



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Fitzgerald Announces 48th Annual Holiday Choral Program Schedule
Highlights Holiday Events Going on Throughout the County

PITTSBURGH – Allegheny County Executive Rich Fitzgerald today announced the 48th Annual Holiday Choral Program will kick off on Tuesday, December 1, with a performance by the Quaker Valley High School Concert Choir, at 11:30 a.m. This and all concerts for the program will be held on the Grand Staircase of the Allegheny County Courthouse, located at 436 Grant Street in downtown Pittsburgh.

Performances will be held each weekday through Tuesday, December 22. Thirty local choirs, orchestras, and bands will participate in this year’s program. Each performance will also be broadcast on the Grant Street side of the Courthouse so downtown shoppers and workers may enjoy the concert.

A special thanks to Colteryahn Dairy and Sarris Candies for providing refreshments and snacks for the school groups on their performance day.

Participating schools have also been asked to make donations of filled stockings to The Holiday Project, a program that has provided holiday gifts to children and youth who receive services through the Allegheny County human services system since the late 1960s. Concert-goers are invited to participate in the program by making a donation of filled stockings or unwrapped gift. More information about The Holiday Project, including suggested gifts, is available at <http://www.alleghenycounty.us/Human-Services/News-Events/Events/Holiday-Project.aspx>.

The full schedule for the 48th Annual Holiday Choral Program follows:

| Date | Time | Group |
|-------------|----------------------|---|
| Dec. 1 | 11:30 a.m-12:10 p.m. | Quaker Valley High School Concert Choir |
| | 12:20 p.m.-1:00 p.m. | Seneca Valley Choirs |
| Dec. 2 | 11:30 a.m-12:10 p.m. | Ingomar Middle School 7 th Grade Orchestra |
| | 12:20 p.m.-1:00 p.m. | Northgate “Sizzlers” Jazz Band |
| Dec. 3 | 11:30 a.m-12:10 p.m. | Minadeo Elementary School Chorus |

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| Dec. 4 | 11:30 a.m.-12:10 p.m. | McKeesport High School Orchestra |
| | 12:20 p.m.-1:00 p.m. | McKeesport Area High School Brass Ensemble |
| Dec. 7 | 11:30 a.m.-12:10 p.m. | Carson Middle School Orchestra |
| | 12:20 p.m.-1:00 p.m. | Keystone Oaks High School Symphonic Band & Chorus |
| Dec. 8 | 11:30 a.m.-12:10 p.m. | Thomas Jefferson Middle School 8 th Grade Chorus |
| Dec. 9 | 11:30 a.m.-12:10 p.m. | Ingomar Middle School 8 th Grade Orchestra |
| | 12:20 p.m.-1:00 p.m. | Deer Lakes Concert Choir |
| Dec. 10 | 11:30 a.m.-12:10 p.m. | Shaler Area High School Choirs |
| | 12:20 p.m.-1:00 p.m. | Shaler Area High School Advanced Jazz Band |
| Dec. 11 | 11:30 a.m.-12:10 p.m. | Marshall Middle School 8 th Grade Orchestra |
| | 12:20 p.m.-1:00 p.m. | Montour High School Concert Choir |
| Dec. 14 | 11:30 a.m.-12:10 p.m. | Penn Hills High School Cantabile & Show Choirs |
| | 12:20 p.m.-1:00 p.m. | Steel Valley High School Concert Choir |
| Dec. 15 | 11:30 a.m.-12:10 p.m. | Pittsburgh Brookline Choir |
| | 12:20 p.m.-1:00 p.m. | Pittsburgh Allegheny 6-8 Choral Ensemble |
| Dec. 16 | 11:30 a.m.-12:10 p.m. | Pittsburgh Mifflin Chorus |
| | 12:20 p.m.-1:00 p.m. | Carlynton Chorus |
| Dec. 17 | 11:30 a.m.-12:10 p.m. | Shaler Area String Orchestra |
| | 12:20 p.m.-1:00 p.m. | Upper St. Clair High School Pantheon Choir |
| Dec. 18 | 11:30 a.m.-12:10 p.m. | Harrison Middle School Chorus and Orchestra |
| | 12:20 p.m.-1:00 p.m. | Bishop Canevin High School Concert Choir |
| Dec. 21 | 11:30 a.m.-12:10 p.m. | Marshall Middle School 7 th Grade Orchestra |
| | 12:20 p.m.-1:00 p.m. | Fort Couch Middle School Orchestra |
| Dec. 22 | 11:30 a.m.-12:10 p.m. | Montour High School Jazz Ensemble |
| | 12:20 p.m.-1:00 p.m. | Chartiers Valley High School Select & Cadenza Choirs |

In addition to the Holiday Choral Program, there are a number of other events planned at County facilities throughout the holidays:

Kane Regional Centers

Each of the four Kanes kicks off its own holiday celebration with entertainment, visits from Santa and a lighting of holiday decorations for residents, friends, family and staff alike:

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| Kane Ross 110 McIntyre Rd, Ross Twp. | December 7, 2015 | 6:30 PM |
| Kane McKeesport | December 8, 2015 | 7:00 PM |

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| 100 Ninth St, McKeesport | | |
| Kane Scott 300 Kane Blvd, Scott Twp. | December 9, 2015 | 6:30 PM |
| Kane Glen Hazel 955 Rivermont Dr, Pittsburgh | December 10, 2015 | 6:30 PM |

In December, residents will also be on the receiving end of AARP's "Presents for Patients" program, with visits to each Center scheduled through the week before Christmas.

A Time to Give

Last, but not least, county employees and offices are generous with their time and resources, especially during the holidays. Following is just a sampling of some of the programs that our employees are participating in and leading:

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| <p>DHS Holiday Project 2015</p> <p>The DHS Holiday Project provides a holiday gift to children and youth who receive services through the Allegheny County child welfare system. Recipients of gifts include newborns, toddlers, school-age children, teenagers and young adults. In each case, gifts from the Holiday Project provide an invaluable sense of normalcy for children and youth whose lives are shaped by daily challenges.</p> <p>County employees have participated in the Holiday Project as sponsors where they are matched with a specific child and his or her wish list, as donors where monetary donations are made to allow volunteers to shop for non-sponsored children, and through their donation of a filled stocking (This is also the third year that participants in the Holiday Choral Program will be making donations of filled stockings).</p> <p>Would you like to participate? Unwrapped gifts may be dropped off at the Human Services building, One Smithfield Street, Pittsburgh 15222 between the hours of 8:00 AM and 4:30 PM. You may also send checks, made payable to DHS Donations Fund. Please put "Holiday Project" in the memo line and mail to DHS Holiday Project/OCR, Human Services Building, One Smithfield Street, Pittsburgh 15222.</p> <p>Is online more your style? View the Holiday Project Amazon.com Wish List. Gifts from this list are shipped automatically to the Holiday Project Workshop. Simply search "DHS Holiday Project" on Amazon.com's wish list site.</p> |
| <p>2015 Pittsburgh Polar Plunge at Heinz Field Saturday, December 12, 2015</p> <p>The Polar Plunge is a unique opportunity for individuals, organizations and businesses to support local Special Olympics athletes by jumping or running into icy cold waters to raise funds for Special Olympics. County participants include representatives from the Allegheny County Police, and their families and friends.</p> <p>Not interested in an icy dip? You can still donate to the cause or pledge one of those brave souls who is going to take the plunge. Want to see the fun yourself? Participants will take the plunge at 12:00 noon on Saturday, December 12 at the river at Heinz Field, 100 Art Rooney Avenue.</p> |

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