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Operation Our Town Reporter

a monthly newsletter *by our volunteers to our volunteers about*
our fight against drugs and crime in Central PA

Volume 15, Issue 2 - February 2023



OperationOurTown.org

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UPMC Altoona
Value Drug Company
Ward Trucking

Dear Friend,

Community Members, Counselors, Leaders, Teachers, Ministers, and Peers all play an important role in seeing that a community remains healthy, active, and supportive. While each one brings their own unique influence and expertise, it takes all of us working together to see that community uplifted. That is why a small group of individuals felt led to begin **UPLIFT Tyrone**.

A collaborative project between ELM (Every Life Matters) and the Northern Blair Roundtable of Operation Our Town, UPLIFT Tyrone is dedicated to bringing breath to the community through educational opportunities, relationship building, and life building events.

Although we are a town plagued with drugs, brokenness, and oppression, we see the light of hope in the darkness. It is this light that we wish to share through our monthly sessions that offer a meal, life skills education sessions, and supportive relationship building. We are excited about how this initiative can change the landscape of our community by serving real needs, while lifting people out of the darkness.

It will take much more than our small team to make this happen and for the correct people to come across these incredible opportunities to pull them out of the places they are in, allowing them to experience an UPLIFT.

That is where you come in. We are reaching out to you to invite you to a special informational breakfast on **February 8th at 8:00am** at the **Tyrone Gathering Place**, 857 Washington Avenue, Tyrone, Pa 16686.

At this gathering, you will be given the entire vision, success stories of how UPLIFT has made a difference already, and plans for the future. In addition, you will receive a resource packet to help those who you feel may best benefit from UPLIFT. We truly believe that this initiative has the power to make an impact in your clients', colleagues', neighbors', parishioners', and friends' lives.

We ask you to set aside **Wednesday, February 8th** to partner with us as we UPLIFT Tyrone and ultimately our region. **An RSVP by phone: ELM (814)650-7899 or by email: theelmpps@gmail.com is requested by Wednesday, February 1st.**

It is our hope that by partnering together we can see individuals encouraged, brokenness healed, lives challenged, and families restored.

With Sincere Thanks for your interest,

The UPLIFT Leadership Team

Drew M. Baker Pastor Ron Baker Sue Griep MC McGregor Michelle Politza Carol Steffen Julie White



814-650-7899
1351 Logan Avenue
Tyrone, PA 16686
www.elmcenters.org



Mission

To facilitate partnerships between community and business to fight drug abuse and crime through proven law enforcement, treatment, and prevention techniques.



Month of February - Meetings

2/2	Early Childhood Education Roundtable meeting	10:00am	Blair County Chamber
2/6	Booker T. Washington meeting	4:00pm	Central Blair Rec & Park Commission
2/15	Marketing Roundtable meeting	4:00pm	OOT office
2/16	Faith-based Roundtable meeting	2:00pm	Blair Drug & Alcohol Partnerships and Zoom
2/17	Pharmacy Roundtable meeting	7:15am	Zoom
2/23	Housing Roundtable meeting	12:00pm	Al's Tavern



814-693-3020

2-1-1

Pennsylvania
Get Connected. Get Help.™

PA 2-1-1 is a comprehensive database that includes information about health & human services.

PA 2-1-1 can be accessed by phone 24/7 or the web at:

www.pa211.org

13th Annual Community Classic Dinner and Auction

**Saturday, February 25, 2023
The Bavarian Hall 5:30 P.M.**

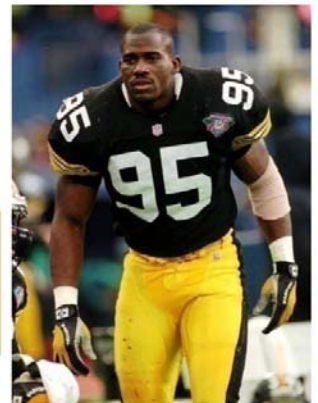
Doors will open at 4:30

Presenting the 2023 Respected Citizen Award to:



Randy Feathers

Featuring:



Greg Lloyd



Empowering Healthy Lifestyles

814-381-0921

Tickets can be purchased at the Central Blair Recreation and Park Commission Office
2101 Fifth Avenue, Altoona, PA 16602 and
Grandview Meats, 1544 Pleasant Valley Blvd. Altoona, PA 16602
For info call: (814) 949-2231 or visit www.cbrcparks.org



Tickets



Event Sponsor:



Grant Recipient Highlight: Altoona Area School District Foundation Project SOAR

By: Nick Gordon, PMSC AmeriCorps Member
with Operation Our Town



Project SOAR is a group of Altoona Area High School students made up of 9th-12th graders (ages 14-19). The program tries to accept 10 new freshmen each year who remain in the program until graduation. They are looking for students who are high-achieving academically, have plans for post-secondary education (college/university, trade school, etc.), have good attendance, no discipline referrals, are first-generation college students, and are economically disadvantaged. Not all of the students meet all of these requirements, but most do.

The program meets every morning during reporting room, as well as a more formal meeting (which will typically include mentors) once a month on Wednesdays. They typically meet in Mrs. Dumm's classroom at the AAHS unless a larger venue is required. In addition, their students have also met in the mindfulness/yoga room. They have guest speakers that attend the meetings as well for special programs such as financial aid, scholarships, college essays, college life information, etc.

SOAR's mission is to reward students in the community for their outstanding academic achievement in school. Without the help of the SOAR program, the opportunities for these

well-deserving students would be extremely limited. Building the future of our community today is a passion of the SOAR program as they continue to identify students who believe in their futures, their schools, their teachers, and their communities.

Perhaps you've heard of the saying, "It takes a village" which couldn't be truer for Project SOAR. Each student that enters the program is matched with a mentor, whether a teacher or a prominent community member. Additionally, upon graduation, students receive \$7,500 of financial assistance, rewarding their active participation in all the meetings and activities. If you are reading this article and feel that mentoring a SOAR member might be a good fit for you, please do not hesitate to contact Deidra Dumm, who facilitates the program. For more information about any of the services Project SOAR offers or to learn more, please reach out at the contact info below.



1404 6th Avenue Altoona, PA 16602
Website: www.aasdcad.com
Contact: Deidra Dumm
Phone: 814-505-1510 ext. 8020
Email: ddumm@altoonasd.com

