

**Press Release: Chris Crytzer**  
**March 29, 2010**

### **Farm Stand To Resume In McKees Rocks**

The farm stand inside the Father Ryan Arts Center will resume on Thursday, June 10. Located at 420 Chartiers Avenue, the market will be open on Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. until October 14. This is the second year for the indoor farm stand.

Richard (Dick) O'Toole Jr., of Hampton Township, is partnering with Kaelin Farms, Franklin Park, again this year to provide fresh fruits and vegetables for local residents. He is executive director of the Dr. Richard O'Toole Pediatric Fund, a nonprofit organization dedicated to healthier pregnancies and healthier children, achieved through educational and nutritional initiatives for women of childbearing years and their partners.

According to Mr. O'Toole, poor nutrition is the number one confounding variable to healthy pregnancies. "Fresh green vegetables contain the minerals and folates needed for healthy gestation," he added.

Dick operates another educational and nutritional farm stand program at the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) office in downtown Pittsburgh. The Father Ryan Arts Center is a program of Focus On Renewal, which has a WIC office in its Sto-Rox Family Health Center. WIC participants and seniors who receive farm vouchers and other forms of food assistance will be able to redeem them at the Father Ryan Arts Center farm stand.

The 19-week farm stand is in line with two of First Lady Michelle Obama's initiatives: getting parents more informed about nutrition and making healthy foods more affordable and accessible for families.

A high quality reusable shopping bag will be given at no charge to all WIC clients.

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The Dr. Richard R. O'Toole Pediatric Fund was formed in 2007 to develop new educational programs for families, women of childbearing age and their partners. Dr. O'Toole (1909-1978) practiced pediatrics in the Pittsburgh area and was concerned with children's health and wellness. For more information, please call 412.487.0816.

Focus On Renewal is celebrating 40 years of service to the Sto-Rox community. For program information, call 412.771.6460 or visit [www.forstorox.org](http://www.forstorox.org). The Father Ryan Arts Center is a multi-level facility in the heart of McKees Rocks. Its mission is to inspire, empower and enlighten local residents through the arts by developing the spirit, mind and body of all who participate. Call 412.771.3052 or visit [www.fatherryanartscenter.org](http://www.fatherryanartscenter.org).