

## Day At The Beach For Special Needs Community

BRICK - The Family Resource Network (FRN) will be hosting its annual Day at the Beach on Monday, August 17, 2009. This event takes place at the Governor's Beach House in Island Beach State Park and provides individuals and their families living with special needs an opportunity to enjoy a relaxing, private day at the beach.

Families with loved ones who live with developmental disabilities such as epilepsy, autism, mental retardation, spinal bifida, traumatic brain injury and cerebral palsy are all invited to the event. With an expected attendance of over 175 people, Day at the Beach is one of The Family Resource Network's premiere summer events.

"Our consumers look forward to this event each year, it is an opportunity for families to connect with other families going through the same challenges" says Eric Joice, Executive Director of FRN. "We typically have at least one person in attendance that has never been to the beach

before. It is through sharing these first time moments with our consumers that we see the true importance of events such as Day at the Beach."

The Family Resource Network makes this event available at no cost to the families. Day at the Beach is unique because it is held at a private beach location where the attendees do not feel overwhelmed with the large crowds typically found at the Jersey Shore. Special amenities such as beach wheelchairs are also provided for the attendees in order to make the day more comfortable.

Although registration for Day at the Beach has reached full capacity, The Family Resource Network offers additional events free of charge to New Jersey residents. On September 13, 2009, FRN, in conjunction with Autism Family Services of New Jersey, will be hosting the 5th Annual Beach Bash on 7th Avenue in Belmar, NJ. This event is open to the public but registration is required. Activities

include family yoga, arts & crafts, swimming, musical entertainment, and various beach activities. To learn more about Day at the Beach or to register for the Beach Bash please call 1-800-FRN-2345.

The Family Resource Network is a family-focused, community-based organization that aims to provide individual and family support throughout the life span of people with disabilities and chronic illness. The Family Resource Network is comprised of four affiliate organizations including: Autism Family Services of New Jersey, Caregivers of New Jersey, the Epilepsy Foundation of New Jersey, and the Family Support Center of New Jersey. The Family Resource Network has six offices across the state to reach all New Jersey residents.

