FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Breaking Barriers: Challenge Air Fly Day Empowers Children with Special Needs

Chattanooga, March 4, 2026- Brace yourselves, Chattanooga! Challenge Air for Kids & Friends, Inc. (Challenge Air) is gearing up for an exhilarating Fly Day extravaganza at Chattanooga Airport on Saturday, May 2, 2026 from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm, hosted by Wilson Air.

Challenge Air for Kids & Friends, a nonprofit organization is on a mission to reshape perceptions and instill confidence in children with special needs through the gift of flight. Established in 1993 by a resilient Vietnam Naval Aviator, Rick Amber, who overcame adversity after a paralyzing aircraft carrier landing crash, Challenge Air has touched the lives of over 36,000 remarkable kids nationwide. Amber's vision was simple yet profound: to utilize aviation as a catalyst for showcasing that challenges are merely springboards to success, not barriers.

Executive Director/CEO of Challenge Air, April Culver, reveals that over 1000 children with special needs will take to the skies across 10 cities this year alone. These events are not merely about flying; they're about creating magical moments and unforgettable experiences. From thrilling flights to hands-on experiences, nonprofit agencies invite families to revel in a day free from the constraints of appointments and therapies. It's a day to simply embrace the joy of being together, fostering bonds and creating memories that last a lifetime.

"Fly Day" events would not be possible without the support of sponsors and volunteers. Challenge Air extends gratitude to Wilson Air for their generous donation of the airplane hangar and acknowledges invaluable contributions of sponsors like Therapeutic Parks and Outdoors, Chattanooga Airport, West Star, Service Electric, Infosystems, Signal Centers, Erlanger Children's Hospital, Stellar Therapy, and Earl Morgan.

Generosity fuels their mission, empowering Challenge Air to give back to the community in profound ways. If you're passionate about making a difference and would like to support the Chattanooga Fly Day, please reach out to April Culver at aculver@challengeair.org.

Pilots and volunteers, we need you! If you are ready to be a part of something extraordinary, register at www.challengeair.org and join Challenge Air in spreading wings and smiles.

In the words of Captain Steve, a dedicated volunteer, "Witnessing the joy on the faces of these children as they take to the skies is an indescribable experience. It's a reminder of the profound impact we can have by simply offering a moment of pure exhilaration. Together, we're changing lives, one flight at a time."

For media inquiries or further information, please contact: Juliet Siddons, Program Director, juliet.siddons@challengeair.org or 214-351-3353.

Since its establishment in 1993, Challenge Air has remained steadfast in its dedication to transforming the lives of children with special needs. Supported by a vast network of 3,500 volunteers spanning the nation, Challenge Air continues to expand its impact through these transformative Fly Day events.

Visit the website at www.challengeair.org, to learn more about how you can get involved or to make a donation.