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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – photo included

Lake Hopatcong Foundation to host virtual auction

Lake Hopatcong, N.J. (July 13, 2020) -The Lake Hopatcong Foundation (LHF) will host a "Virtual Auction" in place of their annual in-person gala, due to COVID-19. The auction will be open for bids at LHFAuction.givesmart.com on Tuesday, July 21, through Thursday, July 23, closing at 9 p.m. Hudson Farm Foundation is the premier sponsor.

"We're disappointed we won't be able to gather with friends and supporters for our annual gala, like we have in the past. We designed this new approach so we can still give lake residents a chance to gather online, while having an opportunity to meet some new people and make new friends," said LHF Executive Director Jessica K. Murphy.

Two livestream events are planned in conjunction with the auction, including a "Kickoff" on Monday, July 20, 7 p.m., and a closing "Set Sail Celebration" on Thursday, July 23, 7 p.m. Both are free, open to the public, and will appear on the LHF Facebook page and YouTube channel.

The livestreams will include special guests, musical numbers, door prizes and other entertainment, as well as an inside look at how former Lake Hopatcong Yacht Club Commodore Mike Smith makes his celebrated Bolognese sauce.

"We'll have a lot of fun surprises during our livestream events," said LHF Development Director Roberta Schmidt. "We hope lots of people will join our online party, be inspired to bid on some exciting auction items and experiences, and support our worthwhile initiatives."

Items up for bid include wine tastings on the lake, private concerts, art, and photography, as well as some useful everyday items, such as a septic pump-out and a

delivery of organic topsoil. Experiences include clay shooting, cocktail parties, clambakes, eco-cruises, and guided hikes and paddles. There are also boat rentals and plenty of gift cards to local businesses.

Entries in a "Split the Pot" cash raffle will also be available, with three winners dividing 50 percent of the proceeds. Each ticket is \$100 and only 300 will be made available, creating a potential first prize of up to \$7,500. For tickets, call 973-663-2500.

All money raised will support the Foundation's many programs and initiatives focused on fostering a vibrant and healthy Lake Hopatcong and its surrounding community.

The Lake Hopatcong Foundation is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit dedicated to protecting the lake environment and enhancing the lake experience by bringing together public and private resources to encourage a culture of sustainability and stewardship on and around New Jersey's largest lake, for this and future generations. To learn more, visit lakehopatcongfoundation.org.

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