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**McLaren Northern Michigan**

**Giant inflatable heart, bounce houses, treats all part of the McLaren Northern Michigan Foundation July 13 celebration in downtown Petoskey**

PETOSKEY – Step inside a colossal human heart and learn what makes it tick. Tour a mobile heart and vascular diagnostic unit that helps save lives across northern Michigan. Exercise on jump houses and enjoy tasty snacks. Jam to tunes played by the Petoskey Steel Drum Band Alumni. McLaren Northern Michigan Foundation is hosting these activities and more as part of the “Building the Future of Health Care Capital Campaign” celebration on Friday, July 13, in Pennsylvania Park in downtown Petoskey.

All activities are family- and child-friendly, free, and take place from 3-7 p.m. on the lawn of Pennsylvania Park. The celebration kicks off the capital campaign to support the exciting journey McLaren Northern Michigan is taking to build the future of health care for our northern Michigan community.

The project is comprised of both new construction and renovation of existing space, all designed to enhance the patient experience. The new 170,000 square foot wing will house 92 private rooms, new and expanded Intensive Care and Cardiovascular Units, and a new surgery suite featuring larger and technologically advanced operating rooms. Renovated space will include converting current dual-occupancy patient rooms to private rooms, with the ability to flex back to double occupancy as needed.

McLaren Northern Michigan President and CEO David M. Zechman, FACHE, is pleased to share the expansion plans with the community at the July 13 celebration. “This is an opportunity to involve local and seasonal residents, as well as visitors, who want to learn more about how our expansion plans will make McLaren Northern Michigan the

best place for physicians to practice, for colleagues to work, and, most importantly, for patients to receive care,” Zechman said.

“All enhancements are designed to improve our patients’ experience,” added Patrick J. Schulte, CFRE, Vice President and Chief Development Officer for McLaren Northern Michigan Foundation. “Throughout our hospital’s long history the generosity of our local and seasonal residents has played a major role in our ability to provide advanced care that’s on the leading edge of medicine. As a non-profit entity, we are grateful to our many past donors and look forward to partnering with our community on this next endeavor.”

One of the major attractions at the July 13 celebration is the MEGA Heart, a large-scale, interactive, educational model of the human heart designed to help teach people about the risks, symptoms, nature, and causes of various diseases. McLaren Northern Michigan cardiology staff will be on hand to help guide and walk participants through the 21-foot long, 15-foot wide, and 12-foot high inflatable heart.

“The MEGA heart offers an up-close, exciting window into the workings of one of the body’s most complex organ. As one of the leading heart hospitals in the entire country, McLaren Northern Michigan is pleased to be able to offer this type of fun learning opportunity to our community,” stated Marla Clark, DNP, RN, Senior Director of Heart & Vascular Clinic at McLaren Northern Michigan.

Among its many accolades for quality patient care, McLaren Northern Michigan is ranked among the nation’s Top 50 Cardiovascular Hospitals by IBM Watson Health, a leader in evaluating quality and clinical outcomes. This ranking places McLaren Northern Michigan among a small and elite group of hospitals out of over 1,000 analyzed locally, in the state of Michigan, and from all across the country.

Along with the MEGA Heart, participants on Friday, July 13, can tour the Mobile Heart and Vascular Diagnostic Unit and learn the life-saving procedures offered to patients across northern Michigan.

Children are invited to exercise on two jump houses, show their creativity by painting rocks and enjoy ice cream courtesy of Kilwin’s of Petoskey. In addition, participants can learn sun-safety tips, see demonstrations on infant, child, and adult CPR, make and enjoy healthy “butterfly” snacks of celery, pretzels, raisins, and cream cheese spread, or enter to win one of several exciting prizes.

Throughout the event, McLaren Northern Michigan staff will be on hand to discuss our many services, the exciting new expansion project, and how community members can

support our efforts toward Building the Future of Health Care through the capital campaign.

**Schedule of Events for 3-7 p.m., Friday, July 13**

**McLaren Northern Michigan Foundation - Celebration for “Building the Future of Health Care” Project**

**Pennsylvania Park, Downtown Petoskey**

3-7 p.m. MEGA Heart, Bounce Houses, Additional Educational Displays

5-6 p.m. Free Kilwin's Ice Cream (while supplies last)

5-7 p.m. Steel Drum Band Alumni

6 p.m. Brief Program Announcing McLaren Northern Michigan Expansion Project

*All activities are free and open to the public. The 3-7 p.m. events precede the Petoskey Rocks nightly activities.*

**PHOTOS/CAPTIONS:**

1. MEGA Inflatable Heart
  2. Diagnostic Unit
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1. McLaren Northern Michigan Foundation is excited to bring the MEGA Heart to the 3-7 p.m., July 13, celebration in Pennsylvania Park, downtown Petoskey. This portable, inflatable, walk-through heart exhibit allows visitors to enter through the largest vein that feeds the heart (the superior vena cava) and exit through the largest artery that leaves the heart (the aorta).
  2. From 3-7 p.m. on Friday, July 13, in Pennsylvania Park in downtown Petoskey, participants can tour the Mobile Heart and Vascular Diagnostic Unit and learn about the life-saving procedures offered to residents throughout northern Michigan.

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**About McLaren Northern Michigan**

McLaren Northern Michigan, a subsidiary of McLaren Health Care, is a 202-bed, regional referral center located in Petoskey, serving residents in 22 counties across northern lower Michigan and the eastern part of the Upper Peninsula. Over 230 physicians represent nearly all medical and surgical specialties, enabling full-service care with an emphasis on heart, cancer, orthopedics, and neurosciences services. For additional information, visit [mclaren.org/northern](http://mclaren.org/northern).