Community

Momentum Center cancels Prom fundraiser

Contributed
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The plans to dance the night away and raise funds for The Momentum Center for Social Engagement are being changed.

The Grand Haven-based nonprofit’s signature fundraiser, Prom with a Purpose, has been canceled for May. Another event is being planned once it’s safe to gather again.

With the COVID-19 situation remaining fluid in Michigan and around the country, the safety of members and participants is of the utmost importance to staff and volunteers, center officials said.

“This was not an easy decision to make for our organization and our members,” said Jessica Christopher, the teen program and development coordinator for the center. “Besides the obvious financial implications of canceling our spring fundraiser, our members are also missing out on an event they look forward to all year. As an organization, we celebrate inclusivity and social engagement, and nothing does that better than our Prom with a Purpose, where such an eclectic mix of people come together to celebrate our mission of creating a stigma-free community.”

The center’s Barbara Lee VanHorssen said Prom with a Purpose is a critical fundraiser for the organization, but it’s more than that.

“It is our mission in action,” she said. “It is our opportunity to quite literally remove the barriers of stigma as we come together from all walks of life to celebrate each person’s uniqueness, each person’s story of resiliency and each person’s contributions to the community. Which is why we need to address UnPromming in two ways – by addressing our financial needs with virtual
As details of the new event are developing, businesses and residents can get involved in sponsoring and purchasing tickets. Donations can be made online by visiting www.momentumcentergh.org/donate.

Prom with a Purpose is set to return in 2021.

Since Gov. Gretchen Whitmer issued the Stay Home, Stay Safe executive order, The Momentum Center’s staff and volunteers have continued to engage with members remotely by practicing “physical” distancing as opposed to “social” distancing. A Facebook group was established to share resources, updates and materials. Through the online group, staff and volunteers livestream activities such as yoga, poetry, bingo, journal writing and cooking. Members who don’t have access to technology received care kits, and staff members are available and on-call during business hours.