

**WMJQ-CD  
Syracuse, NY**

**ISSUES/PROGRAMS LIST  
4th Quarter ending  
December 31, 2023**

**It has been determined that the following issues of concern were addressed through programming directed to Syracuse and Central New York:**

- 1. Community event information**
- 2. Culture**
- 3. Education**
- 4. Public Safety and Health**

**Program Title: Your Community Connection (locally produced)**

**Schedule: Sunday 6:00 am – 6:30 am**

**Dates: 10/1/2023 – 12/31/2023**

**Program Description: Your Community Connection keeps viewers informed of current and future scheduled events happening within the viewing area and also includes community and cultural events as well as information on upcoming courses for self-improvement and education.**

**Topics:**

**10/1/23: Out of the Darkness Community Walk – Guest: Stacey Green, Walk Chair - Stacey Green is the Walk Chair. Stacey discussed being personally driven by her personal connection to suicide after losing a loved one to suicide. She spoke about The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention Out Of The Darkness Walk coming up on Saturday, October 7th at Long Branch Park in Liverpool. The walk is to help raise money for educational programs that teach about prevention, warning signs and the psychiatric illnesses that can lead to suicide. Also, it is a journey of remembrance, hope, and support to unite our communities and provide an opportunity to acknowledge the ways in which suicide and mental health conditions have affected our lives and the lives of those we love and care about. The walk route**

is a total of four miles with options to turn around at several points. It is up to participants to decide how far to walk. The route is also wheelchair and stroller accessible. Stacey added if anyone is in a crisis, they can call or text 988 or text TALK to 741741. Their website is: <http://AFSP.org>

**10/8/23: Francis House – Guest: Peggy Northrup, Development Director - Peggy talked about the major fundraiser that Francis House benefits from every year. It will be their annual “There’s No Place Like Home” Fundraiser at the Expo Center of the New York State Fairgrounds on Wednesday, October 11th from 5:30 to 8:30 pm. Tickets can be purchased for the event at [FrancisHouseNY.org](http://FrancisHouseNY.org). Peggy mentioned the history where on January 28th, 1991, Francis House welcomed its first resident. Francis House was the dream of Sister Kathleen Osbelt. Serving as a hospital chaplain in the 1980s, she realized there were few, if any, places outside of a hospital setting where individuals could spend their final days. Sister also realized there were many in our community who, due to lack of family or resources, did not have the choice to die at home. The Sisters of Saint Francis dedicated a two-family home on Syracuse’s North Side to the vision for Francis House. Community volunteers renovated the house and prepared it to welcome its first residents. There are many ways to help Francis House, one of which is by donating online on their website. A walking tour is also available online at [francishouseny.org](http://francishouseny.org)**

**10/15/23: United Way of Central New York – Guest: Katie Hanlon, Community Engagement Manager - Katie spoke about the United Way of Central New York’s “CNY Care Package Project” drive that is now underway, with the goal of collecting enough donations to create 1,000 Care Packages for people in need in our area communities. Supporters are encouraged to get involved by purchasing and donating personal care items at Syracuse area Wegmans stores, via an Amazon wish list, or by making a monetary donation at [www.cnycarepackage.com](http://www.cnycarepackage.com). Katie encouraged businesses, schools, and civic organizations to host their own CNY Care Package Drives to collect donations. Interested persons and organizations can find details and a downloadable flier available at [www.cnycarepackage.com](http://www.cnycarepackage.com). United Way’s website is: [unitedwedomore.org/carepackage](http://unitedwedomore.org/carepackage)**

**10/22/23: The Food Bank of Central New York – Guest: Kynn Hy, Chief Development Officer – Lynn discussed that The Food Bank is a leading organization in the effort to eliminate hunger in our region by partnership with others in the Central New York area through education, advocacy, and distribution of nutritious food. Lynn told us how serious the hunger problem is in the United States today. The “Together Against Hunger Campaign” will launch on October 25<sup>th</sup> at all Central New York Wegmans stores and will continue through November 29<sup>th</sup>. Stores will be collecting donations at the register to be evenly divided between The Food Bank of CNY, The Salvation Army, and The Rescue Mission. Anyone can drop by area Wegmans stores through November 29th to donate. The Food Bank also relies on food donations from food manufacturers, grocers, wholesalers, businesses, and individuals to supplement their food inventory. These donations**

help to stretch our partner agencies' food budgets and enhance their inventories. They are also able to complement donated food with food we purchase for their inventory. Their website is: [foodbankcny.org/events/show/together-against-hunger-with-wegmans](http://foodbankcny.org/events/show/together-against-hunger-with-wegmans)

