SUPPORT OUR EARLY CHILDHOOD CAMPAIGN TODAY!

PROCEEDS FROM THIS YEAR’S DINE OUT EVENT WILL SUPPORT OUR EARLY CHILDHOOD CAPITAL CAMPAIGN.
Dear Friends:

I often begin my articles by reminding people that 1 in 59 children born today will be diagnosed with autism. Each time I write or say this, I am still astounded by these numbers. When I began working in the field in 1982, the incidence of autism was approximately one in every 2,500 children. Think about these numbers in terms of children needing supports and services. In 2015, there were 5,286 live births in Staten Island. That means that approximately 89 of those babies will eventually receive a diagnosis of autism. If those same 5,286 babies were born in 1982, fewer than three would receive a diagnosis of autism. Even more startling are the citywide numbers. There were 116,040 live births recorded in NYC in 2015. Applying the same numbers as before would mean that 1,966 babies would have received the diagnosis, compared to only 46, if the incidence of autism was still at 1 in 2,500.

What do these numbers mean? Well, they mean that there needs to be 25 times more programs, services and supports today than what was needed in 1982. More importantly, it is critical that these services are available to children as soon as they are diagnosed. The literature is very clear: children with autism have the best outcomes if services are started as young as possible. It is for this reason that we have launched our new early childhood campaign. Our early childhood program continues to grow as the need continues to grow. We are hoping to raise sufficient money to be in our new building by the summer. Not only will this new center allow us to expand to serve more children but it will also provide us with more space to better serve the children we currently have. Please read more about how you can help later in this issue.

We are heading into April, which as many of you know, is National Autism Awareness Month. Despite the growth in the numbers of children with autism over the years, it is just as imperative that we continue to raise awareness in the community. It is important that we raise awareness of the benefits of early intensive intervention so families of newly diagnosed children will seek the services they need and do so as quickly as possible. It is important that we raise awareness of what great workers individuals with autism can be so that employers out there will give these young men and women the chance they need to succeed. It is important that we raise awareness of how complex and challenging it can be for some families on a day to day basis to raise their son or daughter with autism so people will be kind and supportive in the community. We will have many different things going on in April including our Dine Out 4 Autism fundraiser, so be sure to check out our website and social media accounts to keep in the loop.

Joanne Gerenser, Ph.D., CCC-SLP
Executive Director

connections
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Chief Development Officer

Contributors

Erin Archibald, Jamie Arnold,
Bill Bonbrest, Veronica Carle,
Jan Downey, Dr. Joanne Gerenser,
AnnMarie Grieco, Lauren Grimaldi,
LouAnne Haley, Lori Hason,
Erika Hellstrom, Maureen Higgins,
Steve Kirschbaum, Meghan Mattei,
Regis Mulot, Franco Ortega,
Christen Pellegrini, Lisa Pipitone,
Stefanie Racano, Daniel Rauch,
Thomas Trezza
Eden II School for Autistic Children, Inc.
(DBA Eden II Programs)
Financial Information for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2017

Statement of Activity

**Operating Revenue & Support**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Revenue Source</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Programs &amp; Public Support Services</td>
<td>$29,938,685</td>
<td>96%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants and Contract Services</td>
<td>618,557</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Revenue</td>
<td>485,627</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Operating Revenue</strong></td>
<td>$31,042,869</td>
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</table>

**Expenses**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expense Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Educational Services</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Residential Services</td>
<td>8,191,219</td>
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<tr>
<td>Adult Day Habilitation Services</td>
<td>4,168,769</td>
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<tr>
<td>Family Support Services</td>
<td>1,761,374</td>
<td>6%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Community Outreach</td>
<td>2,339,002</td>
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<tr>
<td>Management &amp; General</td>
<td>4,264,665</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
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**Net Assets**

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<th>Amount</th>
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</thead>
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<tr>
<td>Change in Net Assets</td>
<td>($333,398)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Assets as of July 1, 2016</td>
<td>8,339,155</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net Assets as of June 30, 2017</strong></td>
<td>$8,005,757</td>
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Balance Sheet

**Assets**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Asset Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash</td>
<td>$383,692</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program Services Receivables</td>
<td>3,589,255</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants and Contract Receivables</td>
<td>3,220,435</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property and Equipment</td>
<td>17,409,194</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Assets</td>
<td>1,881,072</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Assets</strong></td>
<td>$26,483,648</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Liabilities & Net Assets**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Liability Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Liabilities</td>
<td>$18,477,891</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unrestricted Net Assets</td>
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<tr>
<td>Temporarily Restricted Net Assets</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Liabilities &amp; Net Assets</strong></td>
<td>$26,483,648</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.

