MEET THE STAFF: LORI GRAY • EDEN II RECEIVES $130K IN CITY COUNCIL FUNDING

COMMUNICATING THE NEWS & NEEDS OF EDEN II PROGRAMS | FALL/WINTER 2017

GENESIS LAUNCHES A NEW SOCIAL ENTERPRISE IN HICKSVILLE, NY.
A Message From
The Executive Director

Forging Ahead:
Let Our Voices Be Heard

Dear Friends:

As another school year begins here at Eden II, I can’t help but think of all the changes I have seen over my 35 years here. The children who were here on my first day are now in their 40’s. Many of the kids left us over the years to move back into less restrictive settings. Some have gone on to attend college. One mom recently told me about her son who has a great job in Manhattan that he loves.

There have been many other changes over the years. When I began, we were serving 19 students in our school program and around 10 young adults in the newly developed adult program. Today, we serve over 500 people annually throughout Staten Island and Long Island services and programs. We went from renting space in a church basement to owning our own buildings for our school and adult program. We occupy almost 100,000 square feet of program space across Staten Island and Long Island for our education, adult and family support programs.

When I began at Eden II, we employed approximately 40 people. Today, we employ over 600 full and part time staff. We had one full time and one part time program director, two speech pathologists and one psychologist. Today, we have over 10 directors as well as more than 8 behavior analysts, and speech pathologists.

In addition to all of the changes in size and space, there have also been many changes to our programs themselves. The changes have all been positive and reflect the many advances made in the field of autism intervention and applied behavior analysis. In fact, the photo on the cover is an example of the positive changes. We are providing a great deal more of our supports in the community than we did 35 years ago. We hope that “Seasons for a Reason” is only one of several social enterprise businesses we will be opening in the coming years.

I will say that the one thing that has not changed over the last 35 years is Eden II’s commitment to the individuals we serve and their families. Despite how large we have grown and how much we have expanded, it still feels like a family to me. We remain a program that is committed to providing supports across the lifespan. It has become more challenging to do this due to funding limitations but we remain committed.

It is hard to know what the next few years will bring. There is much uncertainty with regard to funding as well as state and national policies. There continues to be growth in the incidence of autism. It will be more important than ever that we make sure our voices are heard and that supports and services for the people we serve remain a priority at both the state and federal level.

Joanne Gerenser, Ph.D., CCC-SLP
Executive Director
Eden II School for Autistic Children, Inc.  
(DBA Eden II Programs)  
Financial Information for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2016

### Statement of Activity

**Operating Revenue & Support**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Revenue</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Programs &amp; Public Support Services</td>
<td>$29,050,185</td>
<td>97%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants and Contract Services</td>
<td>$601,275</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Revenue</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Operating Revenue</strong></td>
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**Expenses**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Expenses</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Educational Services</td>
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<tr>
<td>Residential Services</td>
<td>$7,304,355</td>
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<tr>
<td>Adult Day Habilitation Services</td>
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<td>Family Support Services</td>
<td>$1,868,356</td>
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<tr>
<td>Community Outreach</td>
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<tr>
<td>Management &amp; General</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
<td><strong>$30,836,991</strong></td>
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**Net Assets**

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<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Change in Net Assets</td>
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<tr>
<td>Net Assets as of July 1, 2015</td>
<td>$8,680,974</td>
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<tr>
<td>Net Assets as of June 30, 2016</td>
<td>$8,339,155</td>
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### Balance Sheet

**Assets**

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<tbody>
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<td>Cash</td>
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<td>Program Services Revenue</td>
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<td>Property and Equipment</td>
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<td>Other Assets</td>
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<td><strong>Total Assets</strong></td>
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**Liabilities & Net Assets**

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<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Amount</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>Total Liabilities</td>
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<td>Temporarily Restricted Net Assets</td>
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<td><strong>Total Liabilities &amp; Net Assets</strong></td>
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INDEPENDENT AUDITORS: BDO USA, LLP

TO RECEIVE THE COMPLETE EDEN II SCHOOL FOR AUTISTIC CHILDREN, INC. AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS, PLEASE SEND YOUR REQUEST VIA EMAIL TO: INFO@EDEN2.ORG, OR VISIT GUIDESTAR.ORG.

