

Whiteaker, McNary concert will benefit Liberty House

By DEREK WILEY
Of the Keizertimes

Erika McCauley, former Whiteaker and McNary choir teacher, has been in Boise, Idaho for more than 10 years now. But she hasn't forgotten where she's from.

McCauley, a graduate of Sprague, is bringing her Cantus Youth Choir to Salem to perform a benefit concert with choirs from Whiteaker, McNary and Sprague.

"We started this choir program here because I wanted to offer the kids something like what I had growing up in Salem," said McCauley, who's parents met in choir at McNary.

The *You Will Be Found* concert, which will feature 400 young singers, is Friday, March 16 at 7 p.m. at Morning Star Community Church, 4775 27th Ave. SE, Salem.

Tickets, \$8 for general admission and \$12 for premiere

seating, are available at you-willbefound.eventbrite.com.

All proceeds go to Liberty House, a nonprofit in Salem whose mission is to assess, counsel, and support children and families facing concerns of abuse, neglect, trauma, or grief.

"We're just really impressed with what they do," McCauley said of Liberty House. "The idea of helping kids that come from abuse is something that really resonated. There's a lot of kids in Salem-Keizer who benefit from Liberty House and what they do."

This is the third *Songs of Hope* concert McCauley has brought to the Salem area. The last was in 2014 with choirs from Whiteaker, McNary and Straub.

"We are so excited by the energy and professionalism of this music event in support of Liberty House," said

Kelley Parosa, Community Engagement Manager for Liberty House.

The hour-long concert will feature everything from traditional choral music to pop songs and Broadway tunes, culminating with the grand finale, when all 400 singers join along with guest soloist and master of ceremonies, Vincenzo Meduri, founder of Enlightened Theaters, for a performance of *You Will Be Found* from the Tony award winning musical *Dear Evan Hansen*.

"Salem-Keizer has one of the best music programs in the whole country, so we're really excited to bring our kids from Idaho to not only help Liberty House but to collaborate with such outstanding groups," McCauley said. "It's really going to be a special evening."



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Keizer Elks give back

The Keizer Elks Lodge recently made donations to three non-profits within the local community through an Elks National Foundation Gratitude Grant.

The Northwest Hub received \$500. The Northwest Hub is a full service bicycle shop that reclaims used bikes and make them available to people of the community in need of transportation. The Keizer Community Food Bank received \$1,000. For every dollar donated \$3 of food can be purchased for the food bank. Elk Corrine Arehart, presented the Oregon Veteran's Home in Lebanon with a \$500 donation to be used to enhance the quality of life for the veteran residents.



KEIZERTIMES/Eric A. Howald
Kirk Seyfert (left to right) director of The Northwest Hub, Ernie Gaub Exalted Ruler of the Keizer Elks Lodge, and Jim Johnson operations manager of the Keizer Community Food Bank.

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