

For Immediate Release

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AUTISM AWARENESS GAMES

April is Autism Awareness Month. The Schulenburg Shorthorns & the Flatonia Bulldogs teamed up with Turtle Wing Foundation once again to dedicate a game to Autism Awareness and to support those children and families affected by Autism. Autism is a developmental disability that affects more than 500,000 people in all parts of our world. Autism statistics from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) identify around 1 in 68 American children as on the autism spectrum—a ten-fold increase in the prevalence in 40 years. Children with autism may have a different way of seeing, hearing or feeling things. They usually have difficulty communicating with others. Some children with autism have trouble talking. There are some people with autism who don't speak at all, others who speak sometimes, and some who talk just like you.

Turtle Wing Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization aimed at helping children with learning challenges in rural areas achieve their full potential. This Foundation was founded by DeeAnn Hooper, in honor of her son, Jack Hooper, who passed away April 5, 2011 of a viral-like syndrome of unknown origin. Jack was diagnosed with high-functioning Autism at the age of six and due to the various academic and social skill supplemental services Jack received; he was a very successful 4th grader at Schulenburg Elementary School.

In 2014, Turtle Wing helped over 150 local children get needed services. The three program areas are Early Intervention, Supplemental Services and Community Education & Advocacy. Some of our highlights include, underwriting the Learning Labs at St. Rose Catholic School in Schulenburg, St. Michael Catholic School in Weimar and Flatonia elementary school in Flatonia. Turtle Wing also underwrites the Hatch Ahead Preschool Program. They support summer programs, teacher trainings and give individual scholarships for clinical and academic services. The recipients have all been from Colorado, Fayette, Lavaca and Lee Counties with academic, social-emotional, behavioral and/or developmental needs.

Turtle Wing Foundation will have two more Autism Awareness Games – Weimar vs. Shiner in Weimar on April 17 and Columbus vs. Brookshire Royal on April 28. Additionally, the 4th annual Jack Hooper Day at the Ballpark and Homerun Derby is scheduled for April 25th at the Schulenburg Sports Complex. Turtle Wing Foundation serves Fayette, Lavaca and Colorado counties and strives to help children with learning challenges in rural areas achieve their full potential. To learn more about Turtle Wing Foundation visit www.turtlewingfoundation.org or contact Managing Director, Susie Shank, at 979-820-8964.

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