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Press Release

Request for Immediate Release

Submitted by:

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### **Montrose Chocolate and Wine Festival Hands the Reins to United Way of Susquehanna County**

Montrose, PA- A delicious Susquehanna County tradition will be guided by one of the County's leading nonprofit organizations next year. After 11 years and raising over \$280,000 for the county, organizers of the Montrose Chocolate and Wine Festival (CWF) have announced that in 2020, they will transition event coordination to the United Way of Susquehanna County.

"I am thrilled to announce that The United Way of Susquehanna County has officially accepted the offer to take over next year's Montrose Chocolate and Wine Festival," said Tom Follert, one of the event's original creators and current event chair. "I am excited to hand off this event to an organization that will continue to give back to non-profits within the county, and will promote education and overall well-being for children and their families here in Susquehanna County."

For United Way of Susquehanna County, which is focused on helping children, families, and the entire regional community, the event is a perfect fit.

"We are looking forward to this opportunity and are excited as well", said Bill Jones, President/CEO of United Way of Wyoming Valley, United Way of Susquehanna County and the Berwick Area United Way. "The Chocolate and Wine Festival committee has created a great event that benefits the community in multiple ways. The United Way will work to ensure this event and tradition continues to be the success that it is."

This year, on Saturday, May 18<sup>th</sup>, the Montrose Chocolate and Wine Festival (CWF) will host the community event for the 12<sup>th</sup> year with proceeds benefiting many local organizations and non-profits. The festival will take place from 2:30 - 7:30 PM, on Chestnut Street in Montrose, PA. Regional wineries, numerous vendors, and local businesses will give visitors an opportunity to taste and purchase wines and gourmet chocolates at their best, all from one location. Attendees can enjoy live entertainment from Maddy Walsh and The Blind Spots, The Nate Gross Band, and Montrose native, Alex Creamer, arts & crafts, home wine making demonstrations and food and chocolate candy samples will serve as a perfect backdrop for wine, beer and spirits.

Tickets can be purchased in advanced for \$20, or for \$30 at the gate, and will cover all-day UNLIMITED wine tasting, live music and access to gourmet food, chocolate and art vendors. Ticket holders will receive a complimentary glass for wine tasting. Ticket information is listed below.

The original concept of a community chocolate festival began with a dream shared between creative and motivated individuals in Montrose to offer a new weekend event.

"A committed group of community volunteers has worked tirelessly over the years to plan a community event to kick off the start of spring and celebrate all this great community has to offer. It has been an honor and privilege to create an event that is supported by so many and benefits such worthy organizations serving residents of Susquehanna County," said Follert. Thank you to this year's sponsors and vendors as well as those from years past for their steadfast support, Follert added.

This year's committee members include: Tom Follert, Kelly Roche, Cheryl Myers, Dan Myers, Ben Hawley, Steve Lathrop, Seneca Lewis, Ed Luecke, Amy McKeeby, Taylor McKeeby, Jess Smith, Betty Bryden, Kim Merithew and Robin Cobb.

(MORE)

To Purchase Tickets:

\$20 advanced sale tickets are available online until midnight Friday, May 17th.

Advanced sale tickets are also available for purchase in person at the following select businesses in Montrose:

- [From the Heart](#) (14 Public Avenue, Montrose)
- [Slanted Art Co-op](#) (180 Church Street, Montrose)
- [NBT Bank](#) (3 locations! Montrose (36 Public Ave.); Lenox (5910 SR 92); New Milford (841 Main St.)
- [State Farm - Dan Ricci's Office](#) (70 Lathrop Street, Montrose)
- [Andre & Son](#) (17150 SR 706, Montrose)

PLEASE NOTE!

- Your ticket gains you entry to the festival but you MUST bring your valid ID to provide proof of age.
- The event will go on rain or shine! All ticket sales are final, no refunds.
- Wine-tasting tickets are also available at the gate on the day of the event for \$30, cash sales only.

For festival information visit <https://www.chocolatewinefestival.com/> and to learn more about United Way of Susquehanna County visit [unitedwayofsusquehannacounty.org](http://unitedwayofsusquehannacounty.org).