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## Press Releases



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## The 4th Annual New Jersey Disability Pride Parade & Celebration set for October 3rd, in Trenton, NJ

Carole Tonks, Executive Director

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TRENTON, NJ - The Fourth Annual New Jersey Disability Pride Parade & Celebration will be held on Friday, October 3rd, in Trenton, NJ. More than 600 people and organizations representing a wide variety of disabilities are expected to march and roll from the NJ State House on West State Street to the disability pride celebration on East Lafayette Street.

The event will feature a variety of entertainers, all of whom have disabilities. These include folk musician Johnny Crescendo, singer and Hollywood actress Rachel Handler, actress and comedian Maysoon Zayid, and hip hop dancer Christina Sarni aka "C-Bunny." Crowd favorite, Exceptional Dance Team, a troupe made up entirely of children with autism, will return for a second year.

Kicking off the event will be Mayor of Trenton, the Honorable Eric Jackson, who will give the official welcoming

remarks at the statehouse. As a tribute our military veterans with disabilities, the Honor Guard from the NJ National Guard Headquarters in Lawrenceville, will present the colors of the flag during the playing of the National Anthem.

In recognition of October as National Disability Employment Awareness Month, the Commissioner of the NJ Department of Human Services, Jennifer Velez, Esq. and representatives from NJ Department of Vocational Rehabilitation will speak about how people with disabilities, including veterans are an untapped, yet valuable, employment resource.

The NJ Division on Disability Services will be distributing free disaster "Go to bags" at their emergency services pavilion.

The purpose of the New Jersey Disability Pride Parade is to bring people, organizations and businesses together to celebrate pride with the disability community and to promote the belief that disability is a natural and beautiful part of human diversity while generating national awareness for the disability community.

The event is a grassroots effort organized and hosted by the Alliance Center for Independence (ACI). ACI is a 501(c)(3) community-based, grassroots organization that supports and promotes independent living for people with disabilities in Middlesex, Union and Somerset counties.

The event is run entirely by volunteers and relies solely on sponsorship, donations and in-kind services. Sponsors include Brownstone Diner & Pancake Factory in Jersey City, SOYJOY, and the NJ Council on Developmental Disabilities, Easter Seals and the NJ Division on Disability Services.

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