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## IMPACT OASIS – ONGOING AUTISTIC SUCCESS IN SOCIETY

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**For the past six years IMPACT has successfully carried out its mission to improve the lives of autistic children in our community. We have worked closely with our School Administration and Board of Education to develop appropriate educational programs and provided funding for the training of personnel, classroom equipment, and supplies. We have promoted inclusion and acceptance through yearly assemblies and essay contests in our district. We have provided on the spot education for teachers and classrooms in need. We have participated on many district-wide committees and assisted in the area of grant writing successfully. Maintaining a positive working relationship with our School Administration and Board of Education has helped Middletown's Educational Program for children with autism become a model for public schools to follow. Impact OASIS will continue this work at the adult level.**

**Impact OASIS was formed to purchase and preserve properties locally that can be used as sustainable local farm centers. These centers would provide education, recreation, respite, work and housing for autistic individuals and their families. We plan to purchase land in conjunction with local, county and state agencies upholding public access and use. Impact OASIS strongly believes that by working together we can create a better life for individuals with autism, and at the same time, contribute to society by using open space in a productive, regenerative, and environmentally responsible manner.**

**We are looking to purchase our first property. This site would serve as a transitional home to adults with autism ages 18 – 27. Additionally, vocational and recreational opportunities will be offered to children with autism through summer and after school programs. We hope that this farm, in addition to providing all the benefits just described, will also serve as a prototype for additional farm acquisitions in the future, both by Impact OASIS as well as by similar non-profit groups across the United States.**

**We enlisted the support of our Township Committee, State Green Acres, Monmouth Conservation, NY/NJ Baykeeper, Rutgers Farm Extension, local Whole Foods, and COSAC, a statewide agency dedicated to advocating for the needs of autistic individuals and their families. Lastly, local school children have served IMPACT with numerous hours of community service and continue to ask for volunteer opportunities especially on the farm idea.**

**Autism is the fastest growing developmental disability in this country affecting 1 in every 150 children born today. In New Jersey, this figure is 1 in every 94. The Division for Developmental Disabilities reports a 186% increase in the number of people with autism applying for services since 1999! Not enough has been done to address the need for services as these children become adults. With your generous contributions, Impact OASIS can continue to support the advancement of individuals with autism in communities. There are few options available once they leave the school system. We want to create an option that fosters a happy and productive lifestyle.**

**Impact OASIS is hosting our second annual Green Ball on June 5th 2009. There are opportunities for event sponsorship as well as for donation of gift basket and auction items (tickets, gift certificates, etc.). With your generous contributions, Impact OASIS can continue to support the advancement of individuals with autism in our community. Please refer to the attachments for each. Together, we can accomplish great things. Thank you for your support.**