In addition to figuring out the traffic flow through the building, Land took precautions by putting indoor/outdoor carpet on the flooring.

He's utilizing every bit of the space. In past years, guests would enter a scary room and get a chance to catch their breath. This year, it's a steady flow of fear.

He and his girlfriend, Sheena Kawakami, start planning their Dreamz home in January or February. They co-own the company.

"We brainstorm all year and think of ideas," Land said. "We do some research."

Kawakami handles the costumes and makeup. She's in charge of tickets at the haunted house, since she doesn't really care to walk through it.

"She doesn't like horror movies," Land said. And she won't visit other haunted houses with him.

The couple make most of their own props. They also find some on Craigslist. Land wants visitors to see things they won't find in other haunted houses, he said.

Land has between 10 and 15 volunteers each night at the haunted house. He works behind the scenes, prepared to fix something that breaks and doing some security detail.

When time permits, he puts on a costume and visits with those waiting to enter the house.

The house is best for those 13 and older, he said. Land lets the parents decide.

"We have grown adults crying coming out of the house," he said.

For those who can't make it through, volunteers will walk them to a "chicken" door. Between 15 and 20 people use it every night, Land said.

Ricky Massey and Tony Morrow braved their way through room after room of tormented scenes. The pair stuck close together.

"I was scared," Massey said. His comfort level was tested as volunteers in costume reached out to touch him.

"Scary, really scary" is how Morrow described his trek through the house of horrors. "It was realistic," he said.

What caught him by surprise the most was United States Air Force Lt. Kris Haniff, who hangs from the ceiling in a hallway.

Dylan Gary hoped for more strobe lights and a bigger house. Mayur Jadja concurred.

"We know we can't scare everybody, but we try," Land said.

A portion of the proceeds from the haunted house are being donated to Fisher House on Travis Air Force Base and the Fairfield Main Street Association.

Times and prices can be found at [www.demondreamz.com](http://www.demondreamz.com).

*Reach Amy Maginnis-Honey at 427-6957 or [amaginnis@dailyrepublic.net](mailto:amaginnis@dailyrepublic.net). Follow her on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/amaginnisdr](http://www.twitter.com/amaginnisdr).*