

“One Wave at a Time”

# SURFERS HEALING

A stylized blue wave graphic that flows from the bottom of the word 'HEALING' and extends to the right, ending in a dolphin silhouette.

A surf program for individuals on the Autism Spectrum

Since 1996



# Our Mission

Our mission is to enrich the lives of people living with autism by exposing them to the unique experience of surfing.



- Izzy Paskowitz

# History

## The Journey Begins

Surfers Healing began with a journey

When I (co-founder Israel "Izzy" Paskowitz) was growing up, my family wasn't like other families. My dad, surfing legend and Stanford M.D. Dorian "Doc" Paskowitz, wanted his 9 children to have the wisdom that comes from life experience. So instead of living in a house, we lived in a small camper, traveling in search of our next wave.

All this helped me achieve my dream of becoming a professional surfer. I won major titles, major endorsements, major respect. In 1987, I married the most beautiful girl I'd ever seen, Danielle. Then our first child, Israelah, came along. My life was perfect.

Isaiah, our second child, was perfect too: handsome, laughing, smiling. But then he began to regress. He stopped speaking and hitting developmental milestones. Diagnosis? Autism.

# History

## Post-Diagnosis

I was in shock, denial, and disbelief. What about the child I thought I had?

My dreams were dashed, and I wondered what I'd done to deserve this unexpected blow.

I didn't want to deal with it. I couldn't deal with it. So I threw myself into my work, avoiding home as much as possible. Paralyzed, I feared that I'd let my family down, that it was my fault.

But I had to get past all that. I had to get over myself and start thinking about Isaiah. I began taking him with me everywhere. I stopped caring what people said or thought.

Fortunately, I met some amazing people who loved Isaiah exactly as he was. Thanks to them, I learned to embrace, rather than fight, the reality of my son's differences.

# History

## The Pivotal Moment

The scene: the beach, opening ceremonies of the World Longboard Championship in Haleiwa, Hawaii.

The problem: Isaiah was having a meltdown.

My wife tried to calm him, but she had her hands full.

Not knowing what else to do, I picked Isaiah up and heaved him into the ocean.

When his head popped up, a transformation had taken place; here was a happy, smiling, peaceful child. What else could I do but jump in with him? A friend grabbed a longboard, and Isaiah and I rode the waves for the first time.

He loved it. He loved the ocean; he loved being out on the board together. And me? I was beside myself, because I was finally connecting with my son.

We could surf together, and that was enough.

# History

## Why Surfing?

I believe that Isaiah responded so dramatically to the ocean that day because it helped calm him during a time of sensory overload. It was a therapeutic experience for him. There's something powerful about the weightlessness or floating, the lightness of riding a wave. And our family has seen that transformation time and time again with Isaiah.

That day in Hawaii, I had a feeling that maybe, just maybe, surfing might help other kids with autism like it had helped Isaiah.

With that in mind, Danielle and I began inviting other families to join us in the water. We founded Surfers Healing, the original surf camp for children with autism, in 1996.

# History

## Our Shared Journey

Since then, Surfers Healing has grown tremendously.

Now, we offer free surf camps for children with autism across the country, from San Diego to Rhode Island. We also have camps in Mexico and Puerto Rico. Each year, we surf with thousands of children with autism.

Our daylong camps are about acceptance, respite, and fun. (I call it, "Extreme Special Ed.") Surfing isn't a cure for autism, but you'd be surprised at the difference a day at the beach can make. It's amazing to see what our kids can do, and how they light up as they learn.

Isaiah is in his twenties now, and the autism I once thought was a curse turned out to be a precious gift. It is an honor to be Isaiah's father, to see Surfers Healing grow and flourish. Every child is beautiful and unique, and every child deserves a moment in the sun.

# 2025 U.S. Events Calendar

## United States

Dana Point, CA (Doheny State Beach)

Wednesday, June 4th 2025

Full

Malibu, CA

Saturday, June 7th 2025

Full

Oceanside, CA

Postponed

Sunny Isles Beach, FL

Thursday, August 7th 2025

Full

Ocean City, MD

Wednesday, August 13th 2025

Full

Virginia Beach, VA

Friday, August 15th 2025

Full

Virginia Beach, VA

Saturday, August 16th 2025

Full

Wrightsville Beach, NC

Monday, August 18th 2025

Full

Folly Beach, SC

Wednesday, August 20th 2025

Full

Belmar, NJ (Autism Family Services of NJ)

Sunday, September 7th 2025

Full

Southampton, NY

Tuesday, September 9th 2025

Full

Galveston, TX

Saturday, September 13th 2025

Full

Galveston, TX

Sunday, September 14th 2025

Full

Maui, HI

Saturday, October 11th 2025

Full

Hilo, HI

Saturday, November 22nd 2025

Register

Waikiki, HI

Saturday, November 29th 2025

Register

## VOLUNTEER TESTIMONIALS



“Being a part of Surfers Healing has been an amazing experience. Seeing the joy on the kids’ faces is truly rewarding.”

### **Jessica Miller**

Jessica has been volunteering with Surfers Healing for four years.

“Volunteering with Surfers Healing is a life-changing experience. It’s incredible to see the positive impact we can make for the kids and their families.”



### **David Carter**

David joined Surfers Healing as a volunteer in 2018.



“It’s an honor to be part of this organization. The love and support that Surfers Healing provides to these children is truly special.”

### **Emma Williams**

Emma has been a dedicated volunteer with Surfers Healing since 2020.

# How to Get Involved



## Donate

Your financial support helps us bring surf in to children with autism and fund our camps and programs.



## Volunteer

Join our team of dedicated volunteer's and make a difference at our surf camps and events.



## Spread the Word

Help us raise awareness by sharing our mission and stories with your community and on social media.



You can get involved with the Surfers Healing team by scanning the QR codes above to learn more.

# From Our Supporters

Here are other companies, collaborations, sponsors, and partners who support Surfers Healing:

## MAHALO TO OUR SUPPORTERS!



### Location A

Our long-standing partner who provides essential resources for our surf camps



### Ocean Co.

Generously supports our mission through annual donations



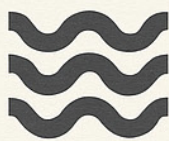
### FutureWave

Collaborating with us on innovative programs for children with autism



### Shoreline Foundation

Key supporter of our community engagement initiatives



### Wave Enterprises

Provides sponsorships and assistance for our events



### Beachside Bank

Proud to sponsor our programs with financial services

### Beachside Bank

Provides sponsorships and assistance for our events

# GET INVOLVED

Full Name

Email Address

Phone

- I'd like to donate
- I'd like to volunteer
- Add me to the mailing list

By submitting this form, you consent to Surfers Healing collecting your information for the purposes outlined above.

**Submit**