

Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



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United Way of Abilene Announces Key City Rhythm & Blues Festival

Second annual event to be held April 29 and 30

Abilene, TX – United Way of Abilene will hold the second annual Key City Rhythm & Blues Festival on the evenings of April 29 and 30, 2016 at the Nelson Park Festival Gardens, E.S. 11th and Loop 322 in Abilene. Following a successful inaugural event in 2015, the Festival has expanded to also include a Gospel Brunch on May 1, 2016. The 2015 Festival generated \$26,000 to benefit United Way of Abilene Community Partner programs.

The festival, which is a ticketed event, will feature some of the top names in blues music including Tommy Castro & the Painkillers, Samantha Fish, Lisa Mann, Mike Zito, and Albert Cummings. Each artist offers a unique, soulful sound that will appeal to attendees of all ages. The first Gospel Brunch will feature local artist Kirk House, as well as the New Light Baptist Church Choir. Several local performers will take both the main and second stage this year including KT and the Blues Scientists, Kirk House, Dave Hobbs Band, Ill Lobo, and Happy Fat.

“The artist line-up for the 2016 festival is top-notch,” said Jim Barr, Barr Roofing President and Key City Rhythm & Blues Festival Committee Chairman. “You will not want to miss this event!”

Festival gates will open at 5:00 p.m. each night evening. Ticket prices range from \$25 to \$75. Children 12 and under will be admitted free with a ticketed adult. Tickets may be purchased online at keycityblues.com. Food and beverages will be on hand each night of the festival from a variety of local food trucks.

“We were delighted with the success of our inaugural festival and cannot wait to see what this year holds,” said Cathy Ashby, United Way of Abilene President/CEO. “Proceeds from the festival will help our partners continue to focus on education, income, and health – the building blocks for strong families and thriving communities.”

Sponsorship options, volunteer opportunities, and tickets are all currently available. The Courtyard/Towneplace Suites Abilene Northeast, 2141 Scottish Road, will serve as the host hotel for the event. Preferred rate accommodations can be made by calling 325-673-0400. Shuttle service will also be available.

Artists

Please see attached Media Kit for artist biographies.

Line Up

Friday, April 29

5:15/between sets – Ill Lobo (second stage)

6:00 - Kirk House

7:00 - KT and the Blues Scientists

8:15 - Mike Zito and the Wheel

9:30 - Samantha Fish

Saturday, April 30

5:15/between sets – Happy Fat (second stage)

6:00 – Dave Hobbs Band

7:00 – Albert Cummings

8:15 – Lisa Mann

9:30 – Tommy Castro and the Painkillers

Stay Connected

Key City Rhythm & Blues Festival on Facebook: www.facebook.com/keycityblues

Key City Rhythm & Blues on the Web: www.keycityblues.com

Official Event Hashtag: #keycityblues

United Way of Abilene on Facebook: www.facebook.com/unitedwayabilene

United Way of Abilene on the Web: www.unitedwayabilene.org

United Way of Abilene Twitter Handle: @uwabilene

United Way of Abilene Instagram Handle: @unitedwayabilene

Hashtag: #uwabilene

Key City Rhythm & Blues Festival Sponsors (includes in-kind; data as of 2/29/2016)

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About United Way of Abilene

United Way of Abilene works to improve lives and empower the community by mobilizing the caring power of the 19 counties of West Central Texas. United Way of Abilene supports the work of 25 non-profit Community Partners in the areas of Education, Income, and Health.