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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Zumbathon to Benefit P.R.I.D.E. Program for Adults with Special Needs

FLORHAM PARK – Ready to salsa, mambo and merengue for a good cause? Join ECLC of New Jersey on Saturday, Sept. 19, for a fund-raising Zumbathon, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., at ECLC's school for students with special needs at 21 Lum Ave., Chatham.

This lively event is part of an ongoing campaign to raise \$5 million for ECLC's P.R.I.D.E. program for adults with special needs, who graduate from ECLC's school and aren't good candidates for the workplace. ECLC has P.R.I.D.E. centers in Florham Park and Paramus, serving 130 clients.

You can reserve a dance spot for \$20 by contacting Jami Schockling at P.R.I.D.E. (973-635-1705 X23) or contributing \$25 at the door.

Through ECLC's P.R.I.D.E. program, adults with autism, Down syndrome and other special needs become more independent and live fuller lives. They venture into the community for volunteering and work opportunities, exercise, cook meals, learn money management and do much more.

To ensure P.R.I.D.E. and its clients stay on the move for many years to come, ECLC Executive Director, Bruce Litinger, of Short Hills, and his entire family are trying to raise \$5 million through an endowment named for the family.

"Our goal is to ensure that the promise of P.R.I.D.E. is fulfilled for clients now and long into the future," said Bruce Litinger. "We want this labor of love, which we have created together, to live on and be there for anyone who needs our services in the years ahead."

The endowment was established last December and has brought in \$358,000 from P.R.I.D.E. supporters. If you want to join this special campaign to sustain the P.R.I.D.E. program, please consider making a donation at the ECLC Website www.eclcofnj.org. For more information, contact ECLC Foundation Director, Heather Alonge (973-635-1705 X17).

Established in 1970, ECLC of New Jersey is an accredited, nonprofit offering education, careers and lifelong community to children and adults with special needs, including those diagnosed with autism, Down syndrome and severe learning and/or language disabilities. Learn more about ECLC at www.eclcofnj.org.