**Thank You**

Thank you to all our donors for their tremendous generosity. Their donations are so essential to our programs and we greatly appreciate their contributions.
FISCAL YEAR 2016
(JULY 1, 2015 TO JUNE 30, 2016)

OVER 400 CHILDREN AND ADULTS SERVED

132 Children in Education Programs
23 Preschoolers
73 In SEIT & SETSS
100 Elementary & Secondary
91 Served in Adult Day Programs
37 Group Residences

SKYLINE DRIVE
- 23 Preschoolers (3 classrooms)
- 30 SEIT Students
- 18 Elementary Students (3 classrooms)
- 43 SETSS Students (community-based)

BEACH STREET
- 68 Total Students (10 classrooms)
- Elementary & Secondary Education
- Students Ages 8-21

EDEN II ELTINGVILLE
- 14 children (2 classrooms)
- Leased space in school

SI RESIDENTIAL
- ANNADALE: 10 bed ICF
- PORT RICHMOND: 6 bed IRA (Individualized Residential Alternative)
- OAKWOOD: 8 bed IRA
- WILLOWBROOK: 7 bed IRA
- HUGUENOT: 8 bed IRA

OTHER SERVICES:
- WAIVER COMMUNITY HABILITATION (SI/Bklyn): 90 people
- WAIVER RESPITE (SI/Bklyn): 76 individuals
- AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS (SI/Bklyn): 28 individuals
- MEDICAID SERVICE COORDINATION: 109 people
- ADULT RECREATION PROGRAM: 6 individuals
- VARIOUS FAMILY SUPPORT PROGRAMS: 200 people/year

(Staten Island & Brooklyn Family Support programs include: summer day camp, respite, crisis respite, parent training programs, and clinical evaluation programs, etc.)
LONG ISLAND

FISCAL YEAR 2016
(JULY 1, 2015 TO JUNE 30, 2016)

OVER 100 CHILDREN AND ADULTS SERVED

30 In Education Programs ages 8-21
50 Outreach Services
28 In Adult Day Programs
12 Group Residences

GENESIS PROGRAMS
30 Students ages 8-21 (5 classrooms)

LI RESIDENTIAL
SOUTH HUNTINGTON/DIX HILLS:
6 bed IRA (Individualized Residential Alternative)
ST. JAMES: 6 bed IRA

LONG ISLAND BY COUNTY
Participants served in each county.

OTHER SERVICES:
AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS (LI): 20
SERVICE COORDINATION (LI): Included above in MSC for agency
SATURDAY: 12 a trip, total 24 per year
HOLIDAY TRIPS: 12 a trip, total 9 per year
SUMMER CAMP: 15 a day- total 75/week
OVERNIGHT TRIPS: 6 per trip - total 5 per year

(icons courtesy of www.flaticon.com)
Around Town
WHY DID YOU DECIDE TO WORK WITH YOUNG CHILDREN WITH AUTISM?

My journey working with people with autism began in 1996. My friend had been working in a home with a 4 year old boy who was diagnosed and was showing much improvement through the use of Applied Behavior Analysis. She recruited me onto his team and I never looked back! I was so honored to play such a vital role in this child’s success and, with every step of his progress, my heart burst with pride. It helped me to appreciate the “little” things in life. I saw how hard this child and his family worked day in and day out...and I knew that my life’s calling was to help others who were on this path.