**10/29/23: Ronald McDonald House – Guest: Beth M. Trunfio, Executive Director –** Beth explained The Ronald McDonald House in Central New York had its first guest family of in 1982, CNY Ronald McDonald House. Since then, the location has changed and the home has gotten bigger, but the mission has remained the same. The Ronald McDonald House continues to provide housing for families of those whose children are being treated at area hospitals. Beth stated a much-needed expansion is on the way, and continued support helps ensure families are always kept exactly where they belong which is together. The new expansion will build out the fourth floor with new suites designed for large and multigenerational families. It will include six new family suites providing a total of 14 beds to accommodate the additional space to keep families even more comfortable and together when it matters most. Donations may be made online at: [RMHCNY.org](http://RMHCNY.org)

**11/5/23: Hope for Heather – Guest: Frieda Weeks, President/Founder -** Frieda told the sorrow of losing her daughter Heather to cancer in 2008. Ovarian Cancer is the leading cause of death from gynecological cancers in the United States and the fifth leading cause of cancer death among American women. Each year, approximately 20,000 American women are diagnosed with ovarian cancer, and about 15,000 women die of the disease. Hope for Heather's mission is to raise funds to support ovarian cancer research, to promote education and awareness, and to help to provide comfort to women and their families devastated by cancer. Frieda talked about the many upcoming fund-raising events, where to get help and how to donate. Frieda encourages everyone to learn more about the Hope for Heather campaign. Website: [hopeforheather.org](http://hopeforheather.org)

**11/12/23: Road to Emmaus Ministry of Syracuse, Inc. – Guest: Sheila Austin, President and Executive Director –** Sheila spoke about how it all began with a sandwich. In February 2008, Father John Manno challenged St. James Church to reach beyond its walls and bring the presence of Christ to individuals and families impacted by poverty, drugs, crime, and homelessness on the south side of Syracuse. As an answer to this challenge, the parishioners made peanut butter and jelly sandwiches to bring the love of Christ and the Catholic Church to those in need. On February 23, 2009, Emmaus Ministry brought their first hot meal to the Catholic Charities Men's Shelter. By providing food, drink, clothing, visiting the sick, and burying the dead, as disciples, Sheila says we demonstrate unconditional love and hope to those in need. Through this love and hope lives are being transformed! Interested individuals can help feed the hungry buy purchasing a bag of groceries, or donate directly online at: [emmausministry.org](http://emmausministry.org)

**11/19/23: Erin's Angels – Guest: Sheila Dion, Founder and Director – Sheila discussed that Erin's Angels started as a food pantry at the Village of Phoenix's Maroun Elementary in 2017. The charity is named after Erin Maxwell, a Phoenix schoolgirl who was strangled to death in 2008. By 2020, Erin's Angels was providing food for 75 school children. That number has now grown to 265 in all of Phoenix's schools, as well as some in the West Genesee school district. Sheila Dion worked in a school cafeteria after Erin's death and often saw children asking for extra food so they wouldn't go hungry. Thus, the idea for Erin's Angels was born. Every student identified by school staff as being in need can get food through the non-profit organization she said. For little kids, that's a backpack program. For high schoolers, there's a mini pantry in a guidance counselor's office. Recently, they have partnered with a group doing a similar program in the West Genesee school district that has brought another 141 children into the program. Erin's Angels continues to grow and needs everyone's help. Financial and Food donations may be made at: [erinsangels.org](http://erinsangels.org)**

