

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – January 27, 2011

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## **7<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL SAN DIEGO RACE FOR AUTISM RETURNS TO BALBOA PARK MARCH 26 EVERY STEP OF 5K RACE REPRESENTS A CHILD WITH AUTISM RIGHT HERE IN SAN DIEGO**

*More than 5,000 Expected to Run or Walk in Support of Local Programs, Schools & Families at San Diego's ONLY Autism Race That Returns 100% of Proceeds Back to Our Community*

**WHAT:** San Diego-based nonprofit National Foundation for Autism Research (NFAR) hosts the 7th Annual San Diego Race for Autism. Nearly 5,000 people turn out annually for the 5K Run/Walk and 1-mile Family Fun Walk, which raises money for the development of innovative treatment programs and options that improve the quality of life for thousands of San Diego children with autism. The Race also serves as a “March to Awareness” for Autism Awareness Month in April.

[www.RaceForAutism.org](http://www.RaceForAutism.org) and [www.NFAR.org](http://www.NFAR.org)

**All Race proceeds stay right here, funding local programs, autism resources, research and 100s of San Diego classrooms.**

**WHEN &** **Saturday, March 26, 2011**

**WHERE:** 8 a.m. - 11 a.m. 5K timed Race, 1-mile Family Fun Walk, educational Resource Fair, Children's Activities Balboa Park – 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Laurel Ave.  
Before March 20, registration is \$15 for children 12 & under, \$25-\$30 for adults. Registration on-site day of the Race is also available.

**WHO:** Thanks to the support of Race participants, NFAR has already **awarded nearly a half million dollars** to San Diego programs, workshops, projects and classrooms, improving the lives of thousands of children with autism in our community. NFAR's efforts support children and families with autism from early detection and intervention to teen and transiting young adult programs.

**NEW IN 2011:** Flat, fast and scenic Race course through the heart of beautiful Balboa Park; live music; amazing prizes from SONY, SeaWorld, LEGOLAND and more!

**WHY:** ***Every Step in 5K Race Represents a Child Living With Autism in San Diego.*** .

- More than 7,000 San Diego children have been diagnosed with autism
- Every 20 minutes a child is diagnosed, autism now affects more children than Cancer, Down Syndrome, Cystic Fibrosis, and Diabetes combined
- In our current financial climate, NFAR's efforts are more important than ever. NFAR grants annually provide critical funding to help keep autism programs available and to increase treatment services for San Diego families.

### ***About the National Foundation for Autism Research (NFAR)***

NFAR was founded in December 2003 in response to the growing epidemic of children diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD). NFAR's mission is to promote the development of innovative treatment programs, services and educational options that improve the quality of life for those with autism. Through its grant programs, NFAR makes an immediate impact on the lives of children with autism in San Diego County. Since 2005, NFAR has awarded nearly \$500,000 throughout the San Diego community, positively impacting the living and learning environment for thousands of children with autism in San Diego. NFAR's main fundraising event, the San Diego Race for Autism, will be held March 26, 2011 in Balboa Park in advance of National Autism Awareness Month in April. [www.RaceForAutism.org](http://www.RaceForAutism.org) <<http://www.RaceForAutism.org>> and [www.NFAR.org](http://www.NFAR.org) <<http://www.NFAR.org>>

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