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Hoosick Falls Celebrates St. Patrick's Day Amid a Renewed Commitment to the Armory's Purpose as a Community Space

Hoosick Falls, NY—On Saturday, March 16, 2019, the Hoosick Falls Armory was filled with people of all ages from all parts of the Hoosick community and beyond, who came together to celebrate St. Patrick's Day. The Armory's role as an integral part of the community was evident and its renewed importance as a place for people to gather for events and activities was palpable.

Earlier this year, the Hoosick Armory, Youth Center, and Community Coalition (HAYC3) announced the discontinuation of youth programming due to financial challenges. Since then, many have asked what that means for the organization and the Hoosick Falls Armory. There are four Board of Director members of the non-profit organization doing business as HAYC3: Amanda Rudzik, Rick Tinkham, Dr. Andrew Cowder, and Cathy Gee Graney. Currently there are no paid employees. The regular day-to-day operations of the building are being taken care of by Board members, with the help of several dedicated volunteers and supporters.

Hoosick Rising, which has recently been restructured and is now an independent organization, has stepped in to help as well, with the goal of re-invigorating the Armory. Along with other groups and individuals, HAYC3 and Hoosick Rising are working to implement inclusive events and activities that take place at the Armory and that are important to the entire community. Maintenance of the physical structure continues to be a priority.

Already, the building has been hosting pickleball groups sponsored by the Town of Hoosick Community Center several days a week, as well as smaller group meetings and programs. Tenants continue to rent space and other spaces are still available for ongoing rental, enabling the Board of Directors to meet the fiduciary requirements necessary to keep the building running and healthy. The Armory continues to be rented for birthday parties, weddings, and other special events, and used for exercise walking on cold-weather days. And, of course, there will continue to be community-wide events open to the public just like Saturday's very successful St. Patrick's Day celebration.

The beautiful brick structure that stands at the heart of the community, and is a symbol of its strength, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is celebrating 130 years of operation. In honor of its history and importance, the Board wants to assure the people of Hoosick Falls that the Armory belongs to the community and it is committed to keeping the Armory viable for all in line with its mission statement.

Mission: *Hoosick Armory, Youth Center, and Community Coalition is a non-profit organization whose mission is to foster the well-being of our community. This is accomplished through a variety of initiatives including: Rural revival, arts, wellness, youth and community programs; small business incubation; community events and outreach; and community partnerships.*