I was blessed to have the opportunity to intern at Eden II in my last year of graduate school and when I graduated, became one of the school psychologists at Granite Avenue. For the next few years, I worked with students age 3-13 years. I eventually left Eden II and began working in a preschool, but always remained part of Eden II’s Human Rights Committee. I returned in 2014, serving as a behavior intervention specialist at the adult program and in residential. In 2017, I again became the school psychologist at the preschool and school programs. I have truly come full circle. I’m so grateful for my experiences, being able to work with incredible people, their inspiring families and the wonderful staff at Eden II.

WHAT ARE SOME MOMENTS THAT HAVE STUCK OUT TO YOU WHILE WORKING AT EDEN II?

One of the most heartwarming moments I’ve experienced at Eden II was at the beginning of my internship. I received a phone call from a crying parent of a primarily nonverbal 6 year old telling me that her child said, “I love you,” for the first time. Before that, I didn’t realize the impact that we had on these families, who often take very little for granted.

Another event that touched me so deeply was when I returned to Eden II’s adult program and was greeted, by name, by some of the participants who hadn’t seen me in over 10 years. I was honored that I had been remembered, even though so much time had passed.

WHAT DO YOU CONSIDER TO BE THE MOST REWARDING THING ABOUT WORKING WITH OUR PARTICIPANTS?

Working with individuals with ASD can often be challenging, especially from a behavioral and/or counseling aspect. Assisting those people and their families, however, has been the most rewarding experience of my life. Through the years, I have seen so many grow and become incredible adults who overcome the odds and stereotypes (that, unfortunately, still do exist).

WHERE DO YOU HOPE TO SEE EDEN II IN 10 YEARS?

In 2016, the Center for Disease Control reported that approximately 1 in 68 children (1 in 42 boys and 1 in 189 girls) in the United States has been identified with ASD. This number is alarming, as there certainly are not enough programs that provide needed ABA services for these individuals. The mission statement of Eden II is clear: “...to support people with autism throughout their lives to achieve their fullest potential through service, science and passion.” To fulfill this, Eden II must physically expand all of its day programs in order to meet the needs of the growing community. Ongoing public education must continue. More job opportunities for our participants must be sought. Self-determination, our participants’ right to direct their own futures, must be further explored. More residential housing prospects must be available for families who want to ensure the safety of their children when they can no longer provide for them and they cannot do so for themselves.

I am confident that Eden II will continue to grow over the next decade and provide superior quality services, as it has always done.
BOROUGH PRESIDENT ODDO AWARDS $25,000 TO EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAM

THE STUDENTS OF EDEN II’S LITTLE MIRACLES PRESCHOOL welcomed Borough President James Oddo and members of his staff when they visited to learn about the needs of the early childhood program. “We really do utilize every inch of space we have available, but we’ve outgrown it at this point. Our equipment and classroom furniture is also worn and needs replacement,” said Dr. Joanne Gerenser, Eden II Executive Director. Shortly after his visit, the Borough President awarded $25,000 to support the upgrade of classroom furniture.

SENATOR LANZA PROVIDES $25,000 FOR PRESCHOOL SUMMER CAMP

NEW YORK STATE SENATOR ANDREW LANZA has allocated $25,000 in funding for Eden II’s preschool summer camp. The six week camp provided the experience of social and communication skills-building, varied recreational activities, behavioral and academic support. The camp allowed students the opportunity to make new friends, strengthen independence and positive behaviors, and practice traveling. Director for Preschool Services, Lauren Grimaldi, shared, “I can’t thank Senator Lanza enough for his support. The camp provides so many crucial services for our kids. This experience helps them build a skillset that will travel with them throughout their lives and education.”

HYDE & WATSON FOUNDATION GRANTS $5,000 TO EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAM

THE HYDE & WATSON FOUNDATION recently awarded Eden II a grant toward our expansion of the early childhood and preschool program. Through their funding, we will be able to provide new classroom furniture and supplies for children in early education so that they can have the best learning environment to support their development. Items needed include desks, chairs, bookshelves, teacher stations, room dividers, bean bags for the library corner, reading area mats, play area rugs, desk partitions for one on one settings, books for the library, library cart, storage cabinets, cubby units, and classroom supplies.