Thank you to Richard Nelson, Ryan Foundation.

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.
Meet the Staff: Jamie Arnold M.S.Ed, SBL

Jamie Arnold is currently the Director of Educational Services for Eden II Programs. She has been with the agency since 2005. Jamie earned her Master’s Degree in Childhood Regular/Special Education from the College of New Rochelle and her Master’s Degree in School Building Leadership from St. John’s University. Jamie has been a classroom teacher, head teacher, and clinical coordinator at Eden II Programs. She has worked with typically developing children, as well as students with autism, ages ranging from Pre-K to 21 years old. Jamie has presented at a variety of local conferences and she currently oversees the school age programming, community integration, and the vocational program at Eden II.

WHY DID YOU DECIDE TO WORK WITH CHILDREN WITH AUTISM?

After teaching regular education for a few years and realizing that I needed a change, I found Eden II. I started in 2005 as a teacher, which turned out to be one of the best decisions I have ever made. It’s amazing to know that I play a vital role in someone’s life every day. I get such a sense of accomplishment when working with our participants. I am lucky enough to say that I love my job. It is an honor to work with our students every day.

WHAT IS ONE MOMENT THAT HAS STUCK OUT TO YOU WHILE WORKING AT EDEN II?

One of my favorite moments happened soon after I created a new group instruction schedule for our teenage participants. The concept was to break down the students into different groups and allow different teachers to teach these groups; to help achieve independence. I instantly knew we were on the right track when the mom of a student who typically engaged in echolalia, or very short responses, called me. She said that every day when she got home and asked her daughter how her day was, her usual, memorized response was “Good”. This one time, she actually told her mom how her day was, where she went that day, what job site she went to, and who she went with. The mom could not believe her ears. She called me the next day in tears and said, “I have never received a response like this from her, and I don’t know how to thank you. At 19 years old, my daughter finally conversed with me.” It was at that moment I realized we don’t just work with the participants, but we embrace the family as a whole. We see them through some of their toughest struggles, and it’s great to know that we touch so many lives on a daily basis.

WHERE DO YOU SEE AUTISM AND EDEN II IN 10 YEARS?

With autism on the rise, I hope to see Eden II serving more people. I hope we can expand all of our programs to serve more of the families that need us most. I would like to see more people with autism in the everyday workforce showcasing their amazing abilities. Most of all, I would love to see increased public education and awareness on autism.

IN YOUR OPINION, WHAT IS THE KEY TO BEING A GREAT SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER?

The key to being a great special education teacher is realizing that not every child is the same. Not everyone learns the same way, and it is important to treat each child as an individual to make sure we reach them as a person and to make them the best that they can be. Educators should not force their students to fit into a model that is unrealistic for them.

CAN YOU OFFER ANY ADVICE TO SOMEONE INTERESTED IN WORKING WITH INDIVIDUALS WITH AUTISM?

Do it. It was the best thing I have ever done. It makes you look at people for who they really are, and you learn to appreciate the things that you would typically never even think about.

individuals throughout their lifespan is having the ability to see our participants grow and change over the years. Seeing a student you worked with 10 years ago, now as an adult, and seeing how well they are doing is one of the best feelings. We don’t just work closely with the participants, but we embrace the family as a whole. We see them through some of their toughest struggles, and it’s great to know that we touch so many lives on a daily basis.
Drive for Autism Foundation recently awarded Eden II Programs with a generous $10,000 grant to benefit Eden II’s preschool program. The funds will help the agency continue to grow and provide a learning environment and supplies to support the development of our youngest participants. Drive for Autism Trustee, Thomas Trezza shares, “Our mission has always been to provide funds to programs like Eden II that make such a positive impact on the community.”

The Drive for Autism Foundation is a private charitable foundation that was established to raise funds and distribute them to schools and non-profit organizations committed to the education and treatment of persons with diagnosis’ under the autism spectrum. Drive for Autism has supported Eden II with a variety of funding opportunities in recent years, including the purchase of smartboards, iPads and a CCTV system.

