



SOURCE: The Family Resource Network
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For Immediate Release

WALK RAISES NEEDED FUNDS FOR PEOPLE WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Seaside Heights, NJ – Summer started early as The Family Resource Network hosted the Shore Area Walk for a Brighter Tomorrow on Sunday, May 16th. The Walk, which raised funds for individuals with developmental disabilities, had over 500 people in attendance and to date has raised over \$27,000.

Morning activities included face painting by Chubby Penquins, music by WOBN, guest appearances by News 12 NJ anchors, informational tables and mascot appearances by Lakewood BlueClaws and Jenkinson's Aquarium.

After crossing the finish line, walkers were invited to attend The Family Fun Day, which included free activities for all registered attendees. The Beach Bar provided free lunch for all walkers and was the site for The Family Fun Day. In addition, walkers enjoyed the musical stylings of Electro Sonix, covering Jersey favorites like Bruce Springsteen. Other activities included arts & crafts by Jenkinson's Aquarium, face painting, spin art and games by Camp Bridge, informational tables, free skeeball by Lucky Leos and much more. News 12 NJ was also there with anchors Alicia Vitarelli and Eric Landskroner, who served as Honorary Chairs for the walk and stayed throughout the Family Fun Day to take pictures and sign autographs.

"We were so lucky to get such amazing weather. This was a fantastic day for families to come together and support a great cause while having fun at the same time," said Eric Joice, Executive Director of The Family Resource Network. "With two of our offices located in Manasquan and Brick, adding a second walk location in the Shore Area was a perfect addition to support our consumers in that area."

All proceeds from this event will be used to maintain existing programs and projects run by The Family Resource Network (FRN) and its four affiliated organizations: Autism Family Services of NJ, Caregivers of NJ, The Family Support Center of NJ and the Epilepsy Foundation of NJ. Through these 4 affiliates, and offices in Brick and Manasquan, FRN is able to provide a wider breadth of services to these individual populations, such as in-home respite care, recreational programs, after school care, trainings, workshops, and so much more.

"A lot of walks tend to raise money for research, which is very important, but our walk is unique," said Joice. "The funds raised during the Walk for a Brighter Tomorrow go directly to our consumers. Nearly every penny raised goes back to our families and the services we provide them, and will stay right here in Ocean and Monmouth Counties."

Ninety-five cents of every dollar raised by The Family Resource Network goes directly to the over 50 services and programs across New Jersey. Since the inception of The Walk for a Brighter Tomorrow in 2005, FRN has raised over \$450,000 to support New Jersey residents.

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FRN would like to thank the sponsors of the Walk for a Brighter Tomorrow, Epilepsy Life Links – Northeast Regional Epilepsy Group, Saint Barnabas Institute of Neurology and Neurosurgery, The Beach Bar, Catholic Institute for the Food Industry, Abby Lifts and Crossroads Realty, as well as News 12 NJ, Telemundo, WOBN, Chubby Penguin Parties, Jenkinson’s Aquarium, Camp Bridge, the Lakewood Blueclaws, and Electro Sonix.

The Family Resource Network (FRN):

FRN is a comprehensive, family-focused, organization designed to meet the growing need for community based programs and services to this rising population. FRN’s affiliated organizations are Autism Family Services of NJ, Caregivers of NJ, Epilepsy Foundation of NJ and the Family Support Center of NJ. Please visit www.familyresourcenetwork.org and www.walkforabrightertomorrow.org for more information.



(Photo Courtesy of Joseph Hand, Photographics by Hand) Walkers line up at the start line on Sunday, May 16 for the Walk for a Brighter Tomorrow on the Seaside Boardwalk. The Walk raises money for The Family Resource Network which provides services and programs to families affected by developmental disabilities.

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(Photo Courtesy of Joseph Hand, Photographics by Hand) Pictured (left to right): Michael Brown, Manager of The Beach Bar, Pete Morrison, Owner of The Beach Bar, Heather Comstock, FRN Director of Resource Development, Alicia Vitarelli, News 12 NJ Anchor, stand outside The Beach Bar after the Walk-a-thon.



(Photo Courtesy of Joseph Hand, Photographics by Hand) Mr. Sun poses with ~~XX~~ Mike O'Neil and his son, Chase from Clifton. They walked in support of the PASS Bowlers, a program of The Family Resource Network especially for siblings of children with developmental disabilities.

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