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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **TOUCHSTONE, COMMUNITY MAKE A MOSAIC MASTERPIECE**

**Uniontown, PA** – After weeks of planning, Touchstone Center for Crafts will finally unveil its latest public art installation in Fayette County’s Storey Square.

The unveiling and dedication festivities begin at 5 p.m. today before the latest summer concert series performance in the square, 11 East Main St., Uniontown.

The project was completed in collaboration with the Redevelopment Authority of Fayette County, Carrie Attaway of the Phoenix Arts Center, Uniontown Art Club and Fayette County Community Action Agency, as well as through input from community members.

Touchstone resident ceramic artist Chuck Purviance, a Pittsburgh native, spearheaded the project, titled “Thursdays and Beyond: Consciousness, Collaboration and Crafts.” The result is four mosaic pieces exhibited on large columns located at the square entrances, according to Touchstone Center for Crafts marketing manager Dean Simpson.

“Throughout the summer, during the Thursdays on the Square Concert Series, Chuck surveyed Fayette County residents about public art and what they would like to see depicted in the murals,” Simpson said. “He also demonstrated techniques and enlisted the help of local artists to create the tiles.”

Purviance said he views public art as a way to connect with the community at large and give them a voice among their peers.

“It is a great way to bring community members together and show them the value of art while demonstrating that they can be artists as well,” Purviance said.

Touchstone Executive Director Lindsay Ketterer Gates said her organization was excited to partner with various community groups to further Fayette County arts.

“This mural project is a wonderful illustration of what can be accomplished when we all come together as a team, each bringing our own strengths and resources to the project,” she said.



The project was part of a larger economic development initiative funded by Rural LISC and initiated by Community Action with the intent of fostering creativity and strengthening a community's distinct local culture and pride.

"Creative placemaking is an important component of economic development, a way to increase Fayette County's sense of identity, purpose and pride, making it a place where people want to live, work and raise a family," Community Action CEO Jim Stark said, adding Touchstone is an "amazing, untapped resource" right here in Fayette County.

Now in its 46<sup>th</sup> year, Touchstone Center for Crafts, located in Farmington, offers weekend and week-long workshops in traditional and emerging craft forms, and hosts events, symposiums and educational programming.

The Storey Square Summer Concert Series, sponsored by Uniontown Hospital, is free and open to the public. For more information, visit [www.uniontownhospital.com](http://www.uniontownhospital.com).

For more information on Touchstone and its 2018 workshop schedule, visit [www.touchstonecrafts.org](http://www.touchstonecrafts.org).

To learn more about Fayette County, visit [www.fayettecountypa.info](http://www.fayettecountypa.info).

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