

Family Fun Day is now a Weekend of Fun for The Family!

Proceeds Benefit: The Herrin House of Hope Operations



Hopefestevent.org

Special Press Release:

Herrin, IL, September 18, 2025

Hope Fest 2025 is in the Books! Hundreds joined us for a weekend of family fun and hope in Southern Illinois. It was a great 2-day event, on Saturday, September 6 & Sunday, September 7. Hope Fest is a family-oriented celebration of the Southern Illinois community's commitment to helping people in need. The event celebrated the 14th Family Fun Weekend and was located on the grounds of Community of Faith Church at 5208 Meadowland Pkwy, Marion, IL.

The expanded 2-day event featured on both days' music from our Hope Fest Main Stage. Saturday's music featured local bands & artist: The Band- Anesthetic, Solo Artist- Jake McPheron, The Band- Summit17, Solo Artist- Luke Wilson, The Band- Lee Marie, Solo Artist Bill Raby and The Nigel Williams Band, Sunday's Classic Family Fun Day lineup featured the Herrin High School Tiger Band leading the opening ceremony, national anthem and doing a concert. Following the opening ceremony led by President of the Herrin House of Hope Board of the Herrin House of Hope & Hands of Hope Foundation, Rev Dr. Troy Benitone, The Honorable Steve Frattini, City of Herrin Mayor & our IL. State Representative, Paul Jacobs from the 118th District and John Steve, Executive Director of the Herrin House of Hope launched the day and celebrated the 13 years of outreach: 440,000 meals from 2012 to 2025, the over 44,000 meals in the last 12 months, hundreds of GED's granted, Hundreds of Households receiving food commodities, the thrift store and our jobs training program. Beginning on Monday, September 8, the House of Hope will begin serving meals from 11a-1p beginning its 14th year of service to Southern Illinois residents bringing hope to all who are in need. Worship Teams from the area were featured for Sunday's music: Community of Faith Worship Team, Israel Lopez, Herrin West Monroe Apostolic Worship Team, Herrin Christian Life Church, Carterville First Baptist & West Frankfort Trinity Global Methodist Church and Family Worship Center- Johnston City.

In addition to great music, Hope Fest featured its new diverse Hope Fest Market with a wide variety of quality products including Arts, Crafts, Collectibles and more stuff, including upcycled & refurbished items, specialty products, Handmade crafts or craft-like items, jewelry, boutique clothing or accessories, unique décor, and artistic items are encouraged, along with Information & Direct Sales type booths. There were some 30 vendors & sponsors represented across the grounds in our 2 market zones. The event featured amazing Food in the Hope Fest Food Court from BBQ to Sergio's to Pizza from Herrin based: Joe's, Newby's, Casey's & Dominos. There were Burgers, Brats, Dogs, Funnel Cakes, Church of God Dump Cakes, Lemon Shake-ups and more. All proceeds benefiting the funds being raised for the 14th year of House of Hope operations. The event also featured some 5 inflatables provided by Oasis Outdoors, Inflatable Fun and others, and the amazing Pony Rides & Petting Zone, Silent Auction, Cake Walk and on Saturday evening a Special Tethered Balloon Ride that took place from 6-8pm. Saturday Morning featured the 2nd Hope Fest 5k Walk/Run & Kid's Fun Run and Sunday featured Big Elvis- John Milini and the 5th Auto Show & Biker Zone.

The day through 64 Sponsors in 5 Tiers of giving, 5K proceeds, 5th Auto/Biker Show Proceeds, Food Sales, Sponsor-A-Day Gifts and other donations from the Silent Auction & Cake Walk, and more raised \$90,000 for the day. These proceeds will go to support the Herrin House of Hope & Hands of Hope Foundation's operations in Herrin, including the Herrin House of Hope Meal program (44,000 served in last 12 months and Over 4400,000 in our first 13 Years), The Thrift Store, Food Distribution Ctr., Children's Summer Feeding Program, AmeriCorps Job Training Program, GED Program in Partnership with J.A. Logan and the future PHASE 2 PROJECT to launch the new Hope Food Distribution Ctr, Hope Community Wellness GAP Clinic & Hope Emergency Shelter.

We want to give a special thanks to Swinford Media and their team for their amazing partnership in helping us market Hope Fest to the Southern Illinois community for the last 14 years. We want to thank our 64 amazing sponsors: (5) Hope Fest Named Event Sponsors \$5000+: Oasis Outdoors, Sam's Club Marion, Ameren, Meridian Health Plan of Illinois & East Side Lumber Supply. (3) Hope Fest Even Sponsors \$2500+: Enterprise Mobility-Fill Your Tank, TCC Gives (Verizon Foundation) & Community of Faith Church. (15) Hope Fest Major Sponsors \$1000+: Herrin Walmart, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois, SIU Credit Union, AISIN, Swinford Media Group, Silkworm, Inc., Herrin Signs & Zombie Guitar Company, AES Solar, SIH, First Southern Bank, Herrin-Energy Lions Club, West Monroe Apostolic Church, Herrin First Baptist Church, Cornerstone Church & Marion Walmart. (18) Hope Fest Sponsors \$500+: Herrin Second Baptist Church, US Bank, Christian Life Church, Helia Healthcare, Legence Bank, My Office: Help, Clearwave Fiber, Herrin First Evangelical Presbyterian Church, Watermark Auto Group, Paul Jacobs, IL State Representative #118 District, Caring Counseling Ministries, Harvest Worship Time Center, Sergio's Mexican Restaurant, Carmen's Café, Herrin Church of Christ, Community of Faith BBQ Heroes, Community of Faith Happy Trails Ministry, & Caribbean Food Truck. (23) Hope Fest Friends \$250+: Banterra Bank, South Side Lumber, River to River Runners, Christopher Columbian Club- K of C Council #3943, Dale Fowler, IL State Senator 59th District Domino's Pizza- Herrin, Newby's Pizza- Energy, Joe's Pizza – Herrin, Casey's Pizza- Energy, Shawnee Express Inc., Bank of Herrin, Novacom Inc., David Anderson, STATE FARM® INSURANCE, The Sollami Co., Shawnee Senior Living- Herrin, Knights of Columbus- Council #2164, Daughters of Isabella, Patrick Windhorst- IL State Representative #117 District, LiQui Tube, Hurricane Memorial Baptist Church, Timberview Wellness Center AT&T Fiber & Thank You for the other Anonymous Gifts.

Hope Fest is already making plans to return, as always, the first Sat & Sun after Labor Day. Hope Fest returns for the 15th year in 2026 on Saturday, September 12 & Sunday, September 13. Information & Full details can be found at www.hopefestevent.org. If you have additional questions on how you can support the House of Hope and Hands of Hope or need more information about how you can get involved next year contact: Rev. Dr. Troy Benitone, Hope Fest Event Director at Cell Phone 217-725-7565 or by Email at Troy@hohfoundation.org.

A Weekend of Family Fun and Hope in Southern Illinois!
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For the 15th Year
in 2026**



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