

Music to help make Greene a little safer

Friday, February 13, 2014 edition of the Greene County Record

BY ALEX CARRIER Record Correspondent

In Nothing quite warms a winter evening or sets the toes to tappin' like live bluegrass and gospel music.

Add to that a way to make the community of Greene even safer, and it's a good time indeed. At 7 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 22, bluegrass and gospel groups The Deanes and The Churchmen will perform in the Performing Arts Center at William Monroe High School in Stanardsville.

Both of these groups are area favorites known for helping in the community with performances that bring out the fun in everyone.

Advance tickets are \$10. Tickets at the door on the night of the event are \$12. Children 12 and under get in for free. Tickets can be purchased at the Music Store in Ruckersville and Noon Whistle Pottery in Stanardsville. The concession stand at the school will be open for purchase of refreshments.

Proceeds from this event help the Public Safety Foundation of Greene County (www.psfgc.org). Though fairly new, the group has actively worked toward making Greene County a home, safe, home. The Foundation received its 501(c)3 nonprofit status in 2013.

The mission of the foundation is to work in partnership with the Greene County Sheriff's Office, the Courts and community organizations to "fund programs that will enhance public safety and community well-being," according to its website.

Funding requires fundraising and that is where the Feb. 22 concert comes in.

"Our first project as an organization was with Lowe's in Ruckersville to get items to raffle at the Greene County Fair, including an emergency generator," explains Carl Schmitt, foundation president. "The money raised from that was used to help [Sheriff Steve Smith] put together the KidsKards program."

Money from the Foundation helped buy the specialized equipment needed to create the credit card style ID cards for children. The cards provide parents and guardians with ready information on their child to use in emergency situations.

"We used the balance of the funds raised to work with the Safety Center in Ruckersville to put together crisis response kits for Greene County schools," Schmitt says. "These are basically 'souped up' first-aid kits with extras that would allow adults to keep the situation, such as a

person with a serious injury, under control until EMS arrives.” (Kits include items such as light sticks and pressure bandages.)

“Our goal is to outfit every classroom in the school system with these kits but we have only had the money for half of what we need,” Schmitt says. “That is why we need fundraisers like this concert.

“That is what we have done so far but we have two other major projects in mind for our funds,” he says. “One is to help the sheriff as he develops an auxiliary deputy program, which already has three people in extensive training.

“Once the auxiliary deputies are on the job and working alongside deputies, they will need uniforms and equipment including Kevlar vests,” Schmitt adds. “That costs about \$2,000 per person and we are trying to raise the funds to help offset some or all of that cost.”

“Out other major project is working with [Greene County Commonwealth’s Attorney] Ron Morris to help set up his Youth Development Council,” says Schmitt. “They are working to provide after school and summer programs for kids in Greene.

“The Public Safety Foundation has the view that safety is more than the deputies,” Schmitt states. “Public safety comes by way of many things including keeping kids involved. But obviously you can’t do these things without the funding.”