

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **MENTAL HEALTH AMERICA OF SUMMIT COUNTY AND SUMMIT COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY JOIN FORCES FOR COMMUNITY-WIDE EVENT.**

Mental Health America of Summit County (MHASC) is proud to announce that the Perkins Stone Mansion, home of the Summit County Historical Society, will be the site of the 2007 Teddy Bear Extravaganza to be held on August 3-5, 2007. "This event is a wonderful opportunity for the families, church groups, civic organizations, and youth programs to relax, tour a beautiful home that is filled to the brim with teddy bears, and enjoy some family time together," explained Angela Tucker Cooper, MHASC Executive Director.

In its 14<sup>th</sup> year, the Teddy Bear Extravaganza is a two-day event during which guests can take a tour and view teddy bears of all kinds. From life-sized to miniatures, these bears come in all styles, fabrics, colors and materials, and are placed in wonderfully adorable vignettes throughout the home. Guests will enjoy the "Beary Potter" room, "Teddy Town USA", "Pooh Corners", the "Akron Reads" room and more! Under a special tent on the grounds, children's activities will be available such as free punch and cookies, story-telling, face painting, a visit from Pooh and friends and additional surprises. Available throughout the event will be the Three Bears Café, providing light lunch items, desserts, and drinks.

Mental Health America of Summit County produces this event each year in support of its Teddy Bear Patrol program. This program raises monies to purchase new teddy bears which are provided to the Summit County Sheriff's Department, local police officers, fire rescue personnel, emergency disaster services of the American Red Cross and the CARE Center at Akron Children's Hospital. These kind professionals give teddy bears to children for comfort during a crisis.

Hours and ticket prices for the Teddy Bear Extravaganza weekend are as follows: The Preview Party will be held on Friday, August 3<sup>rd</sup> and begins at 7:00 p.m. The Preview Party includes a preview tour, drinks, dinner, and live music. Tickets are \$75 and are available to the public, but must be purchased in advance from MHASC at 330-923-0688 or visit [www.teddybearpicnic.org](http://www.teddybearpicnic.org).

The Teddy Bear Extravaganza will open for tours on Saturday, August 4th and Sunday, August 5<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Tickets may be purchased at the

door and are \$10 per adult, \$5 per child (ages 3 and under free). Group rates are \$8 per adult, and \$3 per child for groups of 10 or more.

The Perkins Stone Mansion is located at 465 South Portage Path at the corner of Copley Road. Parking is available on-site at no cost.

Established in 1956, Mental Health America of Summit County (MHASC) provides information, education and advocacy for mental health system clients, their families and the general public. As an affiliate of the National Mental Health America and as a member of the MHA's Ohio Public Policy Council, MHASC is part of a network of professionals and volunteers committed to improving America's mental health and seeking victory over mental illness. To learn more about Mental Health America of Summit County please call (800)991-1311 or visit the web site at [www.mentalhealthassociationofsummitcounty.org](http://www.mentalhealthassociationofsummitcounty.org).

Founded in 1924, the Summit County Historical Society is a private, 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation. Their mission is to preserve and interpret the history of Summit County and Akron, and to educate regional communities about the people and events that have shaped our rich history. To learn more about the Summit County Historical Society please call (330)535-1120 or visit the web site at [www.summithistory.org](http://www.summithistory.org).

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