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**TOP REGIONAL BANDS TO PERFORM AT 17th ANNUAL BLUEGRASS BENEFIT CONCERT:
EVENT WILL ALSO FEATURE A SALUTE TO MUSICIAN MAC MARTIN AND CRAFT BEER TASTING**

(Pittsburgh, PA) - The 17th Annual Bluegrass Benefit Concert ,on Friday, April 24, 2015 ,will continue its tradition of presenting the region's top bluegrass bands, while also extending birthday wishes to legendary performer Mac Martin, and offering a pre-concert craft beer tasting.

Beginning at 7:30 pm at Synod Hall in Oakland(125 N. Craig St.), fans of this genre of American music will be entertained by Allegheny Drifters, Border Ride, Brush Creek, Fern Hollow, and Mac Martin and the Dixie Travelers. Bruce Mountjoy, host of "Bluegrass Jam Session" on WYEP will return as concert emcee.

Proceeds from the Bluegrass Benefit Concert will benefit St. Joseph House of Hospitality, a program of Catholic Charities that serves as a residence for older men who were formerly homeless. Located in Pittsburgh's Hill District for 78 years, St. Joseph House provides a single furnished room, meals, and supportive services for 60 residents.

A special recognition is planned for Mac Martin who will celebrate his 90th birthday on April 26. Martin began his singing career more than 50 years ago and is regarded as the "Father of Bluegrass" in Pittsburgh. The Brookline resident also has his name on the Bluegrass Wall of Honor in Owensboro, Kentucky. Martin and his Dixie Travelers have performed at the Bluegrass Benefit Concert since it began 17 years ago.

Tom Kneier, administrator of St. Joseph House of Hospitality said, "To celebrate this milestone in Mac's life is a real honor for us as he is a legendary performer who has shared his talent and love of bluegrass music with concert audiences throughout the years. We are grateful for yet another opportunity to say 'thank you' to Mac for his support of our outreach to homeless men, as he turns 90."

For the first time ever, concert-goers who arrive early (6:15 - 7:15 pm), will enjoy a tasting of craft beers, courtesy of Rivertowne Brewing.

Tickets for the concert are available for a \$20 donation and may be purchased at the door, or online at www.ccpgh.org.

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Catholic Charities is the primary social service agency of the Diocese of Pittsburgh, serving all, regardless of religious affiliation, in their time of great need. With outreaches in Allegheny, Beaver, Butler, Greene, Lawrence and Washington counties, Catholic Charities has been providing programs and services for 105 years that include: basic needs assistance, health care for the uninsured at Catholic Charities Free Health Care Center, pregnancy and parenting support, refugee resettlement, Roselia Apartments for pregnant or parenting homeless women, Challenges Options in Aging senior centers and services in Lawrence County, and St. Joseph House of Hospitality for older, formerly homeless men.