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MAULI OLA FOUNDATION TEAMS UP WITH 'RICHARD SCHMIDT SURF CAMP' TO AID CHILDREN WITH CYSTIC FIBROSIS

SANTA CRUZ, CA (May 16th, 2009) - The Maui Ola Foundation, a public non-profit organization dedicated to assisting those with genetic diseases, recently held its first CF Surf Experience Day event of 2009 to aid children and young adults with Cystic Fibrosis. The day was dedicated to those affected by CF with free surf lessons, support and fun. The event was held on May 16th at Cowell's Beach.

For this event, MOF teamed up with 2009 Pacific Tour Title sponsor Flexfit Hats, Richard Schmidt Surf Camp, Ambry Genetics and The Mint Gallery. Professional surfers Shawn "Barney" Barron, Randy Bonds, Tyler Smith, Mark "Scabs" Gabriel and Tyler Fox came down to share their talent and time to assist the effort. The surf students were primarily from Stanford University Hospital and Lucille Packard Children's Hospital. All participants received a MOF custom hat provided by Flexfit and event Surf Experience tee shirt. Ambry Genetics also had a Certified Genetic Counselor on site to answer any questions about CF for the public.

Thomas Cho, President of Flexfit writes "Flexfit headwear is proud to support MOF's efforts in improving the quality of life for kids with Cystic Fibrosis through sponsoring their 2009 Surf Experience Day Pacific Tour."

The attendees had an amazing time in the 1 to 2 foot waves, beautiful weather and great vibe. Says Brissa Martin, Genetic Counselor at Ambry Genetics, "It's always amazing to see how much the patients enjoy the surfing experience. To stand on a surfboard for the first time is quite an accomplishment for many of these individuals who never even thought they could try something as strenuous as surfing. It's great to see them enjoy themselves in a truly non-clinical environment."

Cystic Fibrosis is an inherited disease affecting the lungs by blocking airways, leading to serious lung problems. Clinical trials have suggested that inhaling saltwater mist has a powerful effect on the lungs; re-hydration of the lungs allows CF patients to more easily eliminate the damaging mucus.

Maui Ola Foundation, founded in 2008, promotes education, awareness and research of genetic diseases. Surf activities have been found to have a positive impact on these children; the exercise and fun involved in the activity encourage children and young adults to utilize natural therapies, thereby decreasing their reliance on medication treatments and living longer, more enjoyable lives.

James Dunlop, founder of Maui Ola Foundation and co-founder/Operations Manager of Ambry Genetics, consistently seeks innovative ways to support the needs of those affected by Cystic Fibrosis. His goal in this effort is to "bring the joy of surfing to those who have never had the opportunity to experience the freedom and confidence while improving their challenges in leading a healthy life."

For more information on ways to support Maui Ola Foundation, visit their website at www.mauliola.org.