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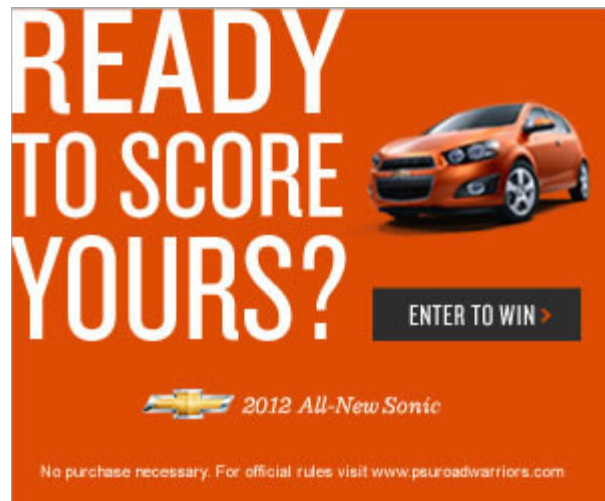
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Roots rocker J.D. Malone doi he can for veterans

November 04, 2011 | By John J. Moser, Of The Morning Call

Philadelphia-area roots rocker J.D. Malone was in the throes of watching a close friend struggle with cancer in spring 2010 when he got an idea.

Malone realized there was nothing huge that he could do to save his friend. But he says he and his wife "ended up doing the things that we could do — like clean his apartment, get keys made, whatever we could do."



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"When he was in the nursing-home phase, I would bring my guitar to play," Malone says in a recent phone call from his home in Phoenix. "I would just go buy the paper, get a cup of coffee ... and read

At 7 p.m. Friday, Malone will carry on that spirit when he and his band will perform a concert at the Veterans Sanctuary, a 32-bed drug, alcohol and post-treatment center at 24 S. Fifth St., Allentown. The show is free to the public.

Malone says the experience with his friend prompted him to start a band that does precisely what it sounds like. The singer gives concerts, or simply performs for their causes, even just a bit.

"That [concept] ended up coming into my everyday life," Malone says. "When you watch the news, I think people always have an inclination to do something."

"That's where 'Do What You Can Do' comes in. Just take it into your own hands. You might not be able to save kids in Africa. But there are things you can do, you know, pick up trash, be a good neighbor. A big part of that philosophy is better to do a little something than to do nothing."

"Do What You Can Do" has done large, multi-artist shows in Nashville, Tenn., do, large or small. At a show a month ago, he had a group of women perform at a table so people could make donations for yarn.

Malone says an area radio station proposed the Veterans Day show.

The sanctuary opened in July. It serves Pennsylvania veterans and provides support to families of its patients.

Malone says he's unsure how long "Do What You Can" will continue. "Do What You Can Do" [is that] even if we did three shows, it's something. Really, it's a mindset of the band, me, even the record company."

The campaign's title comes from a song Malone wrote about the experience. Released in July, the disc is a sprawling, 18-track collection that also features

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Malone was in the duo Malone and McWilliams before the duo split in 2009 as a solo artist. He says he left the duo because "I wanted to have a real good band and work on the live show."

The album, recorded with The Experts, catches the spontaneity of the live show. It's a good representation of where I was as a songwriter at the time. It's good our live show can be."

THE MORNING CALL

"That's really what it boils down to," he says. "Making records is gre together. [That's where] we come alive. We settle in, and things sta

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J.D. MALONE AND THE EXPERTS

•**What:** A Veterans Day concert to benefit the Veterans Sanctuary in

•**When:** 7 p.m. Friday

•**Where:** Veterans Sanctuary, 24 S. Fifth St., Allentown

•**How much:** Free

•**Info:** <http://www.jdmalone.com>, <http://www.treatmenttrends.org>

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