



Contacts: **Robin Taylor**, Public Relations Director, 724-444-5580, rtaylor@stbarnabashealthsystem.com
Shelli Sommariva, Marketing Communications Mgr., 724-443-0800, ext. 5244; ssommariva@stbarnabashealthsystem.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

KEAN QUEST SEMI-FINALISTS ANNOUNCED FOR YOUTH ROUND TWO
Madelyn Buffone of Ernest wins Audience Choice Award

GIBSONIA, Pa. (Richland Twp.), Feb. 23, 2015 – Kean Quest, the popular local vocal competition that boasts singing sensation Jackie Evancho, and Chris Jamison, “The Voice” finalist, continues with its second round of competition in the youth category Sunday afternoon. Entertainers and vocalists ranging in age from 9 to 18 took to the Kean Theatre stage to vie for the coveted title. **Madelyn Buffone**, of Ernest, received the Audience Choice Award during the Kean Quest Talent Search preliminary youth competition for singers ages 18 and under. Buffone performed “Defying Gravity” from “Wicked” the musical.

There is still time to register for the youth competition (ages 18 and under): March 1, March 8, and March 15 by calling 724-625-3770 or by visiting www.KeanQuest.com. The 2015 Kean Quest Talent Search benefits the St. Barnabas Free Care Fund, which provides more than \$6 million to needy patients at St. Barnabas.

Buffone performed with 24 vocalists in the first round of the singing competition **Sunday, Feb. 22** at the Kean Theatre, 5847 Meridian Road. Based on scores from a panel of judges, Buffone joins 13 semi-finalists to compete in the **Sunday, March 22**. The semi-finalists round one are:

- **Olivia Scullion**, (Gibsonia)
- **Emily Maloney**, (Oakdale)
- **Madelyn Buffone**, (Ernest)
- **Lindy Lee**, (Mars)
- **Rachel Sullivan**, (North Huntington)
- **Dana DeSantis**, (Pleasant Hills)
- **Autumn Duckworth**, (Weirton, W.Va.)
- **Anthony Fellowes**, (New Kensington)
- **Abbigail Schmigel**, (McMurray)
- **Tyler Pollock**, (Chicora)
- **Aria Ramanathan**, (Gibsonia)
- **Jane Fusco**, (Ross Twp.)
- **Gretchen Gramm**, (Canonsburg)
- **Mercedes Foster** (Gibsonia)

Contestants are competing for a chance to a recording package with Audible Images, a Grammy award-winning studio; professional head shots with photographer Ray Cordero; one month of music or vocal lessons with In-Tune with the Arts Studio; and the Kean Quest trophy.

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St. Barnabas Health System, Media Relations, 5850 Meridian Rd., Gibsonia, PA 15044-9667

The 5th annual “**Jackie Evancho Award,**” named for international singing sensation Jackie Evancho, will be presented at the Youth Finale slated for Friday, **April 10** at 7 p.m. at the Kean Theatre, 5847 Meridian Road, Gibsonia. The “Jackie Evancho Award” is presented to a contestant who, like Jackie, has competed in Kean Quest for two or more years, works hard, never gives up and continues to follow his or her dreams no matter the outcome of the competition.

About St. Barnabas

St. Barnabas Health System is Pennsylvania's largest health care concern of its kind. In its 115th year, St. Barnabas is like no other - diverse and expansive - meeting the needs of young retirees through those who require hospice. St. Barnabas' spectrum of care includes four retirement communities, three living assistance facilities, two skilled nursing homes, and a community outpatient medical center. Providing more than \$6 million in free care annually, St. Barnabas engages in innovative methods to raise money for its Free Care Fund such as The Jackie Evancho award in its Kean Quest Talent Search, The Kean Theatre, The Crystal Conservatories, Rudolph Auto Repair and Beautiful Buys. For more information visit www.stbarnabashealthsystem.com.

Photos by St. Barnabas.

*Cutline: **Madelyn Buffone**, of Ernest, poses with emcee and Trisha Pittman, WPXI-TV Channel 11 morning news traffic anchor. Buffone received the Kean Quest Audience Choice Award during preliminary round two of the youth singing competition held Feb. 22 at the Kean Theatre in Gibsonia.*