Dear Friends:

THE UNEMPLOYMENT or underemployment rate in college-educated individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders is almost 85% (compared to 4.5% in the general population). While this is a completely unacceptable statistic, very little is known about the employment rate of individuals more significantly affected by autism. This is because this population is generally not even included in the unemployment statistics. Most unemployment rates only count those individuals who are ready to work and actively seeking employment. Often, those individuals with severe autism are stuck in a never-ending cycle of “prevocational.” A combination of “low expectations” and concerns about liability issues, should an individual engage in aggression or property destruction at the worksite, contribute to the fact that most of this population are not included in the “unemployment statistics.”

An additional variable is that many of these individuals may require support from a job coach or behavior specialist for extended periods of time. The extended presence of these staff supports is often problematic for employers. It is not that the individuals are unable to actually perform the duties required by the job, but rather, their challenging behaviors require specialized supports that employers generally lack and do not have the time to learn.

With that said, Eden II is excited to announce the development of a social enterprise called “Encore! A Thrift Store for Everything Kids.” The store will sell gently used children’s clothing, toys, and other items, all geared to children under the age of 10. The primary goal for this program is to provide vocational training to individuals with more severe autism. Encore! provides an array of vocational skill development opportunities for individuals with autism spectrum disorders, in an environment where structure and supports are carefully arranged to meet each individual’s unique needs. The best ways you can help are to donate gently used or new children’s clothing, toys, and furniture, as well as stop-in, say hi, browse, and hopefully, buy something!

On April 18th, Eden II is celebrating World Autism Awareness Month through its Dine Out 4 Autism fundraising initiative. We have partnered with several great restaurants that are donating a portion of their sales to help increase awareness and raise support for individuals with autism. Please consider dining at one of these restaurants on April 18th and help support people with autism and their families at the same time. Be sure to check out pages 6-7 for details. To see the full list of restaurants participating in this year’s Dine Out event, please visit dineout4autism.org.

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

THE MISSION OF EDEN II PROGRAMS IS TO SUPPORT PEOPLE WITH AUTISM THROUGHOUT THEIR LIVES TO ACHIEVE THEIR FULL POTENTIAL THROUGH SERVICE, SCIENCE, & PASSION.

#MYEDEN • EDEN2.ORG

ON THE COVER
EDEN II COMMUNITY CENTER RIBBON CUTTING AND GRAND OPENING

Contributors
Lisa Calderara, Veronica Carle, Jan Downey, Betsy Dubovsky, Shirley Dunn, Dr. Joanne Gerenser, Ann Marie Grieco, Erika Hellstrom, Maureen Higgins, Charles Lerner, Ali Marano, Stefanie Racano, Daniel Rauch, Francesca Saraniero, Ralph Scamardella, Terry Tarangelo, Thomas Trezza
Eden II School for Autistic Children, Inc.
(DBA Eden II Programs)
Financial Information for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2018

Statement of Activities

Operating Revenue & Support
Programs & Public Support Services $30,983,437  95%
Grants and Contract Services 676,303  2%
Other Revenue 1,058,337  3%
Total Operating Revenue $32,718,077  100%

Expenses
Program Services
   Educational Services 10,343,597  31%
   Residential Services 8,955,151  27%
   Adult Day Habilitation Services 4,810,315  15%
   Family Support Services 1,836,811  5%
   Community Outreach 2,186,817  7%
Management & General 4,376,567  13%
Fundraising 527,518  2%
Total Expenses $33,036,776  100%

Net Assets
Change in Net Assets (318,699)
Net Assets as of July 1, 2017 8,005,757
Net Assets as of June 30, 2018 $7,687,058

Balance Sheet

Assets
Cash $552,563
Program Services Receivables 4,346,156
Grants and Contract Receivables 3,179,527
Property and Equipment 16,531,725
Other Assets 1,919,731
Total Assets $26,529,702

Liabilities & Net Assets
Total Liabilities $18,842,644
Unrestricted Net Assets 6,877,505
Temporarily Restricted Net Assets 809,553
Total Liabilities & Net Assets $26,529,702

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS: MARKS PANETH, 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.
Around Town
A BIG THANK YOU TO TAO CARES FOR CONTINUOUSLY RAISING FUNDS FOR EDEN II DURING DINE OUT 4 AUTISM!

