

**WONO-CD
Syracuse, NY**

**ISSUES/PROGRAMS LIST
1st Quarter Ending
March 31, 2021**

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: 10/1/2020 – 12/31/2020

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:

1/3/2021: Operation Northern Comfort – Guest: Laurel Flanagan, Co-Chair of Operation flanaganlaurel4@gmail.com 315-657-0469. We spoke with Laurel Flanagan. Operation Northern Comfort is a group that started out as Operation Southern Comfort. In 2005, they started going to Louisiana to help clean up and rebuild after hurricane Katrina. In 2012, the focus was on Central New York. They became Operation Northern comfort and started helping people here. Laurel talked about the Desks for Kids program. During this pandemic there has been a serious need for kids to have desks, and dedicated workspaces in their home. Back in October, Desks for Kids became a reality. Laurel tells us the desks last kids a long time. They're unstained, untreated so that a family can paint it or stain it and

decorate it in a way that looks good to them, so as to make it their own. These desks are free, and people can sign up online at operationnc.org. Laurel talked in depth about volunteers, especially those who can't donate financially, and where to sign up on the website to volunteer. Laurel says the pandemic has been a huge challenge for them. She says they lost their major source of funding, so they've had to be really creative to come up with other ways to get the funding.

1/10/21: Humane CNY – Guest: Maureen Davison, Director of Humane CNY, 4915 West Taft Rd., Liverpool, NY 13088 (315) 457-8762 - Maureen took some time to tell us about Humane CNY. It is a 501 C3 organization with an animal shelter in Liverpool, NY. The main mission is to take owner surrendered dogs and cats from the area, get them all updated on their shots, give them any vet work that they need, including surgeries and dental work. Then they work with them on any training and find them forever homes. Maureen mentioned they recently took in 15 small senior dogs from a hoarding situation and the vet bills alone for just those 15 were in the tens of thousands. They all needed surgeries and extensive dental work and many of them had heart conditions. Maureen was happy to report all of them were adopted and are in the most loving homes now. If anyone is interested in adopting a dog or cat, they can go to the website and see the pictures as the center is not open to the public currently due to the pandemic. Maureen explained the adoption fee, and how background checks are performed. Recently, they held a major donation campaign and were able to reach a goal of \$114,000, and additionally received a matching gift of \$30,000. Currently there is an increase in adoption applications because people are home now, not working, and wanted a pet. Humane CNY provides counseling to some of those people to make sure that once things kind hopefully get back to a somewhat more of a normal state, that they realize that adopting a pet is a lifelong commitment.

1/17/21: Haven at Skanda – Guest: Ellen Beckerman - Executive Director, 4000 Mosley Rd, Cazenovia, NY 13035 ellen@thehavenatskanda.org - Ellen gave us an update of activities. Haven at Skanda started about eight years ago. Haven at Skanda is currently taking care of over 150 rescued and some endangered farm animals operating 24/7 all through the pandemic. Luckily, their volunteers have been amazing about coming out and helping put safety protocols in place. Also, they have been providing emergency childcare to kids of essential workers and also to kids who the surrounding counties have identified as possibly being at risk for abuse at home during the prolonged quarantine. Ellen talked about the \$50,000 shortfall of funding that is due entirely to two or three corporate funders having shut down all of their giving for 2020 because of the pandemic. They are looking for donations of any kind. On the website, they have a wish list which shows the items most needed such as blankets, towels, and grain. If you'd like to purchase food for the animals and bring it to them, they would appreciate it as they are taking people's Christmas trees without tinsel or decorations because the goats love to eat the trees. Haven is a nonprofit organization and is all volunteer. It is located in Cazenovia on the corner of Route 20 and Mosley Rd.

1/24/21: Mary Nelson Youth Center, 2849 S Salina St., Syracuse, NY 13205 315-422-2761 - marynelsonyouthcenter.com – Guest: Mary Nelson - Mary spoke about the beginning of the youth center. The inception of the Mary Nelson Youth Center occurred 16 years ago following the loss of her nephew, Darryl Patterson, to gun violence. Mary said it all originated from the backpack program and she wanted somewhere the kids could be seen all of the time. Catholic charities reached out to her as they had a building on South Salina St. just sitting there. Mary said she was nominated for the “Mom’s Dream Comes True” segment on the Regis & Kelly show in 2008. They awarded Mary a house full of furniture and also gave her a \$50,000 check to do whatever she wanted. Mary took that money and opened up a center for kids that they can come to and have somewhere to go for after school programs and do different activities. The Youth Center is to help shape the way they live their lives and teach them the fundamentals of social responsibility, healthy living, and cultural acceptance. Mary says at the Youth Center, they strive to empower the lives of youth in the Syracuse community through a variety of programs. As a community based youth center in the Syracuse area, they go above and beyond to provide our youth and their families with an empowering environment where they can fully embrace their identity and gain all of the skills they need to be the leaders of tomorrow. Mary encourages everyone to go to the website, check out the programs, make a donation, and help by volunteering for the food pantry and many other activities within the Youth Center.

