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GOVERNOR MCGREEVEY HONORS FAMILY'S EFFORTS TO RAISE MONEY FOR AUTISM AWARENESS

(TRENTON)-- Governor James E. McGreevey recently met with seven-year-old Rebecca Singer of Tenafly and her family, to recognize their efforts on behalf of children and adults affected by autism.

"Through the efforts of the Singer family, people living with autism are given a new sense of hope that they will benefit from more research and a greater awareness of autism across the entire nation," McGreevey said.

The Singer family has established the Drive for Rebecca, which is committed to raising money for research, advocacy, and increased education of autism. Rebecca suffers from a rare genetic disorder that causes autistic tendencies. The money they have raised helped to establish REED Academy, a New Jersey based non-profit program committed to providing state of the art, science-based intervention for individuals with autism.

The Governor presented the Singers with a proclamations for their many projects for autism awareness including the "20 Store 24 Hour Tour for Autism" which was held in April. Rebecca and her father visited 20 stores throughout New Jersey and New York in a 24-hour period to raise funds and increase awareness. In 2002, the Singers traveled across the country to seven different cities with the same purpose.

"While medical research to find a cure for autism is vital in the long run, the right educational focus right now can make a world of difference for many children," said Rebecca's father, Jon Singer. "In Rebecca's case, with the help of a program like REED Academy it has given us new found hope for the future."

Of the funds raised through the Drive For Rebecca, more than half of the proceeds help support several New Jersey and New York educational programs and advocacy efforts. The balance of the monies benefit some of the leading organizations dedicated to the quest for breakthroughs in the prevention, treatment and cure of autism.

“New Jersey recognizes the importance of treating autism, and our Administration created a permanent source of funding for research into the causes, diagnosis, prevention, control, and treatment of autism,” the Governor said.

April is Autism Awareness Month, and the Singers have helped to organize the "Opera for Autism" through the generosity of State Repertory Opera of New Jersey. The event, which will be held on April 24th, will help to support the REED Academy, as well as several other organizations committed to helping those with autism.

For more information about the Drive for Rebecca, visit:
<http://www.DriveForRebecca.org>.

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Governor Honors Family's Efforts to Raise Money for Autism Awareness

Seven-year-old Rebecca Singer of Tenafly and her family were honored by Governor James E. McGreevey recently for their efforts on behalf of children and adults affected by autism. On hand for the honors were (from left) Dan Mesopotanese, Rebecca's teacher from REED Academy, Rebecca's brother Sam, her mother Michey, Governor McGreevey and Rebecca's father Jon