INVESTORS FOUNDATION GIVES $1,000 TO SUPPORT THE ADULT DAY HAB WELLNESS PROGRAM

INVESTORS FOUNDATION PROVIDED a grant to Eden II in support of our adult participant wellness program. The grant will support the participants of adult day habilitation by promoting a healthier lifestyle through daily exercise, specifically the purchase of exercise equipment at our Wright Avenue location. Day Habilitation Supervisor, Harold Mahecha, says the participants are “enjoying the new variety of exercise equipment. Joe (a Day Hab participant) looks forward to his time on the recumbent bike!”
The New York City Council adopted the fiscal year 2018 budget, and Eden II is pleased to announce funding from the Staten Island delegation: Debi Rose, Steve Matteo, and Joseph Borelli.

South Shore Councilman, Joseph Borelli allocated $10,000 for Eden II’s early childhood classes, located at Eltingville Lutheran. Since his election, Councilman Borelli has continuously provided funding for this project, which he first learned about when serving as the Chief of Staff for then Councilman Vincent Ignizio. Additionally, Councilman Borelli was instrumental in securing $20,000 from the Speaker, Melissa Mark-Viverito for early childhood.

“The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention now estimate that every 1 in 68 children in the U.S. has autism, the prevalence of which continues to grow. As a parent, I understand the desire to provide the highest quality of care for your child, but I can imagine how that would be a difficult task to accomplish if the services are not available to you – it is beyond frustrating,” said Councilman Joe Borelli. This is why I made it a priority to allocate the necessary funding to support Eden II’s early childhood classes at the Eden II’s Eltingville location. It is imperative to support programs like this which offer a truly invaluable service to those living with autism on Staten Island.”

Mid Island Councilman Steve Matteo allocated $5,000 for Kinderdance fitness lessons for our early childhood program. Kinderdance is a dance, motor development, gymnastics and fitness program that combines academic readiness skills designed for young children. Councilman Matteo has helped fund a number of programs, including our running and soccer clubs, and dayhab extension program (Doing Extraordinary Things, also known as DXT). The DXT offers participants a unique opportunity to create and sell their own products.

Councilman Matteo spoke of the positive effects of the funds, noting, “I am proud to support Eden II and the great work they do to help the autism community. These programs not only help these children improve their motor skills and fitness, they help them gain a sense of achievement and self-esteem that will last a lifetime.”

North Shore Councilwoman Debi Rose has allocated $5,000 for yoga classes to benefit the health and wellness of our adult participants. This is the second year she has contributed funding to the yoga classes. Councilwoman Rose has been a steadfast supporter of Eden II for many years. She has provided funding for numerous projects, including the running club and equipment for the Hon. James P. Molinaro Center for Autism.

“For more than four decades, Eden II has touched the lives of hundreds of Staten Island families by offering autism spectrum education and support, from preschool education to adult residences, and nearly everything in between. I was especially pleased to welcome Eden II to Stapleton two years ago, when they opened their state-of-the-art autism center housing their headquarters and offering elementary and secondary education programs. Having allocated funding for Eden II programs over the years, I was proud this year to secure City Council discretionary funds for yoga classes for Eden II students. My hope is that programs such as these help Eden II participants develop a healthy mind, body and spirit, and enjoy all life has to offer,” said Councilwoman Rose.

Eden II Executive Director, Dr. Joanne Gerenser shared, “We are grateful for the continued support the councilmembers have shown. Each member has provided funding that will go a long way in serving our participants, from our youngest to our oldest.”

Eden II will also receive $95,000 in funding from the City Council’s Autism Awareness Initiative. The monies will support respite trips, afterschool sessions, and informative webinars to help educate parents and autism professionals.
Members of Richmond County Referral Source, Inc. spent a busy day volunteering at Eden II Programs’ Honorable James P. Molinaro Center for Autism, located in Stapleton. The group raised $10,000 for the teaching kitchen during an Oktoberfest event held at the Center. The teaching kitchen allows Eden II participants to learn daily life skills like cooking healthy meals, baking, doing dishes and putting away groceries.

