

Thousands are expected at Autism Beach Bash Sunday

Autism Family Services of New Jersey will host its seventh annual Beach Bash on Sept. 11 in Belmar.

The Beach Bash is the largest event in New Jersey for the autism community. More than 5,000 people have attended the Beach Bash in the past, and this year's event is on track to be the largest to date.

The event is free to the public and will take place on the 7th Avenue beach from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Beach Bash highlights include musical entertainment, beach activities, arts and crafts and free product samplings from Whole Foods, Napoli Boys, Rookie's Gluten Free and Schar.

A surf camp will take place during the Beach Bash, providing an opportunity for 200 children with autism to surf alongside professional surfers from the organization Surfer's Healing.

Lunch for the surf camp will be provided by Whole Foods

Market of Middletown. Lifeguards will donate their time to watch the open swim area and the Belmar First Aid Squad will be on hand volunteering their time and manpower.

In addition, Schar will have a nutritionist on-site to discuss dietary needs with parents.

Yoga Anjali will provide a free yoga class, and other vendors will offer many resources for parents.

Due to the size of the event, individuals are asked to register in advance for the safety of those attending.

To register, go to autismfamily-servicesnj.org or call Autism Family Services of New Jersey at 1-877-237-4477.

Additionally, on the evening of Sept. 9, the sixth annual Seaside Soirée fundraiser will take place oceanside at the Ocean Place Spa and Resort in Long Branch.

The evening features a beach-

side clambake, silent auction and live musical entertainment by The Verdict.

Funds from the event assist Autism Family Services' effort to provide the Beach Bash free of cost to families. Tickets are \$150 and those who are interested in attending may call Molly Klayman at 1-877-237-4477 for more information.

Autism Family Services of New Jersey, founded in 2004, is dedicated to ensuring a better quality of life for individuals and their families affected by autism and related disorders throughout the lifespan. It is a statewide nonprofit organization dedicated to developing programs such as respite care, after-school and recreation programs.

An affiliate of the Family Resource Network, its local office is in Brick. For more information about Autism Family Services of New Jersey, call toll-free 1-877-237-4477.

