



For Immediate Release



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It Takes a Village; Palmetto Bay Partners with Jonathan's Day in Palmetto Bay's Unique Abilities Fair

PALMETTO BAY, FL, OCTOBER 25, 2016 - You're invited to PalmettoBay's Unique Abilities Fair -Jonathan's Day, a Day of Community Discovery, Saturday, December 3rd from 10 am to 1 pm at Coral Reef Park (7895 SW 152nd St, Palmetto Bay, FL 33157). Jonathan's Day will be a day filled with food, fun, and programming to raise community awareness about children with autism and other vulnerable populations and their families.

The Village's Unique Abilities Fair is set to center around establishing park programming and to help parents connect with resources and to foster inclusion in our community. The day of community discovery is named after South Florida's very own Jonathan Mizrachi, the 12-year-old son of a CBS4 employee. Jonathan's fearless attitude towards life defines him much more than his autism, and his exceptional outlook is something to be celebrated.

It is no secret that great things happen when people work together! Mayor Eugene Flinn posed the following question to his fellow councilmembers, "How can we better serve the unique abilities community in our Village?" Determined to find a solution, Frank DeValdivielso, resident and member of the Parks Advisory Committee worked together with resident and founder of Miami is Kind, Silvia Planas-Prats. With help from Chris Reigada, member of the Facilitator Team for the Association of Agencies of South Florida (AOA), DeValdivielso and Planas-Prats reached out to Dr. Michael Alessandri, Executive Director of the University of Miami-Nova Southeastern University Center for Autism and Related Disabilities (UM-NSU CARD). "We are honored to be part of the inclusion movement in the Village of Palmetto Bay. We have met many great leaders through the planning process, and are excited to celebrate the unique abilities of our South Florida Community" said Dr. Alessandri.

The AOA is a community-based association that brings together entities specializing in serving individuals with disabilities. The organization was pivotal in bringing all parties together through their network of more than 60 agencies dedicated to doing exactly this, and the momentum hasn't let up since! On September 19, 2016, the Village Council passed a resolution expressing its commitment to the principles of inclusion of all people with special needs and disabilities in all aspects of its governance and services.

All are welcome to Palmetto Bay's Unique Abilities Fair: Jonathan's Day; don't miss being part of the community connection that makes Palmetto Bay the best place to live, work and play!



About Palmetto Bay

Palmetto Bay is a vibrant, family-oriented community in the South Miami-Dade area, situated along the beautiful Biscayne Bay. Known as the "Village of Parks" for its amazing park facilities and bountiful recreational amenities, Palmetto Bay is one of the most desirable places to live in South Florida. Adding to its allure are the excellent private and public schools within the Palmetto Bay boundaries. To learn more about our awesome community, please visit our [website](#).

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Village of Palmetto Bay, 9705 E. Hibiscus St., Palmetto Bay, FL 33157

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