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Flame Brings Rock N Roll to UCS 50th Birthday

Bennington and Manchester, Vt. — The inspiring rock group Flame will celebrate United Counseling Service's 50th birthday with a performance in Bennington.

"Each of the band members has overcome challenges to perform," Director of Community Relations Robert Pini said. "Flame is incredible — a delight for the entire family. You'll never forget this band."

Flame will appear Friday, September 19 at 7pm at the Mt. Anthony Union High School Auditorium, 301 Park Street, in Bennington. Advance tickets are \$7 and \$10 at the door.

Michelle King is the talented lead vocalist and guitarist. Her beautiful voice and tremendous range allow her to sing rock, blues, country, and pop classics. She amazes and inspires people of all ages with her incredible voice and playing.

As a child she was an early performer. She would run up on stage where her mother worked and sing into a microphone. A doctor told her mother that she was autistic and mentally challenged and would probably never be able to have conversations. King has since become one of the most expressive, outgoing stage performers around, connecting with audiences like no one else.

She has a great ability to understand music and instruments. Recently she added harmonica to her talents and incorporates it into many songs. Even when she's not performing, King is playing music and giving music lessons or going to hear other musicians.

"When people see Flame perform, they come away with a completely different idea of what it means to have a disability," Flame Manager Maria Nestle said. "Flame is really changing the world through music because they are helping people to go beyond the stereotypes."

David LaGrange, the band's drummer, attended school for the blind, where he learned how to play the drums. A talented vocalist, LaGrange has a longstanding love affair with music and creates masterful harmonies.

In addition to his love for music LaGrange is a devout Catholic who loves to share his faith. His extraordinary ability to play drums despite being blind and mentally challenged is a gift that he loves to share with others.

Scott Stuart also combines percussion and big vocals for the band. A huge country music fan and composer, he loves entertaining and doesn't let cerebral palsy or blindness keep him from using his big country voice to get an audience going.

You can experience the Flame phenomenon at Mount Anthony Union High School before the group's headline appearance in New York City's Central Park at the National Buddy Walk. It's truly a rock concert for all ages.

To find out more about this exciting and inspiring band, visit their official web site, www.flametheband.com.

Advance tickets to see Flame in Bennington are available for \$7 at the Bennington Bookshop, Bennington Chamber, Northshire Bookstore, and Manchester Chamber.

You can also get tickets by phone. Call Barbara Dooling at United Counseling Service, 802-442-5491, x313 to get your seats now.

United Counseling Service serves children, adults, families, and seniors through nationally recognized counseling, early care and education, and clinical support that changes lives. Visit www.ucsvt.org to find out more. In 2008, UCS is celebrating 50 years of providing skilled care to help people improve their quality of life.

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