Jamie Arnold, Director of Educational Services, says, “The kitchen is used every day by students who are working independently to cook their own meals, as well as by students who are at the most basic steps of simple utensil identification or learning how to stab with a fork or cut with a knife. It is these basic skills that all come together to allow our students to independently make their own lunch. This is the end goal of all of our teaching, so participants learn to not only make themselves a meal when they are home, but this could also generalize into a job in the food industry.”

The group worked on a cooking lesson with Eden II participants, making sliders, while learning about the students’ daily lessons.

“I am very thankful that people from Richmond County Referral Source wanted to come and learn about our school. I was excited to have a cooking lesson with them” said Eden II participant, Meghan Mattei.

“Richmond County Referral Source is proud to have partnered with Eden II in their ongoing effort to provide vital skills for those achieving self-sufficiency. The success of this fundraising campaign was driven under the co-leadership of Stefanie Racano and Joe Arnone,” shared Joseph Torres, Wealth Management Advisor for Merrill Lynch and member of RCRS.

Joe Arnone, Chairman of the Oktoberfest event and member of RCRS, shared, ”We’re happy that the students will be able to learn and develop life skills in and around the kitchen. Eden II does so many great things for so many wonderful students and it was an honor help raise funds for the Eden II teaching kitchen.”

Eden II Executive Director, Dr. Joanne Gerenser, noted, “We’re thankful to Richmond County Referral Source, Inc. and all of its fantastic members. These were individuals who didn’t necessarily have a connection to Eden II or autism, but in one night, they came together in a big way to help the autism community. It shows such a commitment, and I’m thrilled to have amazing Staten Island community members like Joe and his group.”

A permanent recognition plaque was also revealed and displayed in Eden II’s teaching kitchen in honor of Richmond County Referral Source, Inc.
EDEN II PROGRAMS ANNOUNCES SIX NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Eden II Programs announces the appointment of six new members of its Board of Trustees: Marisa Ardizzone, Michele Carr, Anthony Citarrella, James Cronin, Christine Kneier, and Angela Natale.

Members of Eden II’s Board of Directors are charged with bringing their unique experiences and perspectives to enhance the agency’s mission and provide diligent fiscal and programmatic oversight to the agency’s work. Eden II’s Programs’ Executive Director, Dr. Joanne Gerenser, shares “All six of our newest Board members embody the spirit of community and bring talent, expertise, and energy to the table.” With the support and collaboration of our board members, we will continue to grow and further Eden II’s mission to support people with autism throughout their lives to achieve their full potential.”

**Marisa Ardizzone** was the executive vice president of Zone Energy Group at the New York Mercantile Exchange for over 20 years. She is currently raising her four children and a real estate agent on Staten Island. Her passion has always been to devote her time and resource to the local community and especially to children in need.

**Michele Carr** is the Group Managing Director, Partnerships for the NFL. She manages a portfolio of brand partners across multiple industries and leads all their experiential, digital, social and media activations with the League. She received a bachelor’s of science in marketing with a concentration in sports and events marketing from Fairleigh Dickinson University in Madison, New Jersey and was named a 2015 Game Changer by the Sports Business Journal. She resides in Staten Island, New York with her husband Chris and sons Matthew and Thomas.

**Anthony Citarrella** currently resides in Oceanside NY with his wife Deanna Powers, who is an Occupational therapist with a passion for developing the autism community. Anthony is the Director of Financial Planning and Analysis for over twenty venues in the TAO group portfolio where he focuses on budgeting, projecting, driving profitability and the protection of company assets. Anthony graduated from Fordham University and then obtained a Masters in accountancy at New York’s Baruch College.

