



Media Contact:
Connie Nakano
916.952.3509
Connie.Nakano@gmail.com

For Immediate Release

FIFTH ANNUAL FEAT AUTISM WALK & SPRING CARNIVAL RETURNS TO ROSEVILLE THIS SPRING

ROSEVILLE, CA—During National Autism Awareness Month, actions speak louder at the fifth annual FEAT Walk & Spring Carnival on Saturday, APRIL 21, 2018 at Maidu Community Park in Roseville. Walkers will raise money to support **Families for Early Autism Treatment (FEAT)**, a nonprofit volunteer-driven organization serving the Northern California autism community since 1993.

For 25 years, FEAT has been working in the trenches with thousands of local families to provide free resources, education, advocacy and support for best-outcome treatment. The vital connections parents make through FEAT help them to become their child's best advocate and to move forward as they navigate the complex challenges presented by autism. *"FEAT helps our family remain persistent in our goal to pursue services and treatments that will help our son live as independently and safely as possible in our home."* says Robin V., parent.

Families for Early Autism Treatment (FEAT) relies solely on community participation and support to actively provide individuals with autism the opportunity to reach their fullest potential and to remain safely in their homes with their families. *"FEAT connects our families through monthly family resource meetings featuring various presenters and topics as well as fun, annual events such as the Pool Party, Bishop's Pumpkin Farm and FEAT Walk, giving individuals with autism and their friends a chance to smile and enjoy activities in a safe environment."* says Natalie C., parent.

FEAT provides these services to the community free of charge:

- Monthly Family Resource Meetings that give local families access to a variety of topics, experts and opportunities for meaningful connections with other parents
- Monthly Parent One-on-One Coaching Meetings
- Family Support via social recreational activities
- Expert intervention and advocacy to help individuals help their child
- Lending library

According to the CDC, Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) affects one in 50 children and continues to be the fastest growing developmental disorder in the world. Autism is a complex neurobiological spectrum disorder affecting individuals differently and to varying degrees. Autism occurs in all racial, ethnic and

social groups and is four times more likely to affect boys than girls. Autism impairs a person's ability to communicate (understand and relate to others) socially and emotionally.

Event Info: FEAT Walk 2018 Actions Speak Louder

Registration 8:00 am

Rally starts 9:00 am

2k Nature Walk 9:30am

Spring Carnival 10am to 12:00pm

Address: Maidu Community Park 1550 Maidu Drive Roseville CA Saturday April 21, 2018

Registration fees \$25 (includes event t-shirt-adult sizes only) Kids 12 and under \$5 (No shirt)

To Sponsor, Register or Donate or for more information, please visit **walk.feat.org**.

BACKGROUND

FEAT (Families for Early Autism Treatment) is a non-profit, volunteer-driven organization of parents, family members, and treatment professionals dedicated to providing best outcome Education, Advocacy and Support for the Northern California Autism Community. Since 1993, FEAT families and supporters have worked hard to improve treatment resources and advocacy services; and effect changes in the minds of those who make program decisions for individuals with Autism and their families.

FEAT believes:

- Children have a right to receive scientifically proven, best outcome treatment
- Every child benefits from receiving scientifically proven, best outcome treatment
- All individuals with autism have the right to opportunities to meet their full, unique potential
- Society significantly benefits when individuals with autism are given the opportunity to reach their full, unique potential

While Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is a lifelong condition in which the needs of your child will change over time, there is hope for your child to live a fulfilled life with support and company of loved ones.

WHAT IS AUTISM?* Autism, or autism spectrum disorder, refers to a range of conditions characterized by challenges with social skills, repetitive behaviors, speech and nonverbal communication, as well as by unique strengths and differences. We now know that there is not one autism but many types, caused by different combinations of genetic and environmental influences.

Some facts about autism

- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates autism's *prevalence* as 1 in 68 children in the United States. This includes 1 in 42 boys and 1 in 189 girls.
- An estimated 50,000 teens with autism become adults – and lose school-based autism services – each year.
- Around one third of people with autism remain nonverbal.
- Around one third of people with autism have an intellectual disability.
- Certain medical and mental health issues frequently accompany autism. They include gastrointestinal (GI) disorders, seizures, sleep disturbances, attention deficit and hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), anxiety and phobias.

###

*Source: What Is Autism? (2012, May 30). Retrieved March 14, 2017, from <https://www.autismspeaks.org/what-autism>