

The Hope Foundation

OF THE
MAHONING VALLEY

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A Friendly Showdown of Community Leaders, Dr. Cynthia Anderson-YSU President & Congressman Tim Ryan for Charity

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Youngstown, Ohio (Thursday, January 20, 2011)—The Hope Foundation of the Mahoning Valley is presenting “The Game of Hope Charity Basketball Classic” on Saturday, January 29 at 4:00 p.m. at YSU’s Beeghly Center. The game, which raises money for chronically/terminally ill children so that they may have the experience generally afforded other healthy children, is open to the public with tickets \$6 each.

This year, newly appointed YSU President, Dr. Cynthia E. Anderson and Congressman Tim Ryan (17th District of Ohio) will match coaching strategy as head mentors of their respective teams. As in past years, both teams are comprised of local celebrities, dignitaries and media members from the area with the game set to be taped and broadcast on various cable outlets throughout Northeast Ohio on Sunday, Feb. 20 (8:00 p.m.). Check www.hopemv.org for channel listings.

Those comprising “Team Anderson” include Adam Tokash (Turning Technologies); Bill Johnson (Congressman, 6th District of Ohio); Atty. Bill Bartos (Betras, Maruca, Kopp & Harshman); YSU student Chad Gifford; John J. Gocala, Jr. (Boardman Police Department); Jon Moffett (The Vindicator sports staff); Kristen Olmi (Armstrong Nominate-A-Player Honoree/United Way of the Youngstown & Mahoning Valley); Matt Spatz (93.3 WNCN, The Wolf); Sean O’Brien (State Representative, 65th District of Ohio) and Tom Day (UAW Local 1714).

Frank Frattaroli, director of marketing for the area Belleria Pizza chain, will Assist Team Anderson while John Gulas, President/CEO of Farmers National Bank will serve as Honorary Team Owner.

Team Ryan consists of Alan Mike (cancer survivor); Felix Wright (former Cleveland Browns player); Jason Wilson (State Senator, 30th District of Ohio); Jim Davis (Austintown Township Trustee); Jim Groner (Mahoning County Board of Developmental Disabilities); Joe Aulisio (WKBN/WYTV/WYFX Sports); Nick Graham (Assistant Law Director, City of Warren);, Scott Chronister (Lakeview Education Association, NEOEA); Terrill Vidale (CEO, On the Move Enterprises) and Atty. Terry Swauger (City of Niles Prosecution Office).

Assisting Team Ryan as honorary coach will be Atty. Dave Betras of the law firm Betras, Maruca, Kopp & Harshman with Gary Soukenik, President/CEO of Seven Seventeen Credit Union serving as honorary team owner.

Bob Hannon, CEO of the United Way of Youngstown/Mahoning Valley will once again call the play-by-play with Jim Graham, UAW Local 1112 President and Kate O’Donovan from the United Way of Youngstown/Mahoning Valley adding color commentary, while Chrissy Patrick from MIX 98.9 Morning Show will serve as the Master of Ceremonies for the 3rd straight year.

Father George V. Murry the Bishop of the Diocese of Youngstown and Community activist Fr. Gregory Maturi of St. Dominic’s Church in Youngstown will both preside over pre-game ceremonies. Furthermore, Fr. Maturi has the honors of the ceremonial toss, while Bishop Murry will give a blessing for all.

Other activities planned include performances by the J&J Dance Depot and Howland Middle School Competition Squad; the City Printing 10-pt shot; \$5 for \$50 half-court shot and visits from members of the 910th Airlift Reserve Stations, Ronald McDonald, Scrappy and the Phantoms mascots for all in attendance to enjoy. The event will also have its own concession stand, pen during the event with part of the proceeds earmarked for the Game of Hope. To donate, visit the GOH website at: www.hopemv.org.

Proudly sponsored by Armstrong & Valley Home Health Care, other sponsors include Ohio stations 27 First News & FOX Ohio; WYTV & MyYTV; radio stations 95.9-FM KISS, 93.3-FM “THE WOLF” and News Radio 570-AM WKBN; UAW Locals 1112 & 1714; NEOEA (North Eastern Ohio Education Association); Time Warner Cable and the Lamar Advertising Company.

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.