



## **MedicAlert Foundation and Carlos Vieira Foundation to Provide Free Medical IDs and Wandering Support Services to Local Autism Families**

*Local Charities Will Provide Free IDs and Services to Participants at Modesto's Autism Speaks Walk on October 15th*

(Salida, Calif.,) September 22, 2016 - [MedicAlert Foundation](#) and the [Carlos Vieira Foundation](#) are furthering their partnership that supports local children with Autism by providing free medical IDs and 24/7 wandering support services through the new [MedicAlert Found® for Autism](#) program. The program was established to provide an additional layer of protection for the autism community during wandering emergencies as [50% of all individuals with autism will wander or elope](#). Additionally, more than one-third of those who wander are unable to communicate their name, address or phone number. The MedicAlert Found for Autism program is being offered to families at no cost when they enroll loved ones online thanks to the *Northwestern Mutual Insurance Endowment Fund*. Online enrollees will receive a MedicAlert medical ID bracelet or necklace, MedicAlert shoe tag, and 24/7 wandering support service which are all designed to communicate the autism condition and serve as a connection to MedicAlert who can contact family and ensure loved ones are reunited.

MedicAlert and the Carlos Vieira Foundation will promote the program at the upcoming Autism Speaks walk in Modesto on October 15<sup>th</sup>. "We're ecstatic about our ability to offer this important program for the autism community at no cost, thanks to our generous donors" says David Leslie, President and CEO of MedicAlert Foundation. "Too often autism wandering incidents have turned to tragedy, and we are committed to turning these tragedies into successful family reunification stories." Additionally, Leslie is grateful for partnerships with important autism groups, like the Carlos Vieira Foundation. "The Carlos Vieira Foundation is doing wonderful work for the autism community and we are eager to continue combining our efforts to ensure more children (and adults) with Autism have an opportunity to receive MedicAlert's lifesaving services and products."

The Carlos Vieira Foundation will direct families to the new program via its website and family referral service. "Free resources for our autism families are huge," says Carlos Vieira, President of the Carlos Vieira Foundation. "The MedicAlert Found program is critically important in protecting our local autism community and we want our families to take advantage of this free resource to further eliminate the stress that accompanies wandering behavior."

The MedicAlert Found for Autism program is now accepting enrollees. Families are encouraged to select their free medical IDs and register their loved ones with autism at [www.medicalert.org/autism](http://www.medicalert.org/autism).

### About MedicAlert Foundation International

Established in 1956, the nonprofit charity MedicAlert Foundation pioneered the use of medical ID products and delivers the most dependable, responsive, and trusted Emergency Identification and Medical Information Network. MedicAlert provides the functionality of an e-health information exchange through an innovative combination of a unique patient identifier linked to a personal health record and a live 24/7 emergency response service. MedicAlert Foundation International medical ID products alert emergency personnel to a member's primary health conditions, medications or other critical information. In addition to its 24-hour emergency response service, MedicAlert Foundation International also provides family and caregiver notification so that members can be reunited with their loved ones. Visit [www.medicalert.org](http://www.medicalert.org) for more information.

### About the Carlos Vieira Foundation

Carlos Vieira Foundation was founded by Carlos Vieira utilizing his race team not only to be a team at the track but also to be a team that helps different organizations. The Carlos Vieira Foundation, a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, not only helps families living with Autism but they also dedicate their time to helping support other organizations in their local community.

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