



United Way Fox Cities

## MEDIA ALERT

### TIMBER RATTLERS DONATION EXPANDS HEART OF THE VALLEY YMCA BUDDY BAG PROGRAM TO INCLUDE GRAND CHUTE POLICE DEPARTMENT

**Presentation of Buddy Bags to Grand Chute Police Department  
Monday, October 23, 2017 at 10:30 a.m.**

**VISUAL:** The Wisconsin Timber Rattler's Mascot, Fang will be helping to load up the Grand Chute Police cars with Buddy Bags. Partners on this project are the Heart of the Valley YMCA, the Wisconsin Timber Rattlers, the Grand Chute Police Department, and United Way Fox Cities.

**LOCATION:** Wisconsin Timber Rattler Stadium  
2400 North Casaloma Drive, Appleton, WI 54913

Photo and interview opportunities will be available with:

**PHOTO AND  
INTERVIEW  
OPPORTUNITIES:**

- Dayna Baitinger – Director of Community Relations for the Wisconsin Timber Rattlers, or Chris Mehring, Wisconsin Timber Rattlers
- Travis Waas – Community Resource Officer, Grand Chute Police Department
- Sharon Johnson – Executive Director, Heart of the Valley YMCA of the Fox Cities
- Andrew Konkel – United Way Resource Development Officer

**ABOUT BUDDY  
BAG PROGRAM:**

The Buddy Bag Program originally began through a collaboration with the Fox Valley Metro Police Department (FVMPD), Flex Academy and the Heart of the Valley YMCA. The Buddy Bag program was created in an effort to comfort children involved in traumatic situations. Equipped with the preassembled bags, First Responders will give one to a child who has been involved in or witness to a stressful event such as an automobile accident, domestic disturbance, or homeless situation. Inside the Buddy Bag backpack, a child will find an age-appropriate book to read, coloring book and crayons, and a small, cuddly stuffed animal. These treasures will help First Responders console children who are sad, scared, and feeling lonely. Not only will the Buddy Bag ease the mind of an upset child at the scene, it is our hope that it will comfort the child for the days following an incident.

**MEDIA CONTACTS:**

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