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WE PROMISE FOUNDATION GIVES \$12,000 CHARITABLE GRANT TO BENEFIT CHILDREN WITH AUTISM

Camp Gonnawannagoagin' continues to thrive with community support

Virginia Beach, VA (Feb. 9, 2017) – Families of Autistic Children in Tidewater (FACT) is delighted to announce that the locally-based non-profit organization has received a \$12,000 grant from the We Promise Foundation, the charitable arm of Chartway Federal Credit Union. The We Promise Foundation is dedicated to bringing smiles to the faces of children battling life-threatening or severe illnesses by making their dreams come true. Since FACT's campers' abilities vary widely and most have significant cognitive and communication impairments, it isn't possible for them to attend other day camps. Allocation of these funds will go directly to financing Camp Gonnawannagoagin' – a six-week, fun-filled summer day camp for children with autism- complete with engaging activities and field trips, volunteer peer buddies, and a caring and well-trained staff.

“Strengthening our communities has always been core to our culture – it is, quite simply, who we are,” said Phil Richards, chairman of the We Promise Foundation. “It brings us great joy to know that our charitable grant will allow children with autism to benefit from the six-week camp designed to enrich their cognitive, physical, and emotional health.”

This is the ninth year the We Promise Foundation has sponsored Camp Gonnawannagoagin'. In total, the foundation has donated \$85,500 to send children to FACT's popular summer program. Since raising a child with disabilities is particularly expensive, more than 50% of FACT's families fall below 300% of the poverty level. While it is especially heartbreaking for a parent to be unable to provide the “extras” their children crave, it will be one less worry on the minds of FACT's families because of the graciousness of The We Promise Foundation.

If you would like more information about this topic, please contact Pam Clendenen at 757.422.2040 or email at Camp4autism@gmail.com.

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ABOUT FACT

The mission of FACT is to improve the quality of life for individuals with autism and their families in the greater Tidewater Virginia area. We offer numerous programs to support our mission. FACT hosts programs that engage individuals with autism and encourage interaction with peers.

ABOUT CHARTWAY'S WE PROMISE FOUNDATION

We Promise Foundation is dedicated to making dreams come true for children battling life-threatening or debilitating illnesses, or those facing tremendous hardship. Since 1999, the credit union and its We Promise Foundation have raised more than \$8M to bring smiles to the faces of thousands of children. For more information, visit www.WePromiseFoundation.org; or, visit them on Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram.