**For Immediate Release**

**Thursday, Nov. 1, 2018**

 **The Wheeling SleepOut: We Sleep Out So Kids Don’t Have To!**

The 8th annual Wheeling SleepOut takes place on the Miracle League Field at the JB Chambers Sports Complex from 4 p.m. Friday, Nov. 2, to 9 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 3. Teams raise money and build imaginative cardboard structures, and spend the night in them. The money raised is donated to Youth Services System Inc. to work with youth who face homelessness year-round, rain or shine.

 Corporate sponsors for this year’s Wheeling SleepOut include main sponsor AEP, along with Wayne and Carolyn Smith, BB&T, WesBanco Insurance Services, Highmark of West Virginia, Northwood Health Systems, the Wheeling Board of Realtors, Wheeling Odd Fellow Lodge #9 IOOF, Belmont Savings Bank, Kohl’s Cares, Uniglobe-Ohio Valley Travel and Faith Ranch.

 The top individual fundraiser will receive a $1,000 travel voucher from Uniglobe-Ohio Valley Travel and the top fundraising team will receive a team retreat package from Faith Ranch in Jewett, Ohio. Teams building cardboard boxes for their overnight stay will compete for trophies in the Boxed-In Design contest. Judges for the contest include Robert Gaudio, Clare McDonald, Glenn Elliott, Brenda Danehart and David Gessler. Denise and Zac Wycherley will tally the judges’ score sheets.

In addition to their cardboard structures, individuals and teams can set up tents as an alternative overnight shelter.

 On Saturday, a group of volunteers will help deconstruct the cardboard village for recycling by Goodwill Industries. Eli White and the Elm Grove Eagle Riders Club will bring breakfast for everyone who stayed the night.

 Participants at the Wheeling SleepOut will have entertainment by Ezra Hamilton & Friends, the New Age Adenas and Eli Lambie. Food will be provided by Charlie Schlegel of Ye Olde Alpha. Participants can join in field games and have photos taken by Selfie-Snaps. Appearances by: Star Wars Characters and the Ohio Valley Batman.

 The Wheeling SleepOut occurs as part of November’s National Runaway Prevention Month, a national initiative sponsored by the National Runaway Safeline (NRS).

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