**James Cronin** was born in Bronx, New York and is a graduate of Archbishop Molloy High School in Queens, New York. Jim earned his Bachelor of Arts degree from St. John’s University College of Liberal Arts in 1986 and his Juris Doctor from St. John’s University School of Law in 1990. After nearly 20 years as a sole practitioner, Jim joined Kerley, Walsh, Matera & Cinquemani, P.C. as a Partner in 2013. He is a member of the New York State and Nassau County Bar Associations, and, the Trust and Estates and Elder Law Sections of the New York State Bar Association.

**Christine Kneier** is the Vice President of Global Treasury Services at American Express. She joined Treasury in April 2013 as Vice President of Global Treasury Services (GTS). Christine is responsible for the operational processes, capabilities, reporting and analysis for various balance sheet and financial risk management areas. Christine joined American Express in 1993 and has worked in a variety of finance roles. Christine led the overall AXP planning and forecasting process within Corporate Planning. She was also Controller of American Express Bank (AEB) and worked on the sale of the Bank to Standard Chartered. Christine is a CPA and holds a B.S. in Accounting from St. John’s University. She lives in Glendale, New York with her husband, Robert and their two sons.

**Angela Natale** has a 19 year old son, Thomas, who attends the school age program at Beach Street. Thomas has been enrolled at Eden II since September 2000. Angela is an Early Intervention Therapist with more than 15 years of experience, specializing in Applied Behavior Analysis. She received a Bachelors of Science in Elementary Education from St. John’s University and a Masters of Science in Special Education from the College of Staten Island. Angela has been highly involved with the Eden II PTO; she served as co-president for two years. Angela resides in Staten Island with her husband Tom, her daughter Olivia, and Thomas.
Families Helping Families (FHF) – a nonprofit organization on Staten Island dedicated to providing families with the full level of support and education necessary to successfully cope with and overcome the challenges associated with disabilities – hosted a private theater showing of Trolls on November 6, 2016 and Moana on December 4, 2016 at a UA Theater in Staten Island. The participants of Eden II’s Sherwood residence attended both showings coordinated by Kelly Reebe, Qualified Intellectual Disabilities Professional at Eden II Programs. These movie theater outings encourage the participants to interact with their peers, promotes socialization, strengthens independence, and allows the participants to practice traveling.

FHF movie events are held hours before the theater opens to the public. They reserve the entire theater to eliminate lines at concession stands, crowds in the restrooms, and patrons in the corridors. They do this to ensure the safety and well-being of their event attendees, and to provide a welcoming, and understanding environment. With no crowds, lines, or other patrons, FHF has the freedom to keep the volume of the movie lower and the lights in the theater brighter. An Eden II staff member who attended the event commented, “It was nice that the staff was so accommodating.”

The private viewing consisted of a dual theater feature, where the same movie was shown in two different rooms simultaneously and patrons would choose a theater based on behavioral needs, sensitivity to noise and disruption. Theater A offered more freedom and was ideal for individuals who experience greater behavioral needs. The viewers were able to get up and walk, sing and dance without bothering anyone. Theater B was geared toward families and individuals who enjoy a quieter environment or are easily distracted by sounds and movements from others around them. The participants were able to switch between theaters without missing the show.

When asked about the movie experience, Cecil, one of the residents at Sherwood said “It was pretty good.” And when asked how it made him feel, he said “Happy.” Kelly Reebe explained, “Community gatherings like this are important to Eden II and to our participants. I’m glad that Sherwood had the opportunity to not just be able to experience the movies under different sensory considerations, but having their sensitivities and behaviors taken into consideration was also very nice. It is great knowing they enjoyed the movie under the provided conditions.”

For more information, please contact Stefanie Racano, Associate Director of Development at sracano@eden2.org or call 718-816-1422 x1030.
Eden II’s Genesis Programs has launched “Seasons for a Reason,” a new social enterprise that provides meaningful job training opportunities to individuals with autism spectrum disorders. The Seasons for a Reason kiosk is located in the Broadway Mall in Hicksville, Long Island on the first floor near the food court.

