



For Immediate Release

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Women's Division Chamber of Commerce Ninth Annual "Dancing with the Local Stars" Charity Event is Accepting Applications from Local Food Pantries, Food Programs

Previous eight events generated more than \$629K

MUSKEGON, Mich. – Muskegon's highly popular charity event, *Dancing with the Local Stars*, is back for its ninth year and accepting applications from local food pantries and food programs.

The event, produced by the *Women's Division* Chamber of Commerce, benefits food pantries and food programs in Muskegon, upper Ottawa and lower Oceana counties. The first eight events enabled WDCC to donate more than \$629,000 to those food-giving organizations thanks to generous community members and business leaders, said Mary Kendall, DWTLs co-chairwoman.

"We are so thankful at just how much the community has embraced this fantastic event, which ultimately allows us to feed hungry families in the area," Kendall said. "We are looking forward to another successful fundraiser."

Dancing with the Local Stars pairs local dignitaries, business leaders and people of interest with local dance professionals in four performances: Feb. 23-25, 2017 at the Holiday Inn in downtown Muskegon. Tickets for this year's Latin Flair-themed event go on sale Jan. 3.

Trinity Community Food Pantry has received funds from the DWTLs event since 2009 to help feed a growing number of families from Oceana and northern Muskegon counties.

“Donations like those from DWTLS are vital for our success in serving people in need in this area,” said Mary Lou Huggins, pantry coordinator.

To apply for funds from the event, food pantries and food programs should download the WDCC Donation Request Form found under the “Quick Links” on the home page at www.womensdivision.org. Completed applications must be submitted by Jan. 17 to *Women’s Division* Chamber of Commerce, Ways & Means Committee, P.O. Box 1665, Muskegon, MI 49443. WDCC will inform donation recipients in April after the event.

Without the donations, “it would be very difficult to serve the many hungry people in our community, if not impossible,” said Matt Kaley, executive director of Love INC of Muskegon County.

“I am so impressed with this event and the tremendous success and subsequent impact it has had in our community,” Kaley said. “I cannot adequately express enough gratitude to all the people involved. The way the whole community rallies around this event speaks very well for Muskegon and taking care of its own. We will continue to feed the hungry as a result of these efforts and offer other life-changing opportunities as a result of *Dancing with the Local Stars*.”

About *Women’s Division Chamber of Commerce*: *Women’s Division* Chamber of Commerce (WDCC) is a 501(c)6 not-for-profit organization founded in 1951 by a group of civic-minded women to create civic consciousness while encouraging and aiding in the development of our community. More than 250 members work together on several annual fundraisers to give back to the community. In the past year, WDCC donated more than \$176,000 to local community projects and non-profit organizations.

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