Eden II has been awarded a grant from the Staples Foundation, through a program called 2 Million & Change. Eden II was nominated for the grant by associate Louis Gutierrez. The funds will benefit the Early Childhood Campaign. Eden II’s Executive Director, Joanne Gerenser, shares, “Staples has provided funding for a number of our programs that have a great impact on our participants. We are thankful to Staples and people like Louis for their continued support of our mission.” “Staples is committed to giving back to the causes our associates are passionate about,” said Regis Mulot, chief human resources officer, Staples, Inc. “The 2 Million & Change program helps associates make an even greater impact on the organizations they support in their local communities.” The 2 Million & Change program allows Staples associates around the world to direct funding to non-profit organizations of their choosing that are focused on education or job skills.

The North Central Kiwanis Club of Staten Island awarded a scholarships toward participants for overnight trips. The trips are provided for those eligible for Medicaid waiver. Past outings have included a variety of fun activities like an indoor water park, bowling, cookie decorating and movie outings. The Kiwanis Club is dedicated to creating positive experiences for community members. The club sponsors a prom each year for Eden II participants and other local autism organizations.
The Eden II & Genesis Foundation held its ninth annual Blazing Trails for Autism 4-Mile Run and 1.5-Mile Walk on Saturday, Nov. 18.

The Blazing Trails race took place on a USATF-sanctioned course, on the rolling hills and scenic vistas of the beautiful Great Neck South campus and nearby areas of picturesque Lake Success. A huge thank you to everyone who participated in the walk/run. We are proud to say it was an overwhelming success!

“I am very proud to have chaired the Genesis School’s ninth annual Blazing Trails for Autism Run/Walk again this year. We reintroduced this event in 2016 after a two-year hiatus and the turnout far exceeded our expectations. The runners and walkers really enjoyed participating in this event and we’re excited that we brought the race course back to Great Neck South High School. Our goal with a community event like this is to continue our mission to create awareness of our autism programs, while also raising the necessary funds to maintain the standard of teaching, learning and outreach, which the Genesis School is well-known for throughout Long Island.”

- LouAnne Haley
Eden II Board Member & Genesis Parent
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.
A simple way to support Eden II into the future is to name us as a beneficiary of one of your assets, such as a bank account, life insurance policy or retirement plan.

Supporting us through a beneficiary designation is a popular gift because it offers peace of mind. Your current budget isn’t affected because you make the gift after your lifetime, and you can change your mind at any time.

Another benefit to naming Eden II as a beneficiary: It’s a gift you can easily set up yourself. There’s no need to visit an attorney (and no fee!) to put your gift in place.

Naming Eden II Programs a beneficiary is as easy as 1-2-3-4:

1. Contact the administrator of your retirement plan, insurance company or bank account for a change-of-beneficiary form.
2. Decide what percentage of the asset’s value you would like Eden II to receive and name us, along with the stated percentage, on the beneficiary form.
3. Return the signed form to your administrator.
4. Tell us about your gift! It would be our honor to thank you for your support. Plus, your generosity can inspire others to follow your example.

Simple Giving
Contact us at info@eden2.org or 718-816-1422 x1040 to learn more about turning this simple gift into a lifetime of support.
LouAnne Haley began her second term as a parent member of the Eden II Board of Trustees in June 2016. Her daughter, Kerry, graduated from the school program and is now attending the adult program at the Genesis School on Long Island. Over the years LouAnne raised substantial funds for the Long Island Teacher Retention Program and served three years as Genesis PTO President. During her last term on the Board, LouAnne was a member of the Finance Committee and Chairman of the Long Island Site Selection Committee. This committee successfully found a new location for the Long Island School, Day Hab, and Outreach Programs in 2014.

Presently she is a member of the Eden II Strategic Planning Committee, the Human Resources committee, and is Chair of the Eden II & Genesis Blazing Trails for Autism Run/Walk. LouAnne has also represented the agency making presentations to local legislators at Genesis, and has traveled to Albany & Washington to lobby state legislators and national congressional members on behalf of people with autism.

LouAnne has also served on the Board for the Autism Speaks Long Island Chapter and volunteers every year for the Annual Autism Speaks Walkathon at Jones Beach.

