

For Immediate Release

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Toast Kicks off Grand Slam Year

Hitting a grand slam takes nothing less than Swinging for the Fences. Alex Montoya, guest speaker at the Turtle Wing Toast held on Thursday, Jan. 29 shared this important piece of advice and inspiration. Also the title of his book, the phrase swinging for the fences embodies the meaning behind his message. Born a triple amputee he was faced with countless challenges of achieving his dreams. In coming to America, he was able to persevere and fulfill his goal of working in baseball despite his disability and challenges. He is the Manager for Latino Affairs for the San Diego Padres and traveled from California to deliver his message to a crowd of Turtle Wing supporters. He also was provided the opportunity by Schulenburg ISD to share his story earlier in the day with the entire junior and senior high student population. His inspirational story filled with determination and perseverance, included words of encouragement. His testimony highlighted the significance and importance of the work Turtle Wing Foundation does in our local community which is to “Help Children Grow Wings and Fly.”

This fourth year for the foundation is its Grand Slam Year. Since its founding in 2011 Turtle Wing Foundation started by serving 20 area youth. Due to the generous support of the communities it serves, Turtle Wing is presently serving over 150 youth from Fayette, Lavaca and Colorado counties. This year Turtle Wing has also branched out introducing a number of new programs. One is the Parents as Teachers (PAT) Day Care Provider Collaboration where Turtle Wing has the opportunity to provide continuing education for day care providers and staff with a special focus on child development, how to best identify and manage challenges that may present themselves, and how to work with parents and outside resources to help the children in their care best develop physically, intellectually and emotionally. Another new program is the Turtle Tweens program which is a Social Skills Training opportunity for children 10-15. This will be a

monthly outing guided by a behavior specialist that will provide a chance for children with social skills needs to spend time together participating in fun activities, working on social skills, and establishing and maintaining friendships. Turtle Wing is also reviving the Autism Awareness Games. This will involve Turtle Wing partnering with area high school baseball and softball teams and unifying to inform, raise awareness on the full reach of the foundation, and raise funds. These games will be held during the month of April which is Autism Awareness month. Additionally, the main fundraiser for Turtle Wing, Jack Hooper Day at the Ballpark & Homerun Derby, will be held April 25, 2015 at the Schulenburg Sports Complex. Anyone interested in sponsoring, volunteering, or simply participating this day of family fun should visit the refreshed Turtle Wing website at www.turtlewingfoundation.org for more information or contact Managing Director, Susie Shank 979-820-8964. Turtle Wing Foundation is a 501(c)3 non profit organization focused on providing early intervention, supplemental services and community education and advocacy with a focus on children with learning challenges in rural areas.

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