



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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KICK OFF THE HOLIDAY SEASON AT THE 2nd ANNUAL ST. NICK SOIREE

ATTENTION: News Desks, Reporters, Photo, Interview, & Video

WHAT: The 2nd Annual St. Nick Soiree

WHEN: Thursday, December 1, 2016

TIME: 6:30–9:30 pm

LOCATION: The Ace Hotel

120 S. Whitfield Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15206

Website: www.ccpgh.org

PITTSBURGH – Catholic Charities' Emerging Leaders Council (ELC) will host its 2nd annual fundraising event, the St. Nick Soiree, on December 1 at the Ace Hotel in East Liberty.

Geared primarily toward emerging professionals, the Soiree is open to all who enjoy live music, festive food and drink, fine company, and a chance to support Catholic Charities' mission. The theme of this year's Soiree is "It's a Wonderful Life," after Frank Capra's 1946 feel-good movie. While guests won't be expected to appear in period dress, they will get to dance the Charleston – fittingly, in a ballroom converted from an old YMCA gymnasium. After their impressive performance at the 2015 Soiree, local cover band Radio Tokyo returns, while WTAE reporter Kelly Brennan will emcee.

"The St. Nick Soirée is the *perfect* kick-off to the holiday season," says ELC and Catholic Charities Board member Christopher Scoletti: "not only do you have a fantastic time, but it offers you the opportunity to help our brothers and sisters in need – the quintessential definition of Christmas!"

The theme of the Soiree was chosen as a reminder that together we can overcome any hardship. Just as George Bailey, the protagonist of Capra's movie, discovers that community provides us with an antidote to despair, guests are promised an evening of invigorating fellowship reminiscent of that which takes place in *It's a Wonderful Life*.

In the movie, George Bailey triumphs over his suffering with the aid of "2nd Class" angel Clarence. Clarence "earns his wings," advancing to "1st Class" by guiding Bailey out of his misery. Attendees of the Soiree will also have a chance to "get their angel wings" by participating in a campaign to raise \$8,000 for Catholic Charities' to support Pittsburghers in need.

Catholic Charities' Executive Director, Susan Rauscher points out that "we can all use a reminder that any act of kindness, no matter how small, makes a difference to someone in need."

Catholic Charities' (ELC) is a new initiative, launched in the summer of 2015, to attract the younger generation of philanthropists to an opportunity to serve the poor and the vulnerable. The ELC's highly successful "100,000 diapers in 100 days" drive earlier this year collected over 100,000 diapers for the struggling parents of children under two.

Sponsorships for the St. Nick Soiree have been provided by:

Mr. Christopher Scoletti
Mr. Rich Talarico and the Law Firm of Woomer and Hall
Mr. and Mrs Michael and Diane Scoletti
Federated Investors, Inc
Mr. Mike Dutkovich
Ms. Ellen Bateman
Ms. Kelli Mainous & Mr. Michael Violi
Ms. Bethany Shaw & Mr. Shane Young

Several sponsorships are still available through the event webpage, at levels between \$500 and \$5,000.

Tickets are \$75 per person until November 15, and \$85 thereafter. A small number can be purchased at the door. Get yours now!

***About Catholic Charities:** Catholic Charities is the primary social service agency of the Diocese of Pittsburgh, serving all, regardless of religious affiliation, at their time of great need. With offices in Allegheny, Beaver, Butler, Greene, Lawrence and Washington counties, Catholic Charities has been providing programs and services since 1910. Catholic Charities offers counseling, a Free Health Care Center for the uninsured and underinsured, Senior Centers and Services (out of Lawrence County) homeless assistance, pregnancy and parenting support, refugee services, and more. For more information about programs and services, visit www.ccpgh.org.*

