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Suicide Prevention Non Profit Fundraiser to Host Range of Entertainers and Inspirational Speakers

ANN ARBOR, MI June 2023– <u>Garrett's Space</u>, an Ann Arbor-based suicide prevention non-profit, is hosting **Go4Garrett'sSpace**, a fundraiser on August 25th, 2023 from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m at Washtenaw Community College. The event, intended to educate and entertain, will be filled with musical performances, presentations from well-known performers and inspirational speakers touched as suicide, as well as yoga, fitness and meditation sessions.

Garrett's Space was founded by Julie and Scott Halpert in 2017 when they lost their son Garrett to suicide at age 23. In-person for the first time, the 4th Annual **Go4Garrett'sSpace** event will raise funds to support the Garrett's Space wellness program and the establishment of a holistically focused residential center for young adults ages 18-28 struggling with depression and anxiety.

"Garrett's Space is all about connections so we're thrilled that, after three years, we can gather in person to celebrate the strides that Garrett's Space has made and showcase the value we'll bring to the community with our residential center," said Julie Halpert. "We're looking forward to hosting both an inspirational and entertaining event."

Mental health issues are widespread among young people in our country. According to the CDC, suicide is the second leading cause of death among youth age 15-24, and for every suicide death among young people, there are an estimated 100 to 200 suicide attempts.

Additionally, two national surveys found that 70% of young adults ages 18-24 reported being moderately to severely depressed. Garrett's Space plans to make its programming and residential center models that can be replicated nationwide to help address this major public health crisis.

The fundraiser is being produced and hosted by Mario Sulaksana, a musician who was one of Garrett's closest friends. He'll be joined by Davy Rothbart, founder of FOUND magazine and a contributor to This American Life and Chelsea Goen, a New York-based actor who recently finished performing in a national tour of Wicked. The event will also feature guest video presentations from accomplished Broadway and television performers, including:

- Lucy Liu, award-winning actress
- Pamela Adlon, star of the television show, Better Things
- Lorna Courtney and Ben Walker, stars of the Tony-nominated musical, & Juliet

The fundraiser also will feature a silent auction with over 100 amazing items donated by community businesses and individuals.

Garrett's Space currently provides a much-needed support option to struggling young adults through its <u>Wellness Group</u>, where young adults are gathering virtually for a support group with their peers and movement, breathing and mindfulness activities.

"Young adults are struggling now more than ever. And our Wellness Programming is already making a difference in the lives of our participants," said Scott Halpert. "There's never been a greater need for our support option."

Join us for **Go4Garrett'sSpace** on August 25th from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m at the Morris Lawrence Building on the Washtenaw Community College Campus, 4800 E Huron River Dr, Ann Arbor, MI 48105. The event will also be livestreamed. Please visit the Garrett's Space <u>website</u> for details on the event, including tickets.

We are so grateful to this year's sponsors: Autodesk and The Mericos Foundation

About Garrett's Space

Garrett's Space is a suicide prevention nonprofit dedicated to addressing gaps in treatment for young adults experiencing distress due to mental health challenges. We are working to reduce suicides in young adults by providing programming and a holistically focused center that promotes wellness, healing, self-worth and resilience.