Community Missions slates 11th annual Interfaith Community Prayer Service for Mental Illness Recovery & Understanding

Community Missions will present its 11th annual Interfaith Community Prayer Service for Mental Illness Recovery and Understanding at 4 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 5. The service will again be hosted by First Congregational United Church of Christ, 822 Cleveland Ave., Niagara Falls.

The interfaith prayer service marks the National Day of Prayer for Mental Illness Recovery & Understanding. Established by Congress, this day of prayer falls on Tuesday of Mental Illness Awareness Week, which is the first full week in October. The service will feature readings, prayers, and music offered by representatives of various faith traditions and community members.

A press release stated, "One in five adults experience mental illness problems every year. Although many people understand that mental illness is a medical condition, individuals and families affected by it are still often subjected to stigma and discrimination."

Community Missions agency minister The Rev. Mark Breese speaks at a past Interfaith Prayer Service. (File photo)

Community Missions agency minister The Rev. Mark Breese said, "In recent years – and especially since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic – many more people have become aware of the challenges of living with mental health issues. Although this growing awareness is encouraging, there is still a long way to go when it comes to ending the injustices created by the unnecessary and widespread stigma associated with mental illness. Our prayers will focus on these issues."

The service is currently planned as an in-person event and will also be available via a livestream on Community Missions' Facebook page. There will be restrictions on the number of attendees, and they will be required to wear masks. In the event that COVID-19 cases rise, or recommendations change about gatherings, the service will shift to an online-only event. Any such changes will be announced on the Community Missions website and social media accounts.

As the service date approaches, more information about the speakers will be provided.

For more information, contact Rev. Mark Breese at 285-3403, ext. 2259, or mbreese@communitymissions.org. Visit www.communitymissions.org/community-prayer-service for additional information. Facebook page: www.Facebook.com/cminiagara

Find more information about Mental Illness Awareness Week at nami.org/miaw.

Helipad at Mt. St. Mary's Hospital to complement stroke program

"Time is brain" is a statement often used to describe how minutes matter for patients who suffer a stroke. Mount St. Mary's Hospital is moving forward with plans to install a helipad on its campus at 5300 Military Road in Lewiston, which will provide emergency air transport for patients who may require a higher level of care. Currently, emergency ground transport time to Buffalo is 45 minutes; air transport would cut the time to 8 minutes.

"Time is of the essence for stroke cases, as 2 million brain cells die every minute during a stroke," said Lee Guterman, Ph.D., M.D., medical director of neuroscience services for Catholic Health and a neuro-interventionist at the Mercy Hospital Comprehensive Stroke Center "Mount St. Mary's is well-equipped to provide exceptional care for most stroke cases, however, some cases will require advanced intervention. The faster critical-level stroke patients receive that intervention, the better the outcome."

Mount St. Mary's, a New York State-Designated Primary Stroke Center, recently implemented medical and technological advances that, it said, "significantly enhanced emergency care for stroke patients. Telemedicine equipment like the InTouch stroke system provides high-quality video-conferencing capabilities through pan/tilt/zoom cameras; Viz.ai software delivers fast, secure CT image transfers and artificial intelligence analysis; and the Pulsara app offers real-time triage and assessment consultations between EMS and ER providers while stroke patients are on route to the hospital."

Jason Davies, M.D., Ph.D., is director of endovascular stroke services and assistant professor of neurosurgery and biomedical informatics at UB Neurosurgery. He said, "These advances allow immediate, 24/7 support from Catholic Health and UB Neurosurgery's experienced team of specialists to make critical treatment decisions. The addition of the helipad strengthens the already top-performing stroke program at Mount St. Mary's."

This isn't the first time Mount St. Mary's has provided air transport for patients. In 1969, a helipad was installed at the hospital to address highway traffic congestion. Several years later, a much-needed medical office building was constructed in its place to house hospital clinics and providers.

"We are thrilled to return a fully operational helipad to Mount St. Mary's Hospital and Niagara County, and we thank the Lewiston Town Board, Mercy Flight, Mount St. Mary's Hospital Foundation, and our EMS partners for their support," said C.J. Urlaub, Mount St. Mary's Hospital president and Catholic Health senior vice president of strategic partnerships, integration and care delivery-Niagara County. "Our community can be confident that their emergency needs can be met in their own backyard, and feel at ease that we will provide safe, timely life-saving emergency air transport if a higher level of care is needed."

In addition to stroke care, patients with critical cardiac, renal, pulmonary, sepsis, and pulmonary embolus conditions will also benefit from this upgrade in expedited transportation.

"We know that time is of the essence with critical care patients," Urlaub said. "Saving lives is the greatest outcome we can give them, their families, and our community."

As Mount St. Mary's prepares for the installation of its new helipad, the hospital will also be conducting a full parking lot paving project, scheduled to begin Sept. 16 with an anticipated completion date of Oct. 17. Information regarding temporary changes in traffic patterns and parking during this time will be posted in the hospital and parking lot, and will be shared with patients and EMS providers.

