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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Culture Around the Spectrum Makes Debut in Montgomery

Montgomery, Ala.—October 2, 2026—Disability as an Ability Toward Success: Moms on the Move, also known as D.A.T.S.M.O.M., a 501(c)(3) organization, is proud to announce hosting its first cultural awareness and autism education event, *Culture Around the Spectrum,* on Saturday, November 7th from 10a.m. to 2p.m. at the Ida Belle Young Park in Montgomery, AL.

D.A.T.S.M.O.M. Founder Tametria Conner Dantzler says this is a free, family outreach event bringing families of children on the spectrum together with culture, connection and community resources.

"Autism is not race or gender specific. I serve diverse families from several cultural and ethnic backgrounds. I want our events and services to reflect the people served. Member Ana Zelaya shared her idea and desire with me to have an event to increase autism awareness within the Hispanic community," Dantzler said.

D.A.T.S.M.O.M. member Ana Zelaya says cultural awareness and knowing how to connect to diverse families is critical to educating many within her community about autism. A mother of three, with two girls on the spectrum, Zelaya says cultural differences makes it challenging.

"We need safe spaces and D.A.T.S.M.O.M. has been that safe space for families on the spectrum. When it comes to connection, having diverse activities and seeing diversity among support and resources makes me feel like I am acknowledged and matter," Zelaya said.

The event will include children and family engagement activities, hands-on sensory activities and a variety of cultural entertainment.

"We have invited key organizations to participate from the Asian, Indigenous and Hispanic communities; to name a few."

Zelaya says *Culture Around the Spectrum* is an opportunity for safe connection among families who wouldn't otherwise seek out autism education and support.

"For many in my Hispanic culture, if the space is not safe, diverse and supportive, we won't come. It's a lot we don't know about autism and it what it means to have children with it," Zelaya said.

An educational resource fair will take place from 10a.m. to 12 noon with several confirmed service providers and organizations that support families of children on the spectrum and diverse communities from around the state. Alabama Support of Alabama, Regional Autism Network, Alabama Extension Service, Unidos Por El Autismo and Unified Behavior Consultation, LLC have confirmed participation.

D.A.T.S.M.O.M. has partnered with Habla Interpreting, LLC to support Hispanic families during this event. Representatives will provide free Spanish-speaking interpreters and help families navigate government programs such as SSI, Medicaid and the Medicaid Waiver Program.

Culture Around the Spectrum is one of the many free resources, services, programs and training D.A.T.S.M.O.M. provides to families of children on the spectrum. of the D.A.T.S.M.O.M. Follow the campaign on our website www.datsmom.org, Facebook (DATS MOM), Instagram and Twitter (@datsmom). For additional information, please email info@datsmom.org or datsmom@datsmom.org

About Disability as an Ability Toward Success: Moms on the Move (D.A.T.S.M.O.M):

Disability as an Ability Toward Success: Moms on the Move, also known as D.A.T.S.M.O.M., is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization serving more than 500 families of children on the autism spectrum (or with related developmental disabilities). The goal is to provide a platform to help parents and caregivers shift their children's disability into an ability by equipping them with the knowledge, support and tools needed to be effective advocates for their children. By providing free support, programs, enrichment activities, resources, parent training and services for children and young adults on the autism spectrum, we help families progressively navigate the autism journey. Some notable initiatives include the Alabama Autism Safety Initiative, the Conner Dantzler Autism Scholarship Fund and the Spectrum Sky Airport Training Program. D.A.T.S.M.O.M. provides free, weekly, virtual parent/caregiver training and have served more than 300 families/caregivers virtually.

D.AT.S.M.O.M. CONTACTS:

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