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Sensory Suite Ribbon Cutting Celebrates Successful First Season

YSU President and Regional Chamber attending milestone day for Rich Center; Scrappers

Trumbull County, OH --- On Friday, August 16th, there will be reason to celebrate at Eastwood Field before the Mahoning Valley Scrappers play an inning of baseball.

At the start of the 2024 baseball season, The Rich Center and the Scrappers announced their partnership with the creation of a Sensory Suite specifically constructed for individuals and their families on the autism spectrum.

The Rich Center Sensory Suite has been occupied during every Scrappers home game in the 2024 season since its launch in April. The suite is available to anyone across the Mahoning Valley in need of its services and can be reserved on the Scrappers website via a virtual form.

To celebrate the amazing success of this partnership and the Sensory Suite, YSU President Bill Johnson and First-Lady LeeAnn Johnson will join the Youngstown/Warren Regional Chamber and Rich Center Executive Director Mike Latessa for a ribbon cutting ceremony at the suite before the Scrappers game at 6:15pm.

Following the ribbon cutting and photo-op, President Johnson will toss the ceremonial first pitch from the mound to mark a milestone day for The Rich Center, Eastwood Field, Scrappers, YSU and all individuals of the autism community across the Mahoning Valley.

Also attending the ceremony will be Rich Center for Autism founding members Phyllis Ricchiuti and Geri Kosar, YSU Dean of Beeghly College of Liberal Arts, Social Sciences and Education Dr. Charles Howell, State Representative Nick Santucci, General Manager of the Mahoning Valley Scrappers Heather Sahli, and Rich Center for Autism Community Engagement Coordinator Jake Ellis.

Media interested in covering this event should arrive at Eastwood Field, 111 Eastwood Mall Blvd, Niles, OH 44446 when gates open at 6pm. Please go directly to the Rich Center Sensory Suite #210 located on the Suite Level. If any assistance is needed upon arrival, you may contact Jake Ellis, Rich Center Community Engagement Coordinator at 724-713-7664.

About The Rich Center For Autism

The Rich Center for Autism was established in 1995 through the collaborative efforts of the Kosar, Rich (Ricchiuti), and Rubino families who have a shared interest in autism. The Rich Center for Autism, a component of the Youngstown State University Beeghly College of Liberal Arts, Social Sciences, & Education, fulfills the mission to prepare educators, medical specialists and other professionals in best practices for teaching and caring for those on the autism spectrum; to increase knowledge base through the promotion of scholarly research; and to provide public service and advocacy on behalf of those affected by autism. The Rich Center for Autism has no geographic boundary and accepts children of all socio-economic backgrounds and cultures. Children are enrolled in the programs regardless of their caregivers' ability to pay. Referral, treatment, and support are provided at no cost to families.