

# UCS News Release

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## Flame Brings Rock N Roll Inspiration to Bennington

Bennington and Manchester, Vt. — Flame, the Band, a nationally touring cover band will perform in Bennington on Friday, September 30 at 7 pm.

From its start in 2003 in Gloversville, NY, Flame the Band has moved from local gigs to headlining legendary venues, such as the storied Apollo Theatre in New York City, the Parthenon in Athens, Greece, and at the Special Olympics in Idaho.

A 10-person ensemble, Flame is the largest touring band in the world made up entirely of people with disabilities.

“When people see Flame, 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 and helping people go beyond stereotypes.”

The healing power of music has affected each band member deeply.

Lead vocalist and guitar player Michelle King is an engaging performer with a powerful voice capable of a wide variety of styles from Tracey Chapman to Garth Brooks. Yet before she began playing with Flame the Band, her autism made it difficult for her to be around other people. When she was diagnosed, doctors thought she would probably never be able to have conversations.

Drummer David LaGrange studied music and earned a masters degree, yet because of disabilities was discouraged from a music career until he began playing with Flame. Blind and cognitively impaired, LaGrange now lives out his dream as a drummer for a major touring rock band.

In Bennington, Flame the Band will play at Sacred Heart St. Francis de Sales Parish Center, 238 West Main Street at the corner of Benmont Ave. Tickets are on sale at the Bennington Bookshop, Bennington Chamber, Northshire Bookstore, and Manchester Chamber.

Or get your tickets now by calling United Counseling Service at 802-442-5491, x313. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 under 12, and free for 5 and under.

Ever since the band began, Flame has inspired audiences by demonstrating the healing power of music.

Flame’s rhythm and boogie gets feet moving and hearts pumping. Flame also helps people to come to grips with disabilities, enabling those with disabilities to see they, too, can overcome barriers and achieve goals and dreams. Flame’s performance demonstrates that people with disabilities also have abilities, skills, and talents, breaking the typical stereotypes.

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[united counseling service of bennington county, inc.](http://www.ucsvt.org)

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The group has come out with two hit CDs and a collection of holiday music. To find out more about this exciting band for all ages, visit their official web site, [www.flametheband.com](http://www.flametheband.com).

United Counseling Service serves children, adults, families, and seniors through nationally recognized counseling, early care and education, and clinical support. Visit [www.ucsvt.org](http://www.ucsvt.org) to find out more.

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