Press Release and Photo Opportunity

For Immediate Release   Contact person: (insert name) _____

Contact phone number: (insert numbers) _____

Trenton, NJ – Individuals in _____ (insert city or town), NJ, will hold an informational meeting on (insert date) _____ at (insert time) _____ at (insert location) _____to explore the formation of a People First Chapter.

People First of New Jersey is a self-advocacy movement for individuals with intellectual, cognitive and related developmental disabilities. By joining together in groups, individuals with disabilities learn to speak for themselves, share ideas, friendships and information.

"We are people first and our disabilities come second," said Kevin Smith, self-advocacy coordinator for People First of New Jersey based in Parkersburg. There are People First chapters in Parkersburg, Clarksburg, Bridgeport, Lewisburg, Princeton, Elkins and Beckley, with new chapters being formed each year. The program is funded by the New Jersey Council on Developmental Disabilities.

Individuals in People First chapters live in many types of settings, their own apartments, their parents' homes, group homes and with foster families. They go to school, work at community businesses, and have supported employment services.

People can be as active as they like in People First. Local chapters meet once a month. The members learn, practice, and put self-advocacy into action by working together toward goals they set at their monthly meetings.

New Jersey has a statewide People First advisory committee, which is made up of a minimum of 12 individuals with developmental disabilities, with two members elected by each local chapter. The advisory committee meets four times a year.

For more information on being involved in this informational meeting, please contact (insert organizer's name) _____ at (insert phone number or email) _____, or call the People First of New Jersey office at (609) 292-3745, or go to www.njcdd.org .

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