



South Bend Common Council

Sharon McBride

Third (3rd) District Councilmember

AMENDED PRESS RELEASE

MEMORANDUM

TO: MEMBERS OF THE COMMON COUNCIL
FROM: SHARON MCBRIDE, THIRD (3RD) DISTRICT CITY COUNCILMEMBER
DATE: WEDNESDAY, JULY 22, 2026
SUBJECT: THIRD (3RD) DISTRICT COUNCILMEMBER SHARON MCBRIDE INVITES COMMUNITY TO H.O.P.E COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Third (3rd) District Councilmember Sharon McBride Invites Community to H.O.P.E. Community Connections

South Bend, Indiana — Third (3rd) District Councilmember **Sharon McBride** invites the community to attend **H.O.P.E. Community Connections**, a special community engagement event taking place before the **Midwest Invitational Rodeo** on **Saturday, August 1, 2026**, from **3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.** at the **St. Joseph County 4-H Fairgrounds**.

Presented in recognition of **Minority Mental Health Awareness Month**, **H.O.P.E. Community Connections** reflects a shared commitment to **Healing, Outreach, Purpose, and Empowerment (H.O.P.E.)** by creating a welcoming space where entertainment, education, and community engagement come together to promote mental wellness, reduce stigma, and connect individuals and families with behavioral health resources.

Rather than asking the community to come to a behavioral health program, **H.O.P.E. Community Connections** brings behavioral health into a community celebration—creating an inviting environment where conversations about mental wellness can begin naturally through music, fellowship, and shared experiences.

From **3:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m.**, attendees will experience the **H.O.P.E. Musical Tribute Experience**, presented by **Pastor David Rial Buggs, Sr.** and **LaRissa Chism Buggs, M.D.**, of **Cultivating Life**. **Featuring live music performed by singers and musicians representing some of the area's finest talent**, this unique presentation blends contemporary inspirational music, personal testimony, faith, therapeutic communication, and behavioral health education to create an experience that encourages hope, builds resilience, and fosters meaningful dialogue about mental wellness.

Cultivating Life's commitment to community behavioral health extends across the lifespan through initiatives such as **H.O.P.E. (Healing, Outreach, Purpose, and Empowerment)**, which equips trusted adults to better support children, youth, and families, and **Senior C.I.R.C.L.E.S. (Community Integration & Resource Coordination for Local**

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Elders), an interdisciplinary initiative that supports older adults living with serious mental illness and the caregivers who care for them.

Although the event is held in recognition of **Minority Mental Health Awareness Month**, all members of the community are welcome. Behavioral health providers, substance use recovery organizations, crisis response agencies, youth and family service organizations, peer support organizations, and other community resource providers are encouraged to host resource tables so that attendees may receive information and be connected with available services and supports.

Following H.O.P.E. Community Connections, attendees are invited to enjoy additional community activities throughout the afternoon and evening, including a fashion show presented by DW Styles at 5:00 p.m., line dancing with Lorenzo Davis beginning at 6:00 p.m., and the Midwest Invitational Rodeo at 7:00 p.m.

Admission to the Midwest Invitational Rodeo includes access to H.O.P.E. Community Connections, as well as all other scheduled activities. For tickets, visit the rodeo ticket link or call 574-514-0053.

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