Eden II’s Genesis participants will be selling high end seasonal handmade crafts from the kiosk. Associate Executive Director for Eden II’s Genesis Programs, Dr. Mary McDonald shares, “Much of the population that we serve at Eden II is severely impacted by autism, making it challenging for them to gain competitive employment. According to the United States Department of Labor, employment rates for individuals with autism continue to lag very far behind those without disabilities and we hope to change that for the individuals we serve. There are many invaluable opportunities for our participants to be actively engaged in our social enterprise: from design to production, sales to marketing.”

Seasons for a Reason is the brainchild of Erin Archibald, Director of Outreach Programs, where many innovative programs are born.

Over the past two years, Ms. Archibald and Dr. McDonald have worked tirelessly to develop a social enterprise plan and put it into action. The kiosk offers a unique opportunity to spread autism awareness, and help people to understand how the programs’ participants can be active and productive members of their community.

Dr. Mary McDonald notes, “We hope that our presence in the mall will bring autism to the forefront in the community and maybe dispel some myths that people may have about autism. We believe that people with autism have a lot to offer and they just need to be given a chance to show what they can do.”
The adult participants and students in the social enterprise will be hands on at many different levels. For example, one participant who is interested in photography can take photos of items being sold to post to our social media. We have a number of participants who love creating the handmade items, so they can be involved in that end. Other participants may focus more on business skills, like using the cash register or taking inventory.

Eden II Programs’ Executive Director, Dr. Joanne Gerenser shares, “Seasons for a Reason allows for vocational experiences in our local community, and gives our participants opportunities to gain social skills, independence, and build relationships with local potential employers.” The mall would serve as a community based learning environment for the school program, day habilitation program as well as our residence participants. It would be a job training site for individuals and may also support individuals participating in self-determination.

Seasons for a Reason has sponsor support from Autism Speaks, The Fanning Foundation The Local Union #3 Sportsmen’s Club and the Nassau/Suffolk Autism Society. These sponsors have paved the way for this dream to become a reality. The profits received at the kiosk will be used to pay kiosk rental costs. “As the kiosk develops over time, we hope for it to become an employment site for individuals with autism,” shares Dr. Mary McDonald. “We believe there are limited opportunities for people with autism and feel it is important to begin creating them.”

Dr. McDonald continues, “Everyone involved has high hopes for Seasons for a Reason, because we have high hopes for our participants. It is through this initiative we can make a real difference in the life of individuals with autism and we plan to do just that. The response so far has been very positive and we expect that people will want to be a part of this exciting venture and know that they made a mark and that they were part of the reason that someone with autism can say that he/she has a job.”

The mission of Seasons for a Reason is to employ people with autism. Offering high quality crafts, and a range of promotional items, Seasons for a Reason is devoted to providing vocational training opportunities to participants with autism.

FOR QUESTIONS OR SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES, PLEASE CONTACT CHRISTEN PELLEGRINI AT (516) 937-1397 EXT. 531 OR CPELLEGRINI@EDEN2.ORG.
On Sunday April 23, 2017, the Sportsmen’s Club of Local #3 IBEW held their 2nd Annual Walk for Autism to promote autism awareness in honor of autism awareness month. The walk was held in the community surrounding the Local #3 IBEW building in Flushing NY and was well attended with over 250 people including Local #3 members and the community at large participating. There was a walk course, entertainment and the walk ended with a barbecue. The Sportsmen’s Club chose Eden II’s Genesis Programs to be the recipient of the money raised this year and made a donation of $27,344.00 to support the Genesis Outreach Programs. Their support will be of great value to the outreach department’s newest venture- our social enterprise Seasons for a Reason. This donation will go a long way in helping us to meet our mission of providing vocational opportunities to individuals with autism with the goal of hiring individuals with autism. We so appreciate the Sportsmen’s Club of Local #3 IBEW dedication to supporting individuals with autism and making a difference in the life of an individual with autism. Special thanks to Club President Tommy Mohan and Walk Coordinators Nicole Degirolamo, Jimmy Brendel Robert Fox and Timmy Gorman for making it happen and to all of the members of Local #3 IBEW for their participation.
We are **EXCITED** to announce that Eden II’s Genesis Programs has developed a social enterprise in order to provide job training opportunities for individuals with autism spectrum disorders.

