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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **SAMA-LIGONIER VALLEY TO CELEBRATE 20<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY WITH FAMILY DAY PROGRAM**

Ligonier – The Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art at Ligonier Valley will celebrate its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary on Saturday, September 9 with a Family Day program open to the public free of charge. The carnival-like event will offer games and activities for all ages. The program begins at 1 p.m. and continues until approximately 5 p.m.

Children will be entertained by a variety of arts and crafts activities and games, including a duck pond and face painting. Tom Beckman will perform children's music, and Kit's Music will provide children with an opportunity to try their hand at playing several musical instruments. Local non-profits have been invited to participate in the event, and Fort Ligonier will be among those offering children's activities.

Parents also will find several activities to enjoy. String Thyme and Robert Roush will provide live music, and a variety of food vendors will be on hand. A small silent auction, plus 50/50 and basket raffles will be located inside the Museum, while on the lawn several artists will be providing demonstrations and selling their work. Jaime Cooper, Melissa Davenport, Rita Haldeman, Joe King, Evgeny Krayushkin (ZheKa), Tom McCarty, Mandy and Paul Sirofchuck and Bob Zabrosky are among the artists who will be participating in Family Day.

The Museum's two special 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary exhibitions – *Two Decades' Delights* and *Art from the Heart* – will be on view, providing visitors an opportunity to reminisce on many of the artists and exhibitions that have been mounted by the Museum over its first twenty years, while also showcasing art by many of the individuals who played a role in the founding of the Ligonier Valley Museum.

The Museum gallery also will be the site for another special exhibition. Over the year, artists have been painting the Museum and its grounds for the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary plein air painting contest, *Paint Us*. Those works will be exhibited and sold at the Family Day program. Prizes also will be announced at the event.

Another highlight of the program will be the official dedication of the Museum's new sculpture garden. Consisting of five sculptures and three benches by the late Josefa Filkosky, a renowned art professor at Seton Hill University, as well as additional garden beds, the new sculpture garden will be located adjacent to the Museum.

“As site coordinator, I am privileged to be hosting our Family Day program at SAMA-Ligonier Valley,” said Kristin Miller. “This is our culminating event in our year-long twentieth anniversary celebration. The Museum opened twenty years ago with a family day program, and so we thought this would be the perfect way to celebrate our twentieth anniversary. This Family Day event, open to everyone free of charge, is our way of saying thanks to the community for all of its support over the last two decades. I invite all of our friends, neighbors and patrons to join us for a day of exciting and enjoyable activities for all ages.”

The Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art at Ligonier Valley is located at One Boucher Lane and Route 711 South in Ligonier. Hours of operation are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and 1 to 5 p.m. weekends. The Museum is a handicapped accessible facility and is open to the public free of charge. For additional information, please call the Museum at (724) 238-6015 or visit [www.sama-art.org](http://www.sama-art.org).