

For Immediate Release: Thursday, July 23, 2009

Media Contact: Director, Tony Spano – 330-728-2669/avspano@hopemv.org

CHARITY EVENT ANNOUNCES PLAYERS/ACTIVITIES FOR SOFTBALL GAME & BUFFETT NIGHT

The Hope Foundation of the Mahoning Valley and the Mahoning Valley Scrappers are proud to announce its players/activities for the "Softball Game of Hope & BUFFETT NIGHT." The S.G.O.H. is a community leader/celebrity softball game that will benefit and support chronically/terminally ill children in the Mahoning Valley, so that they may have the experiences generally afforded healthy children.

This event is set for Saturday, August 1 inside Eastwood Field (Niles, OH). First-Pitch is scheduled for 4:00 p.m. and following the charity event the Mahoning Valley Scrappers (the Class A, Short Season affiliate of the Cleveland Indians) will play the Batavia Muckdogs (a St. Louis Cardinals affiliate). Tickets are \$7 for both games with a \$3 donation going to the S.G.O.H. Furthermore, you can come out and listen to your favorite Jimmy Buffet tunes with "Fins to the Left" to perform that night and Kids Eat Free Saturday Night! The softball game will feature two teams of local leaders and community volunteers from both the Mahoning and Trumbull counties that will face-off against each other. Last year, the game ended in a tie, so both teams are back to settle the score.

Community leaders who have already committed their participation include from **Mahoning County**; Boardman Trustee Robyn Gallitto; Jim Leugers, State Farm Insurance Agent; Jay Macejko, Youngstown City Prosecutor; Mike Sciortino, Mahoning County Auditor; Joe Fanto, National City Bank; Barb Nick-Balestrino, Ursuline Asst. Softball Coach & Mahoning County Employee; Katie Libecco, Valley24.com; Bo Pritchard, Austintown Township Trustee; Dennis Biviano from WKBN/WYTV News Anchor; Dr. Chris Raymond, Raymond Chiropractic; Matt Spatz from 93.3 "The Wolf;" Defend Youngstown, Inc. creator, Phil Kidd; Mike Szenborn, YSU Baseball Hall of Famer; Jack Leow, Southside Boxing Club and Nominate-A-Player Winner Anthony D'Apolito, Magistrate for the Mahoning County Juvenile Court. Dave Betras, a partner of Betras, Maruca, Kopp, & Harshman will serve as Honorary Coach.

The **Trumbull County** team includes: Col. Karl McGregor, Base Commander for the Youngstown 910th Air Reserve Station; John Finizio, President of St. Joseph's Health Center; Jim Graham & David Green from UAW 1112 & 1714, GM-Lordstown; Mark Catello of IBEW Local 573; Mahoning Valley Scrappers General Manager, Dave Smith; Dr. Robert Naples, family practitioner; Kim Calhoun, Hospice of the Valley; Dave Lee Morgan, Jr, Author & Sportswriter-Akron Beacon Journal; Mike Chaffee, Mayor of the Village of Lordstown; Dr. Angel Ricciulli, Angel Chiropractic Center; Mark Catello, IBEW Local 573; Chris Jaskiewicz, COO, Valley Electrical Consolidated; Terry Ivanchak, Warren Municipal Court Judge; Dave Herron, Sr, Pastor of the Community Outreach Complex, and Nominate-A-Player Winner Mac Morgan, a Teacher from the Warren City Schools. Bob Hannon, President of the United Way of Youngstown will serve as Honorary Coach, while Greg Hicks Warren City Law Director will serve as Honorary Team Owner.

In addition, serving as guest umpires for the second straight year are veteran ASA umpires Sam Book from the Trumbull County ASA Umpires Association and picked as one of the top 15 best umpires in the country & Hall of Famer, Cal Cavalcante, which is also a member of the Trumbull County ASA Umpires Association. Other activities planned for the softball game include giveaways, raffles, 50/50, visits by Scrappy & local mascots and lays at the door, while supplies last.

If you are unable to attend the charity event, but plan on attending the Scrappers game that night, the charity can still be credited in one of two ways: by bringing the game of hope voucher found @ www.hopemv.org or mention "Game of Hope" when you purchase your tickets.

The foundation's mission is the furtherance of charitable and financial support and volunteer services to and for chronically and/or terminally ill children on a local and regional level. For more information on the event, go to www.hopemv.org or call (330)-728-2669. Donations are now being accepted online, in the mail and at the gate.

Corporate sponsors for this event include television stations 27 First News/FOX Youngstown & WYTV-MyYTV, radio stations 93.3 "The Wolf," 1390 WNIO & News Radio 570 WKBN, High Point Tavern Restaurant, and UAW Local 1714 & 1112 from GM-Lordstown.

Board of Trustees

Adam Tokash
Mahoning Valley Thunder

Dr. Harold Yiannaki
YSU Emeritus

Janet Szenborn
Chairwoman
Mahoning County

Joseph M. Damore, CPA
Cohen & Company, Ltd.

Larry Ryan
Eric Ryan Productions

Maria Colista
Columbiana WIC

Nick Graham
City of Warren

Paul Drennen
City of Youngstown

Phil Kidd
Defend Youngstown, Inc.

Scott Schulick
Farmers Trust Company

Anthony V. Spano
Director, Hope Foundation
YSU