



Grace Potter concert, art contest planned to celebrate Vermont Mask Day

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ESSEX, Vt. — At just 18 years old, Doug Altshuler is already making a difference.

“The fact that people are really believing in wearing masks is really just a refreshing reminder,” he said.

He’s the brains behind [Masks4Missions](#), a group he founded two months ago. He works with nonprofits to make face masks that benefit the community organizations. Masks4Missions is also the reason Oct. 6 will be recognized as the first, and potentially only, [Vermont Mask Day](#).

“We hope that this event doesn’t have to be an annual event,” said Altshuler.

This year, the events last more than just one day. “I love the example that this mask day, mask week is setting for the rest of the state,” said Doreen Kraft, the executive director of Burlington City Arts. All week long activities are planned across the state. Schools, colleges and webinars will be talking about the importance of mask wearing.

Masks4Missions is also hosting an art competition this week, encouraging people to get creative and decorate a mask. Participants are encouraged to post a picture of their finished mask to social media, where they can win up to \$1,000. The winners of the contest will be announced at Friday night’s socially distanced Grace Potter concert at the Champlain Valley Exposition. [Click here for tickets](#).

“(The concert) will be really the culminating event to bring everyone together and kind of really celebrate this achievement of being the most productive state when it comes to protecting against COVID-19,” said Altshuler.

The events are to remind people about the importance of masking up for each other’s health and safety.