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High School Senior to Bike 100 Miles for His Brother and Long Island Autism Families

Hauppauge High School senior Luca Iallonardi, 16, is embarking on the ride of his life – A 100-mile trek from Manhattan to the Hamptons on a bicycle happening September 26th. As a first-time participant in the annual “Bike to the Beach” to benefit those with autism, Luca hopes to honor his brother, Jackson, 18, who has autism and local Long Island families with children and adult family members on the spectrum.

"I am so glad I get to raise money and awareness for such an important charity. My brother and other individuals with autism are in need of social opportunities, and I would do anything to help those individuals and their needs. Biking 100 miles couldn't compare to the hardships Jackson goes through," says Luca, who is an accomplished musician and International Baccalaureate student at Hauppauge High School. Luca is riding with the Nassau-Suffolk Autism Society of America's Team, which is currently leading the roster of riding teams with the most money raised so far - \$70,049 as of this writing.

Another rider on the NSASA team, Augie Carbone, 59, is the father of three boys with autism and the current fundraising leader with over \$17,000. It is only Augie's second 100-mile ride. His first, last year, accomplished with a grueling, five-day-a-week training regimen and an initial \$1,000 goal that ended up raising more than \$19,000. "This organization directly impacts the lives of the Autistic population and their families by providing socialization and recreational opportunities that our families would otherwise avoid. NSASA is truly changing lives," he says.

Luca, Augie and the rest of the NSASA team of riders will cross the finish line at Tiki Joe's Beach Club at Smith Point Beach, NY.

About Bike to the Beach:

In the years following the first Bike to the Beach and when Bike to the Beach became a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, its founding members joined the millions of Americans who are affected by autism. Each was inspired to make a difference in the fight to understand and treat a disorder for which the cause

is unknown. Bike to the Beach is not just the host of charity bike events, but a community made up of individuals, cyclists, local organizations, advocates, philanthropists, corporate companies, and national partners who have all coalesced behind a single common mission; to promote bicycle riding, raise funds and make an impact on the community affected by autism.

About NSASA:

NSASA is a parent-run organization serving over 3,000 families on Long Island. Their mission is to support individuals with autism in our local community.

Through fundraising efforts, NSASA provides free educational, social, and recreational opportunities to families touched by autism. NSASA organizes a variety of events including roller skating, private movie screenings, Outback Steakhouse luncheons, plays, bowling, and more. It is their goal to provide positive experiences for families in a non-judgmental, welcoming environment.

For more information:

NSASA:
<http://www.nsasa.org/>

#BikeToTheBeach:
<https://biketotheseach.org/>

Photos for this story:

Luca and Jackson Iallonardi and Augie Carbone: <http://www.nsasa.org/bike-to-the-beach-photos/>