**PRESS RELEASE**

CLIMB FOR LIFE EVENT TO BENEFIT GAUDENZIA’S WOMEN AND CHILDREN’S PROGRAMS

**HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA, October 6, 2018** –For 39 years, iron man Steve Jones has climbed up Roundtop Mountain in Lewisberry to raise donations for local charities. On November 3, Jones will make his 40th and final trek up the mountain carrying up to 500 pounds on his back. No small feat.

Jones, of Mechanicsburg, will start his ascent with 250 pounds on his barbell. As he makes his way up the mountain, volunteer spotters will add more weight, maxing out at 500 pounds when he reaches the top of the mountain.

Jones has raised thousands of dollars through the years to benefit local individuals and nonprofits in need. Proceeds will support days of addiction treatment and recovery services provided by Gaudenzia, Pennsylvania’s largest nonprofit treatment provider.

“By focusing on the individual in a holistic way that includes the family, Gaudenzia is helping people overcome addiction and get the care they need to have a better quality of life,” said Jones. “As the heroin and opioid epidemic grows, so does the need for Gaudenzia’s programs and services. People’s lives are on the line.”

Hosted by Roundtop Mountain Resort, the Climb for Life begins at 11 a.m. and the public is invited. Funds raised will enable men, women and youth to break the cycle of addiction—especially women and children. Donations will be accepted at the event or checks payable to “Gaudenzia” can be mailed to: Gaudenzia, Climb for Life, 2930 Derry St., Harrisburg, PA 17111.

For more information or sponsor opportunities, contact Jim Ingolio, Gaudenzia Community Affairs, at 717-238-4200 x1117 or jingolio@gaudenzia.org.

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Gaudenzia was founded in 1968 and is the largest non-profit provider of drug and alcohol treatment services in Pennsylvania, operating 161programs throughout Pennsylvania, Maryland and Delaware. Gaudenzia serves over 17,000 individuals per year through its continuum of services to meet the individual’s treatment needs at any phase of their recovery. Services include detoxification, residential, outpatient, intensive outpatient, transitional living, prevention programs for children, and more. Gaudenzia has also pioneered in specialty for unique populations seeking treatment, including parenting women; individuals with HIV/AIDS; and people with co-occurring disorders.