NEWS RELEASE

American and Madison House team up to change lives

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Located in the Montgomery County Agricultural Reserve just off the Potomac River, the area's mountain vistas offer breathtaking views that have been said to alter perspectives.

But it's the Reagan National Airport (DCA) based volunteers, members of American Airlines Do Crew, who are working with Madison Fields, a project of Madison House Autism Foundation, who are changing lives.

The Madison Fields Farm and Madison House Autism Foundation are working with adults on the spectrum to increase housing options, teach life skills and develop employment opportunities so they may lead productive lives.

"It became clear this cause had a touch point to many of our American Airlines families," said Brandon Duggins, former manager on duty at Reagan National Airport and current general manager for American in Rochester, New York. "Many of us have a family member or a friend who have been faced with autism."

American Do Crew employee volunteers have increasingly become involved with Madison House. In fact, American is the largest airline to join up with the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority to sponsor local families

through this organization.

“My godson is autistic,” said Renee Drayton, Premium Customer Service representative, DCA. “This cause is very near and dear to my heart. Plus, this is a lot of fun and such a beautiful place.”

Do Crew volunteers paint living quarters, clear horseback riding trails, build picnic tables and maintain the general upkeep of the 400-acre working farm.

“Madison House Austism Foundation was formed to address the hidden needs of those with Autism,” said Dr. Gregory Prince, MHAF Founder and Chair. “What are these valuable citizens going to be doing for the 60 years of their lives after they get out of the school system for housing, vocation continuing education for medical care?”

“That’s the daunting task ahead of us,” Prince added. “But with partners such as American Airlines, we’ll get there.”

Because of the partnership with American, the farm is now home to an eight-acre corn maze in the shape of the American Airlines flight symbol.

The Maryland farm and corn maze also happens to be directly below the southbound flight path into Washington Dulles International Airport.

“We’re excited to share some of its beauty with our American Airlines volunteers, by land and by air,” said James Baird, Madison Field’s new farm director.