



Autism Family Services of New Jersey

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September 13, 2011
For Immediate Release

Free Autism Event Continues to Shatter Stereotypes

BELMAR – Autism Family Services of New Jersey (AFSNJ) hosted its 7th Annual Beach Bash this Sunday, September 11th for individuals with Autism and their families to enjoy free entertainment, dancing, surf lessons and more without the fear of critical glances. Despite unfortunate weather conditions, an estimated 4,000 to 5,000 eager individuals with Autism and their families enjoyed a highly anticipated and meaningful day at the beach.

Surfer's Healing, a non-profit organization dedicated to serving children with Autism and led by world renown surfer and philanthropist Israel (Izzy) Paskowitz, joined AFSNJ on Sunday to provide 200 preregistered children with Autism the unique opportunity to learn to surf.

Jessica Goldsmith-Barzilay, Assistant Director of AFSNJ, commented “These kids are saying that they won't be defined by their limitations, but rather by their possibilities. Our organization seeks to help them take on challenges and one day help them to lead independent and productive lives.”

Surfer's Healing and AFSNJ returned to Belmar the following day to welcome an additional 50 children with Down Syndrome and their families for a continuation of Sunday's surf camp.

Goldsmith-Barzilay added, “The surfers from Surfer's Healing have a unique gift in being skilled at both surfing and pushing children with Autism to achieve more than what society may expect of them.”

AFSNJ, a statewide non-profit organization founded in 2004, is dedicated to ensuring a better quality of life for individuals and their families affected by Autism and related disorders throughout their lifespan. For more information,, please visit www.autismfamilyservicesnj.org or call 1(877) 237-4477.

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