Local Musicians Ready to Entertain for YSS Virtual Wheeling SleepOut Tonight

WHEELING — Several local musicians, a storyteller and none other than jolly old St. Nick himself comprise the entertainment lineup for the virtual Home for the Holidays-Wheeling SleepOut 2020 tonight, Friday, Dec. 4.

The entertainment begins at 7 p.m. on the Youth Services System Inc. Facebook page, www.facebook.com/youthservicessystem.

The 10th annual SleepOut benefits the YSS Transitional Living Program to prevent homelessness and provide life skills for youth ages 17-21.

The program served 100 youth last year in the community and at its two residential facilities, McCrory Center in Wheeling and Tuel Center in New Martinsville.

The event typically takes place in early November, which is National Runaway Prevention Month, and is held at the Miracle League Field in the I-470 Complex.

This year’s event is virtual because of COVID-19 and is taking place in December with a Home for the Holidays theme — a play both on the fact many are staying home because of the pandemic and that YSS provides a home for the holidays to all its residential youth.

In a normal year, several local bands would volunteer their time to entertain at the ballfield while event participants construct their cardboard structures for the Boxed-In Design Contest.

This year, participants build their structures at home, and many entertainers recorded videos that will be shared on Facebook.

The entertainment lineup includes New Age Adenas, Bob Gaudio, Gregg Molnar, The Muddle, Adrian Niles, the L’Ecuyer family, the Dobson family, Sarah Hays and Clay Bethel, and an original story presented by Judi Tarowsky.

Last but not least, Santa Claus will be reading “’Twas the Night Before Christmas.”