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**DON'T MISS WHOOP! GOLDBERG IN PITTSBURGH!**  
***Limited Tickets Still Available To AVS Benefit Performance Oct. 6***

PITTSBURGH, Pa. — Tickets are still available to see Whoopi Goldberg perform live during Allegheny Valley School's 45th Anniversary Sapphire Celebration.

Ms. Goldberg will take the stage at 8 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 6, at Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh in Oakland. The evening will begin with a cocktail reception at 6:30 p.m. and conclude with coffee and dessert at 9:30 p.m. Proceeds from the performance will benefit Allegheny Valley School's residential, therapeutic, educational, vocational and social programs for individuals with mental retardation.

Ms. Goldberg belongs to an elite group of artists who have won the Grammy (*Whoopi Goldberg*, 1985), the Academy Award (*Ghost*, 1991), the Golden Globe (*The Color Purple*, 1985 and *Ghost*, 1991), the Emmy (host of AMC's *Beyond Tara: the Extraordinary Life of Hattie McDaniel*, 2002), the Tony (producer of *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, 2002), and five Nickelodeon Kids' Choice Awards. A prolific performer and producer, she is equally well known for her humanitarian efforts, including work on behalf of children and the homeless, human rights and education, as well as in the battle against AIDS and substance abuse.

Allegheny Valley School was founded in 1960 to provide care for orphans with mental retardation. Since then, it has grown from a single site agency serving 10 children into a multi-faceted organization with programs and facilities serving more than 900 children, adults and senior citizens with severe/profound mental retardation. Most residents also have multiple physical handicaps and medical complications and some have behavioral management needs.

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First Commonwealth is the event's Sapphire Sponsor. Emerald Sponsors are the Audrey Hillman Fisher Foundation, Henry L. Hillman Foundation, Wabtec Corporation and Tricia and Bill Kassling. Diamond Sponsors are PNC Financial Services Group, Polk Foundation and Carol Lynn Tabas.

Audrey and Tim Fisher and Tricia and Bill Kassling are co-chairs of the event. The Sapphire Celebration Committee includes Parie and John Duggan and Courtney Borntraeger. The event planners are Bonnie Walker Chirigos and Linda Miller of Creative Affairs, Inc.

Tickets for "Sapphire Celebration: An Evening with Whoopi Goldberg" are \$250 per person and seating is limited. Business attire is suggested. Valet parking will be available. To order tickets, call 412-299-2228. Information is also available at [www.avs.net](http://www.avs.net).

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