



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**JESSIE GAMES PROMISES SUMMER FUN FOR CATHOLIC CHARITIES' FRIENDS & CLIENTS**

**ATTENTION: News Desk, Reporters, Photo, Interview, & Video**

**WHAT:** The 2017 Jessie Games  
**WHEN:** Saturday, August 5, 2017  
**TIME:** 1 - 4 pm  
**LOCATION:**  
Central Catholic High School  
4720 Fifth Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15213

Website: [www.ccpgh.org](http://www.ccpgh.org)

**PITTSBURGH** – On Saturday, August 5, Catholic Charities' friends and clients are invited to attend the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Jessie Games at Central Catholic High School.

Created in honor of the late Jessie Egan Smith, the Jessie Games celebrates its namesake's vitality with an afternoon of fun and games geared towards children 16 and under and their families. This year's Jessie Games comes with some changes: for the first time, donors are providing sponsorships for Catholic Charities' clients to attend the event, and at the end of the afternoon, each school-age child will receive a backpack filled with school supplies and blessed by Bishop David Zubik.

Proceeds from The Jessie Games will benefit Catholic Charities' youth programming, including their Summer Lunch Program and Roller Coasters, an eight-week psycho-educational program for elementary school children.

Tickets are \$15 for individuals and \$50 for families, including all food and activities. To purchase tickets and sponsor client families, please go to Catholic Charities' website for instructions.

### **About "The Jessie Games"**

"The Jessie Games" was first held in July 2014 to honor the memory and life of the late Jessie Egan Smith who died in 2013 at the young age of 23. A graduate of Seton-LaSalle High School who attended Duquesne University, Jessie enjoyed sports, especially running, and participated in both the Erie Half Marathon and Pittsburgh Marathon. Her family and friends organized "The Jessie Games" to celebrate Jessie's competitive spirit, compassion for others, and love for children in need.

### **About Catholic Charities' Summer Lunch Program**

Since its inception in 2012, Catholic Charities' Summer Lunch Program has provided free and nutritious meals to children ages 18 and under at the Susan Zubik Welcome Center in downtown Pittsburgh. The 10-week program also offers creative enrichment activities for children through visits from local artists, first responders, and a number of local organizations, including the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust, Mattress Factory Museum, and more. Catholic Charities is very grateful for the significant support it receives through The Jessie Games to provide this much-needed outreach to children.

### **About Roller Coasters**

Roller Coasters is an eight-week psycho-educational course designed by Atlanta-based family services agency, Family First, to help children learn to cope with family upheavals such as divorce and loss.

### **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 that include counseling, Catholic Charities Free Health Care Center, Challenges: Options in Aging Senior Centers and Services (Lawrence County) homeless assistance, pregnancy and parenting support, refugee resettlement, St. Joseph House of Hospitality for homeless men ages 50+, Summer Lunch Program for Children, and Winter Warming Station. For more information about programs and services, visit [www.ccpgh.org](http://www.ccpgh.org).

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