



The Celtic Tenors Concert Scheduled for March 19

RHI Legacy Foundation will present The Celtic Tenors in concert at 7:30 PM on Saturday, March 19 at the Performing Arts Center at Isothermal Community College.

The St. Patrick's weekend performance will include traditional Irish music, along with opera and contemporary music with folk, rock and pop influences. The award-winning recording and touring group has captivated listeners from around the world and is well-loved for their incredible talent, coupled with good-humored interaction with their audiences.

RHI Legacy Foundation will use the proceeds from the concert to support the Backpack Program in the local schools. The Foundation has invested heavily in the success of the program for the 2015-2016 school year with grant funding to employ personnel and fund-raising efforts for food items used in the program.

The current need in our local schools is well-documented, according Lisa Bralley, Backpack Program Coordinator for our county. The program serves approximately 950 students each week at a cost of nearly \$250,000 per school year. RHI Legacy Foundation awarded grant funding to the Rutherford County Schools Education Foundation for \$100,000 to supply 405 of those bags. Food and monetary donations from individuals, faith groups and other organizations cover 545 more students. An additional 105 students are waiting for funds to meet their needs.

Jill Miracle, Executive Director for RHI Legacy Foundation, explained. "Additional support is required to complete Backpack funding for this school year, and, unfortunately, the need will simply be repeated in the coming year. We are presenting the concert to bring the community together to highlight the needs of students involved in the Backpack Program." Food and nutrition are key concerns for the Foundation. Their mission is to improve the health and wellness of people who live in Rutherford County. "Adequate nutrition insures that students perform better in school and leads to a healthier future for our schoolchildren. We want to provide a significant, measurable and permanent impact on these students."

Local businesses have donated gift certificates to be used for door prizes after the concert. Attendees who bring Backpack food items, such as individual cans of tuna, fruit or pasta will be entered into a drawing for these gifts. Two students, Matthew Bennett of East Rutherford and Bekah Hopkins of Chase, will be assisting with the food drive as part of their senior projects concerning food insecurity.

Kim Deaver, a Rutherford County music teacher, is preparing 40 elementary students to accompany The Celtic Tenors during the concert.

Reserved seating tickets prices begin at \$25 for adults and \$8 for students. Call the ICC Box Office at 828-286-9990 or visit FoundationShows.org to purchase tickets.