



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Allegheny County Announces Light Up Night Activities

PITTSBURGH – Allegheny County announced today that it will celebrate Light Up Night festivities with a Christmas Tree lighting in the Courthouse Courtyard on Friday, November 18, at 12:30 p.m.

Beginning at 12 Noon, the Courtyard will be filled with Christmas music as culinary students from Pittsburgh Technical College give out cookies and Colteryahn Dairy offers hot chocolate, eggnog and teas. Attendees can also learn about winter and holiday events in the county, sign a holiday banner that will be sent to service members thanks to the American Red Cross of Southwestern Pennsylvania's Holiday Mail for Heroes program, and make an ornament that will be sent to our Kane Regional Centers.

Participants are also encouraged to consider bringing a donation for the DHS Holiday Project or the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank (GPCFB). Last, but not least, the Kane Foundation will be selling Steelers raffle tickets.

- The DHS Holiday Project appreciates all new, unwrapped gift donations. There is a special need for warm winter wear; board games for all ages; puzzles of all ages; dolls and action figures in a full range of skin tones; sports equipment including basketballs, footballs, soccer balls and baseball gloves; and creative kits for school-age children.
- The GPCFB's most wanted items include: cereal (low sugar, high fiber); tuna or salmon (packed in water); fruit (packed in 100% juice or water); canned beans (black, garbanzo, etc.); peanut butter; hand soap/toiletries; toilet/facial tissue/ laundry detergent; diapers (infant and adult); and canned vegetables (no or low sodium). Remember, items should be non-perishable only and no glass.
- The Kane Foundation is selling tickets for a Steelers Raffle drawing which will be determined on Friday, November 18 from the PA Daily 7:00 p.m. first three-digit lottery. The winner receives two tickets the Pittsburgh Steelers vs. Buffalo Bills game in Buffalo on December 11th, two nights at the Hampton Inn Buffalo plus free breakfast on both days, an autographed picture of Steeler Antonio Brown, one pass for four skaters at the Allegheny County Ice Skating Rinks, \$50 cash and a \$25 gas card. Donation is \$10 for four chances. A maximum of 250 tickets will be sold.

The county's Christmas Tree is not one tree, but is formed using the base of the fountain in the courtyard with 25 9' to 10' Douglas Firs from Lake Forest Gardens in Fombell, PA. Over the past five years, a variety of groups and organization have been invited to create the ornaments that decorate the tree each year. For 2016, organizations in the county which serve individuals with disabilities were invited to create the ornaments. Participating organizations included Blind & Vision Rehabilitation Services of Pittsburgh, Goodwill of Southwestern Pennsylvania Aspire Adult Training Facility, Passavant Memorial Homes Family of Services and Verland. Representatives of those groups have been invited to join the County Executive and county employees in the lighting.

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The [American Red Cross of Southwestern Pennsylvania](#), which also serves as the headquarters of the 28-county Western Pennsylvania Region, comprises Allegheny, Greene and Washington counties. The American Red Cross prevents and alleviates human suffering in the face of emergencies by mobilizing the power of volunteers and the generosity of donors. It is guided by seven fundamental principles: humanity, impartiality, neutrality, independence, voluntary service, unity and universality.

[Blind & Vision Rehabilitation Services of Pittsburgh](#) (BVRS), a 105-year-old private nonprofit, is a leader in programs and services for people of all ages who are blind, vision impaired, or have other disabilities. The organization believe in independence through rehabilitation and its mission is to change the lives of persons with vision loss and other disabilities by fostering independence and individual choice. BVRS offers comprehensive and personalized computer instruction, employment and vocational services, personal adjustment to blindness training, independence skill building, in-home instruction, low vision services, vision screenings for children and adults, prevention of blindness services, and an industrial employment program. It also offers employment support services in Fayette, Greene and Washington counties, and in Somerset County offer vision screening and transportation services. BVRS is accredited by the National Accreditation Council for Blind and Low Vision Services (NAC).

[Colteryahn Dairy](#) is proud of its deep ties to the Pittsburgh community for the last 93 years as a family-owned and fourth generation operated business. It is the only dairy in Pittsburgh and has been on its current site since 1917. Colteryahn has an extensive product line, which includes nationally branded co-packaged/private label products, is distributed throughout the tri-state area by its own fleet of trucks, as well as customer-owned trucks. In addition, an intricate system of distributors serves more than 15 states throughout the Northeast and Midwest regions of the United States. In addition to milk products, Colteryahn produces and distributes a line of iced teas, juices and other products.

The [DHS Holiday Project](#) provides holiday gifts to children and youth who receive services through the Allegheny County child welfare program. Through the generosity of county residents, employees, school groups and faith-based organizations, thousands of holiday mornings are brightened each year.

[Goodwill of Southwestern PA](#) is a human service agency and network of not-for-profit businesses whose mission is to help people overcome barriers to employment and enjoy the dignity and benefits of work and improved quality of life. [Aspire](#) provides learning opportunities for adults with disabilities under the age of 59 to acquire, improve and maintain self-help, domestic, socialization and adaptive skills. It is designed to be a participant-driven experience that is interesting and engaging. Participants choose curriculum-based modules that meet their interests and will support their independence and participation in community life and/or work.

The [Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank](#) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to eliminating hunger in our region. Its mission is to feed people in need and mobilize the community to eliminate hunger with a vision for a hunger-free southwestern Pennsylvania.

The [Kane Foundation](#) was created to raise private funds to help enhance the quality of life of our residents and their families. One hundred percent of all donations are devoted to gifts and enhancements for the Kane Centers and residents. Personalized gifts are also welcome, as are donations of property or personal belongings. All gifts are tax-deductible to the extent allowable by law.

The [Passavant Memorial Homes Family of Services](#) includes Adult Training Facilities with a philosophy to promote as much independence, skill improvement and positive interaction as possible for each individual. Everyone is encouraged to participate in a variety of activities designed to teach new skills, fine-tune learned skills, and enhance employment and social interactions. The locations of the facilities include The Hartman Vocational & Employment Center in Harmar, The Vail Vocational & Employment Center in Mt. Pleasant and The Rochester Vocational & Employment Center in Rochester.

A leader in career-focused education since 1946, [Pittsburgh Technology College](#) (PTC) offers bachelor's and associate degrees and certificate programs in more than 30 areas including STEM majors. Its 180-acre campus is home to the American Academy of Culinary Arts, the Energy Technology Center, the Nursing Simulation Center, specialty labs and residence halls. PTC is accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education and has a full-time student enrollment approaching 2,000.

[Verland](#) is a non-profit family of person-centered, community homes and services supporting individuals with intellectual disabilities, many of whom have multiple physical challenges. In the nearly 40 years since its founding, Verland has grown to be one of southwestern Pennsylvania's largest providers of services for people with severe disabilities.

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