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Creating Communities

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National Youth Service Day helps Students Make a Difference Conneaut Valley High School Youth promote Advocacy and Awareness

Conneautville, PA – April 23, 2010 Conneaut Valley High School will host a wheelchair basketball game at 6:30 pm to raise funds for UCP/CLASS. Conneaut Valley High School Youth will host the Bay City Lightning. As part of National Youth Service Day (NYSD), students from Conneaut Valley High School have organized this event along with their teacher, Gary Decker. Mr. Decker states, "I am very proud of my students' enthusiasm and hard work in putting this event together. At a time when youth crime is on the rise; these students are setting the bar for good citizenship."

National Youth Service Day is a campaign that celebrates and mobilizes millions of children and youth who positively impact their communities every day of the year through service and service-learning. Established in 1988, NYSD occurs in over 100 countries each year and is the largest service event in the world. On NYSD children and youth address the world's most critical issues by partnering with families, schools, community and faith-based organizations, businesses, and governments. One of the goals of NYSD is for youth to identify and address the needs of their communities. By partnering with UCP/CLASS, students learn about disability etiquette, people first language and meeting successful adults with disabilities.

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In addition, students learn about the need for access for people with disabilities to community services, transportation, housing and public places.

Thunder & Lightning is a team comprised of players ranging from 17 to 55 years of age and with a wide range of disabilities. The mission of the Bay City Thunder & Lightning is twofold. The team is continually striving to enhance the Erie community's awareness of the unique talents of persons with disabilities and the team hopes to provide a greater sense of equality and unity within the community.

UCP/CLASS is the 14th largest Pittsburgh-area, non-profit human service provider for people with a wide range of disabilities and a strong advocate for disability rights. The mission of UCP/CLASS is to support people with disabilities as they explore options, participate in the community and strive toward equality.

UCP/CLASS is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization founded in 1951 with the mission of working toward a community where each belongs. UCP/CLASS continually seeks innovative approaches that foster the independence of adults and children with disabilities and promote their full participation in communities and activities of their choice. For more information, visit www.ucpclass.org .

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