



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CATHOLIC CHARITIES TO HOST "HEARTS TO SOLES" GIVEAWAY THIS FRIDAY

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

WHAT: "Our Hearts to Your Soles" shoe screening and giveaway

WHEN: Friday, November 18, 2016

TIME: 8:30 am–2 pm

WHO: Clients of Catholic Charities, Light of Life, Jubilee Kitchen, Operation Safety Net, and 411 Youth Zone

LOCATION:

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Pittsburgh
212 9th Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

Website: www.heartstosoles.com

PITTSBURGH – This Friday Catholic Charities will host "Our Hearts to Your Soles," a shoe screening and giveaway for homeless and low-income Pittsburghers who need shoes for the winter.

Organized by *Our Hearts to Your Soles*, an agency founded in Pittsburgh in 2004 by Dr. Stephen Conti and family, Hearts to Soles events now take place around Thanksgiving at over 20 sites all over the country. At Friday's event, orthopedic surgeon Dr. Stephen Conti and a team of UPMC foot care professionals will provide free foot examinations to local adults in need. Based on medical recommendations, volunteers from Colaizzi Pedorthic Center and Pitt Prosthetic and Orthotic students will fit participants with shoes donated by Red Wing Shoes.

"It is sad, but so often we see homeless [people] with ill-fitted shoes, which often leads to additional stress to ones health and wellness", says Dr. Conti.

Clients from Catholic Charities, Light of Life, Jubilee Kitchen, Operation Safety Net, and 411 Youth Zone will be eligible to receive foot examinations and be fitted with new shoes. Father Joseph McCaffrey of Saints John and Paul Roman Catholic Parish will bless the shoes at 8:45, before the event begins at 9 am Friday. Nester Hosier and Dignity U Wear have donated socks for the event. Superfeet are supporting the event for the second year running, through their donation of hygiene bags and foot orthotics.

"We are delighted to be able to provide this critical service to our brothers and sisters in need," says Susan Rauscher, Executive Director of Catholic Charities; "it's relatively easy to source winter clothes for clients, but well-fitting shoes are another question."

***About Our Hearts to Your Soles:** Founded by Matthew Conti in 2004 with the help of his father, Pittsburgh orthopedic surgeon Dr. Stephen Conti, Our Hearts to Your Soles (OHYS) is designed to fill a gap in services provided to the homeless population. Matt Conti launched OHYS after he saw the problems that can be caused by improper footwear while volunteering at a local hospital and noticed that, although several organizations provide clothing for the homeless, few supply shoes.*

***About Red Wing:** Red Wing Shoe Company manufactures work-safety footwear and flame resistant apparel for distribution in more than 110 countries worldwide. For more information, visit redwingshoes.com or www.facebook.com/RedWingShoes.*

***About Superfeet:** Superfeet manufactures premium insoles and shoe inserts for all shoe styles. For more information, visit superfeet.com*

***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.*