1/31/21: Sleep In Heavenly Peace (Syracuse Chapter), 201 W. Genesee St. #241, Fayetteville, NY 13066 - 844-432-BEDS (2337) shpbeds.org/chapter/ny-syracuse – Guests: Jeff Pitt and Jon Wright, Co-Presidents - Sleep in Heavenly Peace had its start like many other charities: in a garage. It was Christmas time, normally a time of joy and happiness, a time of giving and love, but also a time of bitter, cold weather and snowstorms. This was a project that was started with the building of one bed for a single family and then developed into something a whole lot more. With wood left over from the first bunk, another idea was created. “Who else could benefit from this bunk?” A simple post on Facebook sparked an unexpected response. What was thought that would happen would be a litter of requests from needy families. However, it turned into a litany of local people eager to help and volunteer. The generosity of these volunteers was so surprising that it was no longer a search for one who needed a bed, but a question of how many beds could be provided. From there, the idea grew into reality. They took turns talking about the mission where all children deserve a safe, comfortable place to lay their heads. In Syracuse, too many boys and girls go without a bed or even a pillow to sleep on. These children end up sleeping on couches, blankets, and even floors. This can affect their happiness and health. Sleep In Heavenly Peace is a group of volunteers dedicated to building, assembling and delivering top-notch bunk beds to children ages 3 - 17 and families in need. Jeff & Jon spoke about the need of donations, new pillows, mattress pads and twin bedding. They gave a list of drop off locations throughout Central New York. All donations are tax deductible and monetary donations can be made on the website. There is also a need to help deliver beds and a link on the website to inquire.

2/7/21: The Salvation Army – Guest: Linda Lopez, Executive Director of Programs, linda.m.lopez@use.salvationarmy.org – It was discussed that even during the pandemic, The Salvation Army operates to meet human needs wherever, whenever, and however they can. Whether helping remotely, or via in person some of the programs and services. The first program they have is job training. As it's well known, the COVID-19 pandemic has taken a toll on our nation's economy, and millions of people have experienced job losses in the past few months. The Salvation Army's "hand-up" employment services programs provide skills and strengths assessments, job-search counseling and support, as well as several programs that teach new job skills. These programs are increasingly important, as many government assistance programs like SNAP and Medicaid are adding work requirements to their eligibility criteria. They also provide disaster relief. No matter where disaster strikes, The Salvation Army is available within hours. As one of the largest disaster-relief organizations in the country, The Salvation Army is ready with immediate response and recovery plans unique to the community affected. Also, there are food pantries and meal programs. By supplying free fresh produce, canned goods, and healthy frozen items, their food pantries provide valuable meal supplementation while helping those in need maintain their independence and dignity. These food pantries are especially crucial in "food deserts," where entire communities experience food insecurity due to lack of grocery store access. From sit-down programs that provide nutritious hot meals and valuable human interaction, mobile meals delivering sustenance to those who cannot reach a food distribution center and feeding programs across the hundreds of shelters and residential facilities, The Salvation Army helps the most vulnerable members of society escape the daily burdens of food insecurity.

2/14/21: CNY Arts - John H. Mulroy Civic Center, 11th Floor, 421 Montgomery St, Syracuse, NY 13202 - (315) 435-2155 - Cnyarts.org – Guest: Stephen Butler, Executive Director – Today's guest, Stephen Butler, has served as Executive Director of CNY Arts for 11 years. Stephen started off by saying CNY Arts is this region's art counsel. Serving six to seven counties, it finds money and grants, and then gives it out to arts, culture, and heritage organizations. The arts in Central New York has become another victim of the pandemic, as museums and theaters across the area remain closed or have had to drastically cut the number of visitors. Individual artists have been severely impacted as well. It's estimated that this sector has lost more than \$55 million in potential revenue. The CNY Arts organization, in its ongoing mission to support, promote and celebrate the arts, culture and heritage in the area, has begun a fundraising effort. The agency serves Cortland, Herkimer, Madison, Oneida, Onondaga, and Oswego counties. When it gets New York state regional economic development funds, it also serves Cayuga County. Stephen talked about the fundraising drive and the effect of the pandemic on the arts. Central New York Arts is just shy of 65 years old and has been re-granting government funds. Resource information of all kinds is available at cnyarts.org. Stephen talked about the Shuttered Venue program the government has offered including project support grants for arts, culture, and heritage programs that are

accessible to the public. If people want to contribute but think they can't until the end of the year, he says they can go to cnyarts.org. Then, the Covid Arts Impact Fund Page takes them where they can make a donation.

