

For immediate release

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North Grand Mall

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Join celebration for Mary Greeley KidzZone now playing at North Grand Mall

AMES, IA ---- Clowns, balloons, crafts and story time will kick off the grand opening ceremonies for the new KidzZone play area at North Grand Mall, Wednesday, September 23.

KidzZone, a new family friendly amenity sponsored by Mary Greeley Medical Center, is designed to encourage healthy lifestyles and offer a fun place for tots.

Festivities will begin with an Ames Chamber of Commerce ribbon cutting ceremony at 10 a.m. Children are invited to be V.I.P Ribbon-Cutting Crew members and arrive shortly before 10 a.m. to help hold a colorful ribbon of healthy snacks. The first fifty children to arrive will receive a gift certificate for a free pretzel from Pretzelmaker.

Lynn Whisler, vice president, Mary Greeley Medical Center, and Jack Fahler, general manager, North Grand Mall, will assist with the ribbon cutting.

"Mary Greeley Medical Center is privileged to have the opportunity to help the Ames community invest in a healthy future by keeping kids active," said Lynn Whisler, vice president, Mary Greeley Medical Center. "Regular physical activity in childhood improves strength and endurance, helps build healthy bones and muscles, helps control weight, reduces anxiety and stress, increases self-esteem, and may improve blood pressure and cholesterol levels."

"Mary Greeley Medical Center's sponsorship of KidzZone supports our mission to provide high quality, cost-effective health care services that advance the health of central Iowans through specialized care and personal touch," added Whisler.

"It's exciting for us to offer a tot-sized play area and engaging activities dedicated to healthy lifestyles for our young visitors," said Jack Fahler, general manager of the

mall. "We're appreciative of the Mary Greeley partnership that helped make the play area a reality. Their sponsorship demonstrates the hospital's strong commitment to the community."

The play area's Bee Happy, Bee Healthy theme emphasizes the focus on healthy habits for young children. The roughly 1,000-square-foot enclosed play area contains cheerful bumble bees designed for climbing, a lighted dance floor a la popular game programs, soft seating for care givers and shoe cubbies.

Throughout the day, children can participate in a myriad of activities that include face painting, learning healthy habits, story telling, visiting with a clown, creating "thumb print" bees and first aid tips.

The event schedule includes:

10:00 a.m. – Ames Chamber of Commerce Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony, refreshments, "Cy" the I.S.U. mascot visit and photo opportunity

11:00 a.m. – Story time with the Ames Public Library and "Smyles" the dog

11:30 a.m. – Temporary tattoos and helium balloons

12:30 p.m. – Craft activities for kids

1:30 p.m. – First Aid and Safety presentation for kids, Mary Greeley Medical Center Paramedics

2:30 p.m. – Create your own healthy snacks

3:30 p.m. – Stranger Danger Education and Activity, Ames Police Department

4:30 p.m. – Magic Show, Mud Hen the Clown

5:30 p.m. – Balloon Sculptures and Face Painting, Mud Hen the Clown

6:30 p.m. – Story time with the Ames Public Library and "Smyles" the dog

Events will take place at or near the play area in the north wing of the mall. Kids 12 and under will find their groove with free play on the lighted dance floor and \$3 admission to Lunar Mini Golf for the entire day.

Families and kids of all ages are invited to attend. Children's groups and classes are also welcome to participate in the celebration. Group organizers are asked to contact Bonnie Johnson at (515) 232-3679 or bonnie.ngr@gkdevelopment.com so the mall may accommodate their group.

North Grand Mall, located at 2801 Grand Avenue, is home to JCPenney, North Grand 5 Theatre, Younkers and nearly 60 fine shops and services. North Grand Mall is open from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Saturday and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday.

North Grand Mall supports the community with multiple programs throughout the year. Past activities include: Toys for Tots, Holiday Giving Tree and semi-annual Community Fairs.

North Grand Mall is owned and managed by GK Development, Inc.

About GK Development, Inc.

GK Development, Inc acquires, re-develops, manages and leases well-located properties in growing markets. The Barrington, Illinois-based company owns 5 million square feet of space located in nine states. The company was founded in 1995. For more information visit www.gkdevelopment.com

About Mary Greeley Medical Center

Mary Greeley Medical Center has been providing high quality, cost effective health care services to the residents of central Iowa for more than 90 years. With more than 1,400 employees and nearly 200 physicians on its medical staff, Mary Greeley Medical Center is the primary medical center in a six-county area serving Story, Boone, Greene, Hardin, Hamilton and Marshall counties. Mary Greeley Medical Center offers an interventional cardiology program, the Birthways Center, three dialysis centers, HOMEWARD Home Medical Equipment, Home Health Services and Hospice, the William R. Bliss Cancer Center and a full range of other inpatient and outpatient services. Please visit www.mgmc.org or call (515) 239-2011 for additional information.

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