



Free Autism Screening for Young Children

(Fort Myers, Fla. – Mar. 22, 2018) --- In the United States, it is estimated that one in every 68 children is diagnosed with some form of Autism Spectrum Disorder, making it more common than childhood cancer, juvenile diabetes and pediatric AIDS combined. April is National Autism Awareness Month which aims to make the public more aware about this widespread disability and the issues which arise in the autism community.

Golisano Children's Hospital of Southwest Florida, in partnership with Ronald McDonald House Charities® of Southwest Florida, offers a free monthly autism spectrum disorder screening for toddlers 18 months to five years of age.

The next screening on the Ronald McDonald Care Mobile will be held on **Apr. 13, 2018 from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.** at the Sanctuary Outpatient Center, 8960 Colonial Center Drive, Fort Myers.

Medical consultants for the project stress that an early diagnosis can make a vast difference for toddlers and their families. They say early intensive behavioral intervention can make an immense difference not just in the development of the child, but in their families as well.

The ASD screening is conducted by the Golisano Children's Hospital of Southwest Florida. The screenings are administered by an Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner, who has extensive training and experience in typical child development and developmental disorders.

A physician referral is not required. To schedule a screening, please call 239-343-6838.

About Golisano Children's Hospital of Southwest Florida

Golisano Children's Hospital of Southwest Florida, named a "Top Hospital" by The Leapfrog Group in 2016, is the only acute care children's hospital between Tampa and Miami. Lee Health opened the new, 300,000 square foot, 128-bed hospital in May 2017, relocating the children's hospital from the adjacent HealthPark Medical Center, where it originated in 1994. The hospital was named after B. Thomas Golisano's generous donation to the capital campaign to build the new, state-of-the-art facility. For more information, visit GolisanoChildrensSWFL.org.

About Ronald McDonald House Charities®

Ronald McDonald House Charities® (RMHC®), is a non-profit, 501 (c) (3) corporation that creates, finds, and supports programs that directly improve the health and well-being of children and their families. Through its global network of nearly 290 Chapters in more than 64 countries and regions, and its three core programs: the Ronald McDonald House®, the Ronald McDonald Family Room® and the Ronald McDonald Care Mobile®, keep families with sick children close to each other and the medical care their child needs at leading hospitals worldwide. RMHC programs not only provide access to quality health care, they enable family-centered care ensuring families are fully supported and actively involved in their children's care. For more information, visit www.rmhcswfl.org

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