You Make The DIFFERENCE
2018 Annual Appeal to Support Eden II Programs

Visit eden2.org/2018 to make your gift to support Eden II Programs, including the Genesis School, Little Miracles Preschool, family services, respite, day hab, and IRAs!

MAKE YOUR GIFT ONLINE!
Go to www.eden2.org/2018

EVERY GIFT IS 100% TAX DEDUCTIBLE & GREATLY APPRECIATED.

For more information, please contact Stefanie Racano, Director of Development at sracano@eden2.org or call 718-816-1422 x1030.
Eden II’s Little Miracles serves over 100 children with preschool and elementary schooling, as well as children who receive services such as Special Education Itinerant Teachers (SEIT) and Special Education Teacher Support Services (SETSS). Little Miracles offers a highly structured, intensive learning environment using Applied Behavior Analysis. Our individualized programs focus on learning-readiness, academics, social behavior, play skills and self-help. They are certified by the New York State Education Department and mostly funded by the New York City Board of Education.

We are embarking on a capital campaign to renovate and outfit a new preschool building. The goal is to provide durable and safe furniture for children in early education so that they can have the best learning environment to support their development.

We are proud to share some exciting news! Eden II Programs will be expanding our Early Childhood Program, also known as Little Miracles! The new building is located on St. Paul’s Avenue in the Stapleton neighborhood of Staten Island, and is right up the block from our agency headquarters at Beach Street. The building has the opportunity for growth, improved classrooms and technology, a full size gymnasium, playground, teacher’s lounge, nurse’s station, and much more.

Our goal to renovate and prepare the building is $1,000,000. To date, over $100,000 has been raised. We need your help! In order to meet our goal and soon occupy this amazing school, we are counting on family, friends, staff, local businesses, elected officials, and the Staten Island community to support us.

GOAL

Our goal is of the 100 participants requiring services, approximately 90% will master skills from their IEP with an 80% accuracy measured by performance task assessment and teacher observation/collection of data. Having an expanded, upgraded preschool setting will allow us to improve services for current participants that directly impact their ability to succeed, serve a minimum of 25 additional children, and continue to expand offsite services.

SUPPORT OUR CHILDHOOD CAMPAIGN TODAY!

Visit eden2.org/ECC to make your gift to support Eden II’s Early Childhood Campaign.

EVERY GIFT IS 100% TAX DEDUCTIBLE & GREATLY APPRECIATED.

MAKE YOUR GIFT ONLINE!

GO TO WWW.EDEN2.ORG/ECC
FOR MORE INFORMATION ON HOW YOU CAN MAKE YOUR GIFT, PLEASE CONTACT A DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATE AT INFO@EDEN2.ORG OR CALL 718-816-1422 EXT. 1030
The Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (5th edition; DSM-5; American Psychiatric Association, 2013) recognizes catatonia as an associated feature of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). When it develops in individuals with ASD it is referred to as, “catatonia-like deterioration” or “autistic catatonia”. The onset of catatonia in individuals with autism is insidious; there is a marked and obvious deterioration in movement, vocalizations, pattern of activities, self-care and practical skills. More specifically there is slowed movement and verbalizations, slowed task initiation and completion, increased reliance on prompting, passivity and lack of motivation, Parkinsonian features, day-night reversal, repetitive/ritualistic behavior and seemingly purposeless agitation/excitement. Individuals with ASD who develop catatonia may develop some, but not all of those symptoms.

Catatonia-like deterioration typically occurs between the ages of 15 and 20 with the average being about 18 years; however, a few cases have been reported outside the typical age range. A limited number of studies suggest catatonia occurs in 12-18% of adolescents and young adults with ASD. An increase in the number of cases of catatonia in autism has been reported throughout the world over the last 20 years.

Autistic catatonia may be classified as mild, moderate or severe, and the severity of the symptoms may also vary from day to day. In its most severe form the individual’s autonomic system may be affected; e.g., heart rate, blood pressure, body temperature, trouble breathing and swallowing. Total immobility is also a possibility with reliance on others for all activities of daily living; the individual may also stop speaking. If not properly cared for the individual will lose a substantial amount of weight combined with dehydration. The severest form of catatonia-like deterioration in ASD requires hospitalization as the individual is at significant risk for serious medical morbidity and mortality. Individuals with moderate autistic catatonia present with limited mobility and a decrease in communication skills as well as activities of daily living. There is extreme slowness in the ability to initiate as well as complete a task; the autonomic system may or may not be affected to some degree. The mild form of autistic catatonia is similar to the moderate form, but less severe and does not involve the autonomic system.

