

# The Hope Foundation

OF THE  
MAHONING VALLEY

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## Charity Event Announces Participates/Activities

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Over the past several years, the Hope Foundation of the Mahoning Valley has sponsored “The Game of Hope Charity Basketball Classic,” which raises money for chronically/terminally ill children in the valley so that they may have the experience generally afforded by healthy children. We have teamed up with area TV stations 27 First News & FOX Youngstown; WYTV & MyYTV; radio stations 95.9 KISS, MIX 98.9, & News Radio 570 WKBN, Accent Media, UAW Locals 1112 & 1714, NEOEA (North Eastern Ohio Education Association) and the Lamar Advertising Company. This year is no exception as the Hope Foundation and its partners are proud to announce the participants and activities for their 6<sup>th</sup> annual classic. Open to the public, tickets are \$6 each and \$3 each for YSU Students with a current, validated ID.

This year, the heads of two major unions that are located in proximity of each other, will match coaching wits with the reigning winner, Jim Graham (President-UAW 1112) hoping to keep his perfect record in check when he faces newcomer, Jeff Pegg, (President of NEOEA-North Eastern Education Association) who is expected to give Graham a run for his money.

The event, scheduled for Saturday, Jan. 23, 2010 at the YSU Beeghly Center, will begin at 4 p.m. Both teams are comprised of local celebrities, dignitaries and media from the area with the game set to be taped and broadcasted on TV at a later time.

Joining Team Graham this year is Adam Earnhardt, Professor of Communication from YSU, Rev. Dave Herron Sr from Monument of Faith Church of God in Christ, President of UAW 1714 Dave Green, Felix Wright former Cleveland Browns Player, John Landers a member of the Boardman Local School Board, Matt Morrone the Athletic Business Manager from YSU, Matt Spatz On-Air Personality for 93.3 “The Wolf, Nick Graham the City of Warren Prosecutor, Ralph Morrone Facilities Engineer for YSU, the Ohio Attorney General Richard Cordray, and Congressman Tim Ryan from the 17<sup>th</sup> District of Ohio. While Ron Scianna, Owner of Antone's Group will serve as Honorary Team Owner.

Team Pegg will consist of Adam Tokash from Covidien Sports Medicine, Brian Laraway the VP of Bury Financial Group, Jack Pico of Betras, Maruca, Kopp, & Harshman, the Mayor of Youngstown Jay Williams, Joe Schiavoni the State Senator of the 33<sup>rd</sup> District of Ohio, Joe Aulisio Assist. Sports Director of both WKBN/FOX Youngstown & WYTV/MyYTV, John Reardon the Ohio Supt. of Financial Institutions, Congressman John Bocchieri from the 16<sup>th</sup> District of Ohio, Marquis Brown YSU Student from Housing & Residence Life and Matt Morrone the Athletic Business Manager from YSU. Taking on the responsibility of Honorary Team Owner will be Dave Betras from Betras, Maruca, Kopp, & Harshman.

Bob Hannon, CEO of the United Way of Youngstown/Mahoning Valley, will once again call the play-by-play with Kate O'Donovan from Youngstown Television adding the color commentary from the court. Newly hired head YSU football coach Eric Wolford will preside over pre-game ceremonies and toss the ceremonial jump ball.

Other activities planned include performances by the Dream Team All-Stars of Girard; the City Printing 10-pt shot; Armstrong Cable \$5 for \$50 half-court shot; the YSU Men's Basketball Exhibition Dunk fest and visits from area mascots for all in attendance to enjoy. The event will also have its own concession stand, pen during the event with all of the proceeds earmarked for the Game of Hope. To donate, visit the GOH website at:

[www.hopemv.org](http://www.hopemv.org).

The Hope Foundation of the Mahoning Valley's is a non-profit, which its mission is to furtherance of charitable and financial support and volunteer services to and for chronically and/or terminally ill children on a local and regional level.