2/21/21: Father Champlin's Guardian Angel Society, 259 E. Onondaga St., Syracuse, NY 13202 – (315) 422-7218 – guardianangelsoc.org - Guest: Sarah J. Ioele, Executive Director - Sarah began by saying Father Champlin's Guardian Angel Society has been in existence for over 23 years, and describes the society as small but mighty. It is a grassroots organization that started when Father Joseph Champlin saw that children were not graduating from high school. The graduation rate was about 38% when he started the society. He found that unacceptable where children from K through 12th grade need support, and he wanted to give it to them. The majority of the children served come from very underprivileged and very diverse backgrounds. They do not turn away any child based on their faith background. Wherever they come from, Father was a person of great acceptance. So all of the students are very diverse and many live below the poverty line. These students would never be able to afford a private parochial education and the good deeds and the donors support them to have scholarships so they can attend parochial school. In most cases fundraisers are held throughout the year, just like any non-for-profit would, and obviously that's been seriously impacted in the past year. Sarah spoke in depth about the St Patrick's Day Feast fundraiser on March 14th. They will have "take out" or delivery and the proceeds from the meals will go towards the scholarship fund and to the mentor tutor program. Sarah reinforced the fact that all of the money raised stays local. People want to know when they donate and give to Father Champlin's Guardian Angel Society that they are helping to send children to school in Central New York. Other programs offered by Father Champlin's Guardian Angel Society and all can be found on their website.

2/28/21: (repeat of Father Champlin's Guardian Angel Society program from 2/21/21)

3/7/21: On My Team 16, 7376 Highbridge Terrace, Fayetteville, NY 13066, 315-416-2065 - onmyteam16.com – Guest: Jordan Zapisek, Founder - Jordan discussed what On My Team 16 is and how it was founded. On My Team16 was inspired by Jack Sheridan, a young baseball pitcher from Syracuse, NY, who was diagnosed with leukemia on May 29th, 2014, his sophomore year of high school. Through the tremendous support and encouragement from family, friends, strangers and the medical community, Jack was able to beat cancer after 3½ years of treatment. Jack is currently attending college and playing baseball at Le Moyne College in Syracuse. Jordan talked about events and how they are moving forward despite the pandemic with donations and raising funds through sports. Also, instructed listeners on how to use the website to sponsor athletes through the click start campaign. He spoke extensively about "The Climb" and upcoming bike race with a date yet to be announced. All money raised stays here in CNY. OMT16 strives to ensure no child feels alone in their fight against cancer. Their mission is to comfort and support

pediatric oncology patients, families and caregivers. Every child will know they are a part of a bigger team focused on fighting and winning their battle together.

3/14/21: Catholic Charities of Onondaga County, 1654 West Onondaga St., Syracuse, NY 13204 - ccsyrdio.org – Guest: Michael F. Melara – Executive Director - Michael tells us that Catholic charities serves about 17,000 people a year ranging in age from infants to senior citizens and working with those members of our community who are really the most vulnerable and in greatest need, regardless of their religious beliefs or backgrounds. If you look across all the people that they serve, the real common denominator is poverty. They respond to people who are in crisis and provide a variety of programs and services that are crisis responsive such as food pantries, emergency services, and homeless shelters. Also, they offer programs and services to help individuals become stable through supportive housing programs and refugee resettlement programs which are all designed to increase stability. Catholic Charities is coming up to their 100th anniversary. Established in the diocese of Syracuse in 1923, they have always focused on providing what they would call indigenous supports and services. For the past 40 years Catholic Charities has been operating a licensed homeless shelter for men by providing two meals a day at the shelter, working to help men who are in the shelter be able to get back out into the community, stabilize their living situation, and to get into appropriate housing. Finally, Michael spoke about how the community can help through donations and volunteering. The website has all of the information.

3/28/21: Make-A-Wish Central New York, Campuswood Dr., East Syracuse, NY 13057 - cny.wish.org – Guest: Diane E. Kuppermann, President & CEO - Diane joined us to talk about Make A Wish which has one focus and that is to grant life-changing wishes to kids with critical illnesses throughout 15 counties in Central New York. Their chapter started in 1985. We asked how does one qualify for Make A Wish? Diane stated by children 2-1/2 to 18 that have been referred to them prior to their 18th birthday. With the medical team, the physicians treat the kids based on national medical criteria and are then determined if they are eligible for the program by the nature of their critical illnesses. Make-A-Wish creates their own special events, fundraising, and internal events. They continue to make wishes come true. The big event that's happening in April is our wish heroes month of fundraising which has had to pivot quite a bit as has been the case for every organization in town. They weren't able to hold the Sugarman Law Firm gala this past year in the Fall, but were hoping to hold it in March. The team has done a great job and they pivoted. Instead of not having a gala this year or another virtual event, the heroes campaign is all about peer-to-peer fundraising. It kicks off April 1st and will run through April 29th. Diane encourages everyone to check out their website for more information and to donate if possible.