There is some overlap in the characteristics of catatonia and ASD; e.g., repetitive behaviors, reliance on prompting, seemingly purposeless agitation, which may lead to misdiagnosis or a failure to diagnose the condition. The key issue is the emergence of new symptoms and/or a change in the type and pattern of premorbid functioning. Clinical observation by professionals and clinicians knowledgeable of autistic catatonia and its characteristics is an essential component of an assessment; however, currently there are few who are even aware this condition exists let alone qualified to conduct an appropriate clini-
The Genesis School was honored to unveil a bench in memory of participant Zachary Tlockowski. The bench will serve as a reminder of the unforgettable impact Zachary had on everyone he met.

Psychological factors appear to play a significant role in the development of catatonia in individuals with ASD; specifically, traumatic or anxiety producing events occurring prior to the development of catatonia-like deterioration. Catatonia is closely associated with mood disorders and is proposed to be caused by severe anxiety resulting in an inability to move or decreased movement. The susceptibility of individuals with ASD to anxiety and mood disorders is suggested to play a significant role regarding the increased rates of the development of autistic catatonia.

Other causes in the development of catatonia have been put forth, such as side effects of certain medications; e.g., antipsychotics, and autoimmune diseases, and biological factors such as sickness and pain, and hormonal changes during puberty. Professionals must first rule out treatable causes when presented with an individual with ASD demonstrating catatonia-like symptoms, including use of magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), electroencephalogram (EEG) and blood tests, as it is necessary to use appropriate methods of treatment and management when a treatable underlying medical cause cannot be identified.

Several methodologies are currently used to treat autistic catatonia. These include pharmacological treatments, particularly benzodiazepines (lorazepam), psychological and behavior management treatments, and Bilateral Electroconvulsive Therapy or Electroshock Therapy (ECT). Further research, including controlled studies, needs to be conducted as more high quality evidence is essential to help direct treatment decisions. Increased awareness of this potential debilitating complication in individuals with ASD on the part of parents, doctors, educators, clinicians and all those working with these young adults is critical so those affected can be treated at the onset of the condition as it can become chronic or worse, develop into its most severe presentation.
CRISIS INTERVENTION SERVICES

The Crisis Intervention Behavior Management Team provides intensive assessment and intervention services for individuals ages 3-25 in Staten Island for families that are in a crisis situation. These families require in-home training in order to provide strategies in managing the severe behaviors often associated with autism.

EDEN2.ORG/CRISISINTERVENTION

Individuals with autism often display challenging behaviors such as self-injury and aggression. These problems usually intensify in the home if they are not attended to properly.

* OPWDD ELIGIBILITY REQUIRED

EDEN2.ORG/CRISISINTERVENTION

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:
ELIZABETH CAIAZZO, LMSW
DIRECTOR OF FAMILY SERVICES
(718) 816-1422 EXT.1076
ECAIAZZO@EDEN2.ORG

CLINICAL ASSESSMENTS

Eden II provides psychological and psychosocial evaluations for children 4 years old and above and who do not have Medicaid and require these evaluations for the purpose of determining eligibility.

FOR CLINICAL ASSESSMENTS,
PLEASE CONTACT GINA DEPRIMA:

Phone: 718-816-1422 x 1200
Fax: 718-442-1779
Email: gdeprima@eden2.org

For individuals seeking eligibility. No waiting list.
Save the Date

**Genesis Gala**

to benefit the Eden II & Genesis Foundation

Honoring

**Friday, April 27, 2018**
at Leonard’s Palazzo

Tommy Mohan, Sportsmen’s Club-Local #3 IBEW
SEASONS FOR A REASON LEADERSHIP AWARD

Linda Milch, Executive Director, Long Island Advocacy Center
COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

Patrick & Lynn Maloney
MAKING A DIFFERENCE AWARD

For more information on sponsorship opportunities or to get involved, email cpellegrini@eden2.org or visit www.eden2.org/LIGala.

Eden II & Genesis Foundation is a 501c3 nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the lives of children and adults living with autism. Tax ID: 06-1277426

Save the Date: June 18, 2018

**GOLF OUTING**

To Benefit the Eden II & Genesis Foundation
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!