

**MEDIA ALERT**

**ELS FOR AUTISM® HOSTS MICROBUSINESS SHOWCASE AND FUNDRAISER TO PROMOTE EMPLOYMENT FOR ADULTS WITH AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER (ASD)**

**JUPITER, FL June 30, 2022 –** Els for Autism® and Advisory Board member Connor Sturgis, will host a fundraiser and microbusiness showcase featuring art creations by the Sea of Possibilities. The event will take place on Saturday, July 2, 2022, at the Publix Supermarket at Frenchman’s Crossing in Palm Beach Gardens.

‘Sea of Possibilities’ is a microbusiness of Els for Autism®, Adult Day Training (ADT) program. Participants in the program create unique arts and crafts items with materials sourced at the beach such as shells, driftwood, coral, sand, and sea glass.

When young adults with ASD graduate from high school, many have a difficult time developing a continued education plan, obtaining independent living skills, participating in community activities, getting access to services, and gaining paid employment. ‘Sea of Possibilities’ provides the opportunity for adults with ASD to learn valuable skills such as communication, community inclusion, financial and vocational.

This event would not be possible without the support of a special young adult on the autism spectrum, Conner Sturgis. Conner is a member of the Publix Customer Service staff and has been employed by Publix for nine years. He attended The Learning Academy at The Els Center of Excellence ® campus where he received employment training that helped him land his position at Publix. He is hosting ‘Sea of Possibilities’ at the Publix where he is employed. As a member of the Els for Autism Advisory Board, Conner is an advocate for employing individuals impacted by ASD and helping them achieve their goals.

**Event details:**

 **Saturday, July 2, 2022, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Publix Super Market at Frenchman’s Crossing, 4101 Hood Rd, Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33410**

**About the Els for Autism Foundation®**

Els for Autism Foundation was established in 2009 by World Golf Hall of Famer and four-time major champion, Ernie Els, his wife Liezl, and board chairman, Marvin R. Shanken. The Els’ son, Ben, is impacted by ASD. The Els Center of Excellence, located in Jupiter, Florida, is the hub from which world-class programs and services are provided both in-person and globally via Telehealth.

**The Els Center of Excellence®**

The Els Center of Excellence is a world-class facility hosting leading-edge programs and services for people on the autism spectrum and their families. The campus contains thoughtfully planned spaces designed to meet the specific needs of individuals with autism from a possible early diagnosis to their school-aged years, and throughout adulthood. The Center hosts two, non-profit, tuition-free Palm Beach County charter schools that serve students with autism using evidence-based practices. The Rupert Education Wing hosts The Learning Center at The Els Center of Excellence, serving students with autism ages 3-14 (thelearningcenter.org) and the Shanken Education Wing hosts The Learning Academy at The Els Center of Excellence, serving students with autism ages 14-21 (tlacad.org).

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