



CLEARWATER MARINE AQUARIUM

MEDIA ALERT

Clearwater Marine Aquarium recognizes Autism Awareness Month

- Autism Awareness Day activities scheduled for Saturday, April 9
- Social Media art contest to launch tonight, April 4, running through April 30

Clearwater, FL (April 4, 2015) – Clearwater Marine Aquarium (CMA), a marine life rescue center, will recognize and celebrate autism awareness this Saturday, April 9th, along with a month-long art competition on Facebook and Instagram. The month of April is designated as National Autism Awareness Month.

Sensory friendly activities will be featured at Winter's Dolphin Tale Adventure, CMA's downtown facility, from 11:00am to 3:00pm, on Saturday April 9th. Autism Speaks, a non-profit organization dedicated to assisting families affected by autism, will be on site sharing information with guests. Additionally, at the main facility, Winter, Hope, and their friends will demonstrate their support by interacting with enrichment devices in the shape of a blue puzzle piece, an awareness symbol for autism.

Autism Awareness Day activities are included with regular admission to CMA.

CMA has received incredible artwork from individuals all over the world who are affected by autism. In recognition of their talent and generosity, artists of all ages are invited to share their autism-inspired work with CMA on Facebook and Instagram during the month of April.

A *Dolphin Tale* prize package will be awarded to the "Winter's Choice" piece of art. The CMA team will be looking for art that best combines marine life with symbols of Autism Awareness Day, such as the puzzle piece and the color blue. Artists must include hashtags #CMAlife and #LIUB (light it up blue), the official hashtag of Autism Speaks.

See <http://www.seewinter.com/autism-awareness-day> for full details.

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About Clearwater Marine Aquarium: Clearwater Marine Aquarium (CMA) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit working marine rescue center dedicated to inspiring the human spirit through leadership in education, research, rescue, rehabilitation and release. CMA is home to rescued dolphins, sea turtles, river otters, stingrays, nurse sharks and more. Winter the dolphin's story of survival, after the injury that caused her to lose her tail, has impacted millions of people around the world. A major motion picture, *Dolphin Tale*, highlighted her life story in 2011. The sequel, *Dolphin Tale 2*, was released in September 2014 and features the incredible story of Hope, a young resident dolphin of CMA. The mission and potential to change people's lives differentiates Clearwater Marine Aquarium from any other aquarium in the world.

WE BELIEVE in preserving our marine life and environment while inspiring the human spirit through leadership in education, research, rescue, rehabilitation, and release.

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A Florida non-profit 501(c)(3) organization