

## Hoodstock XIV Raises \$82,000 for Kids and Adults with Disabilities!

Approximately 400 guests were in attendance, wearing jeans and tie-dye, at Hoodstock XIV, Unified Community Connections' family-friendly music festival fundraiser, held on Saturday, October 7th at the American Visionary Art Museum. Performances by local bands included Roses n Rust, once again this year's headliner, with Synergy Financial Group Co-Founder Steve Spurrier on drums and his daughter Claire on vocals. Additional bands included The Wafflers and 33 West, with music ranging from classic to modern artists of the 1960's and 70's with a splash of contemporary. Dinner, beer, wine, dancing, raffles and a silent auction added to the fun.



*Steve Spurrier and his daughter Claire pictured above.*

In addition, Baltimore Ravens Senior Advisor for Player Development and Unified board member O.J. Brigance presented this year's Samuel A. Tucker Memorial Can Do Award to Nelson Fuentes, saying what a positive role model Nelson is as he continually works to improve his independence. Unified's CEO Diane Coughlin spoke about the meaning of this award and how Samuel Tucker exemplified how we are defined by our abilities not our disabilities. Nelson thanked all the many people who have supported him and allowed him to become the person he is today, and how they changed his life.

Hoodstock began in 2004 with Russ Causey, former Unified board member and lead vocal and guitarist of Roses n Rust, as a neighborhood event and has since grown into a major fundraiser for Unified Community Connections. This year the event raised \$82,000 to help kids and adults with disabilities live independent lives. In the years that Hoodstock has served as a fundraiser, more than \$500,000 has been raised.



*Roses n Rust pictured above.*

Many thanks to Hoodstock committee members Russ Causey, Larry Musher, Barry Brill, Angela Strauch Lane, Matt Lenihan, Carol Sholes, Kathy Bradley, Briana Gregory, Nick Richardson, and Lauren Bussard for all of their hard work in making this event such a success. A sincere thank you also goes to our lead sponsor Melanie Dorsey and her husband Daniel Standish. And a special kudos to all the bands for donating their time, Unified staff and volunteers, our more than 60 generous sponsors, and everyone who came out this year in support of Hoodstock XIV.

*Synergy Financial Group is a proud annual sponsor.*

*Mark your calendars for Hoodstock XV on October 13, 2018 at the American Visionary Art Museum.*