



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**March 10, 2023**

## **HEART TO HOPE TELETHON CELEBRATES FIVE YEARS OF GIVING**

**Uniontown, PA** - Connellsville Area Community Ministries (CACM) is a faith-based nonprofit organization focused on providing assistance to those in need throughout the community and beyond. To do that, the organization needs funds, and one of its biggest fundraisers is the Heart to Hope telethon.

The telethon will air from 1:00-9:00 p.m. this Saturday, March 11, providing plenty of opportunity for giving, as well as entertainment value for those who watch from their homes or one of the various watch parties around the area. Now in its fifth year, Heart to Hope has added a few new elements this time around, both in front of the cameras and behind the scenes.

"This is our fifth year, and it's our third year inside the community center in Connellsville," telethon producer Rick Fike said. "Each year, we've found ways to streamline our efforts."

Fike said the goal has been to make the telethon a more permanent fixture at the community center, 201 E. Fairview Ave., especially because while the city owns the building, CACM manages it, making it an ideal site for Heart to Hope. Fike said Kevin Ghost and Ron Rulli have helped create one of the permanent changes in the building, performing some electrical work to help convert a second-story restroom next to the Edwin S. Porter Theater into a video control room.

Heart to Hope also will offer an addition to its entertainment lineup, as Christian rock band Still Standing will perform, and CACM Development Coordinator Mary Sampey said Connellsville Area School District teachers will compete against their students in a trivia segment.

"We're also doing a trivia show. Armstrong is bringing its 'Stuff I Never Knew' show," Sampey said.

Area dentist Dr. Frank Jacobyansky, who heads up the Connellsville Rec Board, will show off his juggling skills in a segment on television and online, and Connellsville varsity girls basketball coach Shawna Little will make her debut as a new anchor for the telethon.

Sampey said two additional watch parties have been added, one at Hutch's Tap Room in Dunbar Township, and one at Yough River Brewing Co. in South Connellsville.

Connellsville Mayor Greg Lincoln will visit the various watch parties, serving as a "roving reporter" for the telethon. He will end his evening with a stop at Yough River Brewing Co., where Bond Turner, another new performer, will perform his mix of classic rock, country, pop and soul.

"During the 8 o'clock hour – from 8 to 9 o'clock – even though opportunities (to donate) will still be happening at the community center, we're going to send a crew to Yough River Brewing Co., and we're going to broadcast from there, as well as the community center," Fike said.

He said he hopes the simulcast will be a celebration of achieving the telethon's fundraising goal, along with "just having fun in the final hour."

The telethon is open to the public, and there is an incentive to in-person giving. Along with the numerous prizes all donors are eligible to win, are Pittsburgh Pirates tickets, donated by Somerset Trust Company. Only those who donate in person will be entered into the drawing for the tickets.

"We are highly encouraging people to come in and donate in person," Fike said.

Sampey noted the Heart to Hope telethon has upped its fundraising goal to \$50,000 this year after four successful efforts. "It was \$40,000 last year, but we've always made more than that," she said.

Considering the community's past generosity, she said, the planning committee decided to strive for a larger goal. "We're going to kind of step up in faith."

The Heart to Hope Telethon can be viewed on FayetteTV (Breezeline and QCOL Channel 77), Armstrong Neighborhood Channels 20 and 100, LHTC Broadband Channel 151, as well as online at the Heart to Hope Facebook page and Heart to Hope YouTube channel.

Watch parties for the Heart to Hope telethon have been scheduled at various locations in and around the Connellsville area including:

- Bud Murphy's Sports Bar and Restaurant, 718 McCormick Ave., Connellsville.
- Dairy Queen, 805 E. Crawford Ave., Connellsville, and 6406 Route 819, East Huntingdon Township.
- Fox's Tavern, 205 Wine St., South Connellsville
- Hutch's Tap Room, 1099 Route 119 South, Dunbar Township
- O'Donnell's Pub, 128 S. Arch St., Connellsville
- Yough River Brewing Co., 1030 S. Arch St., Connellsville
- Dimarco's Bistro & Cantina, 26 Morgantown St, Uniontown

The following performers will provide live entertainment from the Edwin S. Porter Theater in the Connellsville Community Center. Admission is free.

- 1:00 p.m., Abacus Jones
- 2:00 p.m., Shiva Skydriver
- 3:00 p.m., Shane Turner of the band Fret Buzz
- 4:00 p.m., students in Connellsville Area High School's production of "Irving Berlin's White Christmas, the Musical"
- 5:00 p.m., Still Standing
- 6:00 p.m., Fire Escape
- 7:00 p.m., the Molinaro Family Singers

For more information or to contribute, call Connellsville Area Community Ministries at 724-626-1120 or visit [www.connmin.org](http://www.connmin.org).

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

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