NCSO utilizing new tech

Sheriff Michael Filicetti announced the implementation of a new tool to assist the Niagara County Sheriff's Office in handling mental health calls. In partnership with Niagara County Mental Health, and through the benefit of a grant received by the New York State Office of Mental Health, the NCSO will be deploying iPads to deputies. The tech will be utilized to connect persons in crisis directly with mental health clinicians.

Filicetti said, "We have a longstanding partnership with Niagara County Mental Health. We are proud to be able to expand this partnership and ensure proper resources for people in crisis."

This initiative, termed the mobile access program, allows law enforcement to connect with mental health professionals when the need arises. Being in a rural community can often delay response times for critical personnel. Having direct mobile access to these resources will allow the connection to happen much quicker.

Niagara County Mental Health Director Laura Kelemen said, "Just as in a medical emergency, when people are experiencing a mental health emergency, time is of the essence. We are grateful that this partnership facilitates quick access to a mental health clinician allowing for immediate linkage to care and better outcomes."

NEED TO READ

ONLINE
wnypapers.com

► 'RockOut Cancer' returns to Lewiston Stone House; events set for Friday & Sunday

► Hochul adds mask requirements amid rise of delta variant

► Hochul: $23.7 million in grant awards to end the gun violence epidemic

► We remember: Hochul signs legislation to support 9/11 & communications first responders

► Niagara County to hold outdoor career fair at Oppenheim Park

► AAA presents 'Trips, Trucks, and Trunks' car safety event

► Annual Walk to End Alzheimer's to take place at Artpark

► Family Promise of WNY to host 6th annual 'Choctoberfest'

► Q&A: John Ford Coley on reconnecting with fans, hit songs & working with 2 Coreys

In print and online, we are your No. 1 source for local news
Niagara Frontier Publications and www.wnypapers.com

Niagara County
Tribune/Sentinel

Founded February 14, 1987

PUBLISHER
Skip Mazenauer
GM/MANAGING EDITOR
Joshua Maloni
EDITOR IN CHIEF/SENTINEL EDITOR
Terrence P. Duffy
WEBSITE/SOCIAL MEDIA EDITORS
Joshua Maloni, Lucia Spiritosanto, Toni Snyder
ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES
Colleen Rebmann, Jeff Calarco, Marcy Lombardo
CIRCULATION
Kim Wendt
ACCOUNTING/OFFICE MANAGER
Kim Wendt
PRODUCTION MANAGER/ GRAPHIC DESIGNER
Wendy Juzwicki
GRAPHIC DESIGNERS
Lucia Spiritosanto, Toni Snyder
CLASSIFIED MANAGER
Toni Snyder
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
Jennifer Walowitz
CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS/REPORTERS
Michael J. Billoni, Kevin and Dawn Cobello, Michael DePietro, Karen Keefe, Nathan Keefe, Wayne Peters, Mark Williams Jr., David Yarger

NIAGARA FRONTIER PUBLICATIONS

NYPA NEW YORK PRESS ASSOCIATION

©2021 Niagara Frontier Publications
1859 Whitehaven Road
Grand Island, N.Y. 14072

Phone (716) 773-7676
Fax (716) 773-7190

Editorial:
Tribune@wnypapers.com
Dispatch@wnypapers.com
Sentinel@wnypapers.com
Advertising:
NFPDesign@wnypapers.com
Classifieds:
NFPClassifieds@wnypapers.com
Circulation:
NFPCirculation@wnypapers.com
Legals:
legalnotice@wnypapers.com
Website:
wnypapers.com

Grand Island Publishing Corp. Newspaper is printed in the U.S.A. and all rights reserved. © 2021 by **Grand Island Publishing Corp.** No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means without written permission of the publisher. Unsolicited manuscripts and photographs will be returned only if accompanied by a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

All letters, news releases and photos received will be treated as unconditionally assigned for publication or brochure and are subject to **Grand Island Publishing Corp's**. unrestricted right to edit, comment or reject.

All original artwork, layout and design remain sole property of **Grand Island Publishing Corp**. Reproduction in whole or part of any advertisement is strictly forbidden.

Grand Island Publishing Corp. will not be liable for errors appearing in advertisements beyond replacement of the space occupied by the error. The publisher reserves the right to reject any advertisement at his sole discretion. Notification must be made in writing within one week of publication. Verbal notifications will not be accepted.

Grand Island Publishing Corp. does not knowingly accept any kind of fraudulent advertising. We suggest you investigate thoroughly any advertisement before you reply.

Verbal cancellations will not be accepted. Written authorization to cancel a display or commercial classified ad must be received by **Grand Island Publishing Corp**. before deadline for insertion.

The **Tribune** is published weekly.

Display Ads Deadline: MONDAY 5 PM

New York State Press Association, Niagara County Builders Association, Grand Island Chamber of Commerce, Wheatfield Business Association Inc., Niagara River Region Chamber of Commerce, The Niagara USA Chamber.