

Living tribute

Bands reunite to support friend battling cancer

BY ANDREA BLUM
THE NEWS-HERALD

A long-awaited reunion of one of Downriver's most popular bands soon will become a reality.

Caruso, a power pop band formed in the 1980s, will reunite for the first time in more than 15 years in support of a close friend.

The group of brothers

— Mike, Joe, David and Rob Caruso

— will headline a six-hour concert Nov. 22 at Pier 500 in Wyandotte in honor of photographer, disc jockey and music lover Dan Drotar, who was diagnosed with throat cancer two years ago.

A friend and patron to many local musicians, artists and writers, Drotar has undergone two rounds of chemotherapy.

As a Ford Motor Co. retiree, he doesn't have to worry about not having

health insurance to pay for the expensive treatments.

But as he prepares for more chemotherapy in January, a group of local musicians are banding together to raise money for others who aren't so fortunate.

The Living Tribute will feature a roster of his musician friends doing what they do best for a good cause.

Nine acts — both past and present bands — were chosen to perform, with four of them reforming exclusively for the event.

Proceeds from the show will benefit The American Cancer Society.

Drotar's courage and relaxed

demeanor has served as a big inspiration to many of his family and friends as he goes through the tough treatment with positivity and humor.

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— David Caruso



Power pop band Caruso, one of the most popular Downriver bands in the 1980s, will reunite after more than 15 years for a Nov. 22 concert in honor of photographer, disc jockey and music lover Dan Drotar, who was diagnosed with throat cancer two years ago.

friend and to also help create awareness, as well as funds for cancer research," David Caruso said.

"It is also about how music can have the power to heal as well as entertain, proving that living life to the fullest is the greatest medicine of all."

In addition to Caruso, other bands on the roster are City Lights, The Strait, Nick Piunti, The

Look, The Pulse, Skeleton Crew, 50 Amp Fuse and Robb Roy.

Four of the bands decided to reunite for the concert

The show will mark the first gig in 25 years for City Lights and the first show since 1996 for Skeleton Crew. Robb Roy will be performing for the first time in five years.

Opening the show at 4 p.m. will be City Lights followed by The Strait

at 4:30 p.m., Nick Piunti at 5 p.m., The Look at 5:30 p.m., The Pulse at 6 p.m., Skeleton Crew at 6:40 p.m., Fifty Amp Fuse at 7:20 p.m. and Robb Roy at 8 p.m.

Caruso rounds out the show from 8:45 to 10 p.m.

Admission is \$10 and doors open at 3:30 p.m. The show will run from 4 to 10 p.m. and is a non-smoking event.

For more information, call 1-734-775-7100.