**11/26/23: Salvation Army of Central New York – Guest: Major Charles Roberts, Director of Operations for Onondaga County – Major Roberts discussed that The Salvation Army Syracuse Area Services is once again behind the annual Christmas Bureau Distribution Day where food and toys are distributed to nearly 10,000 people on December 20<sup>th</sup> at the OnCenter in Syracuse. The Major spoke about the event in detail and a reminder for families and individuals meeting the income guidelines can now register for the event before the annual tradition. If you would like to volunteer and/or organize a food, book and toy drives all the info is available on their website at [SASYR.org](http://SASYR.org). Also, The Salvation Army needs bell ringers for the upcoming holiday season. There are 27 red kettles across Onondaga County. The money raised through the red kettle donations is used to support local programs. If anyone would like to help ring the bells, call 315-479-1159. The website is: [SASYR.org](http://SASYR.org)**

**12/3/23: Safe Space Central New York – Guest: Tracy Mergler, Founder & Director - Tracy tells us that the Safe Space Organization is a non-clinical, community safe space that strives to change the conversation around mental health by educating, connecting, and supporting others through a peer-to-peer network. Safe Space provides a respite, a safe peaceful place to breathe for individuals, and to educate and empower those individuals on how to self-manage their mental health through creative outlets and traditional means by connecting them to community resources and other community members. Tracy says they are working to become a community hub of services that partners with other local medical facilities, treatment centers, not-for-profits and businesses to provide the best options for community members. Their website is: [safespacecny.com](http://safespacecny.com)**

**12/10/23: Elmcrest Children's Center – Guest: Patrick Casey, Executive Vice President of Programs – Patrick explained that Elmcrest Children's Center is a community of professionals providing services to those children with a variety of emotional, behavioral, and developmental disabilities in order to help them**

overcome barriers to success in their homes, their schools, and their communities. Elmcrest Children's Center is at the helm of a Children's Mental Health Respite Program to house children in crisis, and provide support for their families. They are well on their way to their funding goal, but they need everyone's help to complete this critical project. Children facing mental health issues need to know that they're not alone. Support can be given through their website: [Elmcrest.org/NotAlone](http://Elmcrest.org/NotAlone)

**12/17/23: American Red Cross – Guest: Lisa Mistretta, Manager Donor Recruitment at American Red Cross - Lisa was back to talk about the upcoming “Holiday Heroes” blood drive, Tuesday 12/26 through Saturday 12/30/23 from 10 am – 4 pm at Destiny USA opposite Forever 21. Lisa reminded us that medical conditions and emergencies that require blood don't stop for the holidays, or a pandemic, nor do treatments for heart conditions, organ transplants, and treatment for cancer or sickle cell disease. That's why blood donations remain essential to the health of the community. Lisa says the holiday season is about giving and what better way to celebrate than by filling a desperate need and donating blood. It's easier than ever for the public to schedule an appointment online and find a location near you. We talked about what it takes to host a blood drive. All of the information is on their website: [RedCross.org](http://RedCross.org). Also, to schedule an appointment, visit the Red Cross website or call 1-800-RED-CROSS.**

**12/24/23: InterFaith Works – Guest: Beth discussed that InterFaith Works was founded in 1976 to help build bridges of understanding among people of different religions and across racial divides. She discussed the addition of social service programs. Beth reinforced the mission of Interfaith Works of Central New York, through education, service, and dialogue. Their goal is to affirm the dignity of each person, every faith, each and every community, and to work to create relationships and understanding among us. She talked about the period of time it takes for a refugee to relocate and enter the job force. Beth explained funding, donations and gave the website address: [interfaithworkscny.org](http://interfaithworkscny.org). and phone number: 315-449-3552 ext 116**

**12/31/23: Erin's Angels (repeat) – Guest: Sheila Dion, Founder and Director – Sheila discussed that Erin's Angels started as a food pantry at the Village of Phoenix's Maroun Elementary in 2017. The charity is named after Erin Maxwell, a Phoenix schoolgirl who was strangled to death in 2008. By 2020, Erin's Angels was providing food for 75 school children. That number has now grown to 265 in all of Phoenix's schools, as well as some in the West Genesee school district. Sheila Dion worked in a school cafeteria after Erin's death and often saw children asking for extra food so they wouldn't go hungry. Thus, the idea for Erin's Angels was born. Every student identified by school staff as being in need can get food through the non-profit organization she said. For little kids, that's a backpack program. For high schoolers, there's a mini pantry in a guidance counselor's office. Recently, they have partnered with a group doing a similar program in the West Genesee school district that has brought another 141 children into the program. Erin's Angels**

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