Visit us on the first floor near the escalators that go to the food court and IKEA at the Broadway Mall in Hicksville, Long Island.
SAVE THE DATE
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2017

BLAZING TRAILS
for Autism

4 MILE RUN/WALK
FOR AUTISM
RAISE FUNDS & AWARENESS FOR A GREAT CAUSE

JOIN TEAM GENESIS IN THE BLAZING TRAILS 4 MILE RUN/WALK FOR AUTISM

11.18.17
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2017
HOODED SWEATSHIRTS FOR ALL REGISTRANTS

USATF SANCTIONED EVENT | ALL ARE WELCOME!
GREAT NECK, SOUTH HS
VISIT US ONLINE AT EDEN2.ORG/RUN

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL 516.937.1397 EXT.531 OR EMAIL RUN@EDEN2.ORG

NET PROCEEDS WILL BENEFIT THE EDEN II & GENESIS FOUNDATION, A NON-PROFIT DEDICATED TO PROVIDING FUNDS FOR PROGRAMS AND SERVICES THAT SUPPORT INDIVIDUALS WITH AUTISM. THE EDEN II & GENESIS FOUNDATION IS A 501(C)3 NONPROFIT DEDICATED TO IMPROVING THE LIVES OF CHILDREN & ADULTS WITH AUTISM. TAX ID 06-1277428
EDEN II & GENESIS FOUNDATION

Gala 2017

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2017
HILTON GARDEN INN OF STATEN ISLAND

WE ARE PROUD TO ANNOUNCE THIS YEAR’S HONOREES

Steven Klein
President, Northfield Bank
CORPORATE LEADERSHIP AWARD

Luciano & Angela Fuschetto
AMBERY LEADERSHIP AWARD

Gerald Amerosi
Owner/Founder, Gerald Peters
COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

Thomas Carr
LITTLE MIRACLES ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Andrew Bianchi
PARTICIPANT OF THE YEAR AWARD

COCKTAIL RECEPTION AT 7PM & DINNER AT 8PM
BLACK TIE OPTIONAL

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES OR TO GET INVOLVED, EMAIL GALA@EDEN2.ORG OR VISIT WWW.EDEN2.ORG/GALA.

100% OF THE EVENT PROCEEDS WILL GO TO SUPPORT PROGRAMS AND SERVICES SERVING CHILDREN AND ADULTS WITH AUTISM. PROCEEDS FROM THIS YEAR’S GALA AUCTION WILL RAISE FUNDS FOR THE EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAM AT EDEN II. ONLINE PRE-BIDDING ON AUCTION ITEMS IS AVAILABLE AT WWW.501AUCTIONS.COM/AUTISMGALA.

EDEN II & GENESIS FOUNDATION TAX ID: 06-1277426
Amazon Smile is a free and easy way to help raise funds for Eden II’s programs and services. Visit www.eden2.org/smile for more information. When you choose “Eden II School for Autistic Children” as your charity of choice, a portion of every purchase you make will benefit Eden II.

As you make plans for your future, we hope you will consider including Eden II Programs in them. In doing so, you have the opportunity to assist in our mission of supporting people with autism to achieve their full potential through service, science, and passion.

If you would like to learn more, we would be happy to send you our complimentary informative booklet, How to Make a Will That Works, with answers to 38 questions to stress the importance of a will.

Please email info@eden2.org with your request for a copy at no obligation!