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APPLETON INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT TO HOST WINGS FOR AUTISM NOV. 4

GREENVILLE, Wis., Sept. 14, 2017 - [The Arc](#) will host a [Wings for Autism](#) event at [Appleton International Airport](#) Nov. 4. The event is being held in partnership with [Allegiant Air](#), Appleton International Airport, [Autism Society of the Fox Valley](#), [Doug Flutie Foundation](#), [Fox Valley Treatment Program](#), [SOAR Fox Cities](#) and [WisconSibs](#).

Wings for Autism is an airport rehearsal specially designed for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD), their families and aviation professionals.

Wings for Autism helps alleviate some of the stress people with disabilities and their families experience when traveling by air. The program provides families with the opportunity to participate in the entire airport experience by practicing entering the airport, obtaining boarding passes, going through security and boarding an airplane.

Wings for Autism also gives airport, airline, Transportation Security Administration professionals and other personnel the opportunity to observe, interact and deliver their services in a structured learning environment.

Since 2016, Appleton International Airport has hosted three Wings for Autism events. More than 200 people participated in the simulated flight experience.

The Appleton flight will feature an Allegiant Airbus 320 with 177 seats, allowing 88 families to participate.

"Traveling can be stressful for anyone, but for children and adults with developmental disabilities, the process can be even more intimidating," said Abe Weber airport director. "I want traveling through Appleton International Airport to be a fun and exciting experience for everyone. I'm proud to support The Arc along with Allegiant Air and our local partnering agencies as they raise awareness through their Wings For Autism event."

"We are excited to bring the Wings for Autism program to Appleton again," said Peter Berns, CEO of The Arc. "For parents of children with autism spectrum disorders, everyday tasks can sometimes prove to be far more difficult for their child. Air travel can prove particularly challenging between clearing security, the overwhelming noises and harsh lights. This program will not only alleviate the stress children and their parents may feel, but help educate airport and airline professionals about how to best serve children with autism and other intellectual and developmental disabilities in the future."

For information about the flight, visit <http://bit.ly/WingsForAutismNov2017>.

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Appleton International Airport

Appleton International Airport serves business travelers and vacationers with flights to destinations around the world. Allegiant Air has nonstop flights out of Appleton International Airport to warm weather destinations. The airport also has flights to major hubs around the U.S. on American Airlines, Delta Air Lines and United Airlines.

The Arc

The Arc is the largest national community-based organization advocating for and serving people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, including autism, Down syndrome, cerebral palsy and other developmental disabilities. The Arc has a network of more than 650 chapters across the country promoting and protecting the human rights of people with I/DD and actively supporting their full inclusion and participation in the community through their lifetimes and without regard to diagnosis.

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Stay in touch!