For three years, Eden II has partnered with TAO Cares and TAO Group, a leading restaurant and nightlife company, to raise awareness and funds throughout the month of April, to support autism awareness and help individuals diagnosed with autism spectrum disorders (ASD).

Eden II Board Chair and TAO Group Partner, Chef Ralph Scamardella, notes, “As an organization, we have a responsibility to provide support when and where we can. I, personally, have long advocated for the improved quality of life for children and adults with autism; and I want to do as much as I can to continue that mission and raise awareness.”

Charles Lerner, TAO Cares Engagement Coordinator, shares, “During the month of April, TAO Group was proud to support World Autism Awareness Month and Eden II Programs through our Dine Out Program. Each venue nationwide, in New York, Los Angeles, Las Vegas, and Chicago, participated by offering special “blue” themed dishes and drinks and donating 10% of those proceeds. Beyond supporting such a wonderful organization, it allows us to empower and educate our employees and our guests.”

In addition to the funds raised during the promotion, TAO Cares hosted a group of Eden II participants at The Gallery at Dream Downtown for a kick-off event, where they participated in a culinary workshop led by Chef Ralph.
THE EDEN II & GENESIS FOUNDATION PROUDLY PRESENTS

dine out 4 autism

DINE OUT. DO GOOD.
THURSDAY, APRIL 18

DINE AT ANY OF OUR PARTICIPATING RESTAURANTS ON THURSDAY, APRIL 18TH!
LET THEM KNOW YOU ARE THERE TO SUPPORT AUTISM AWARENESS AND
THEY WILL DONATE A PERCENTAGE OF THE PROCEEDS TO EDEN II!

SUPPORT AUTISM AWARENESS & SERVICES

#eden2dineout • For a complete list of participating restaurants, visit dineout4autism.org
Meet the Staff: Shirley Dunn

Shirley Dunn is Eden II’s Director of Quality Assurance and Corporate Compliance Officer. Shirley started working with the agency in 1992 in a direct support position and became the director of the adult programs a few years later. In 1998, Shirley became the Director of Quality Assurance. Shirley has a Bachelors Degree from Edinburgh’s Heriot-Watt University, and a Masters in Public Administration from Norwich University. Shirley has participated in and chaired many committees at Eden II including the Incident Review Committee, the Vehicle/Safe Driving Committee, the Risk Management Committee, the Emergency Management Committee, and the Safety Committee.

HOW DID YOU COME TO WORK IN THE FIELD OF AUTISM?

I grew up in Scotland. During a gap year after high school, I worked as an apprentice to our Town Artist. We often worked on community art projects with children, the elderly, and people with disabilities and I particularly enjoyed working with individuals with autism (at this time, the prevalence of autism was 4 in 10,000). When I first came to the US (Staten Island) in 1990, I worked in a nursing home for people with Alzheimer’s in a special behavioral unit. One of my colleagues left to work for Eden II and I asked her to keep me informed of any positions that opened up. In 1992, I began working part-time as a direct support professional in our Carlton residence and as a respite worker in our Family Support Department. Shortly thereafter, I secured a full-time position as a Habilitation Specialist in Eden II’s adult program. Three years later, I was offered a position as Director of Eden II’s Adult Program. Chairing our Incident Review Committee during this time led to an affinity for conducting investigations and incident management. I became the Director of Quality Assurance in 1998.

WHAT DO YOU LIKE MOST ABOUT BEING THE DIRECTOR OF QUALITY ASSURANCE?

The work I do is meaningful. I am able to positively impact the lives of our participants, their families, and our staff by helping to identify and reduce risk and work with others to continuously improve systems. Even though I no longer provide direct services, I have opportunities to interact with our participants almost daily. The support that the QA department provides to our programs (including investigation and follow up of incidents, training, site visits and observations, satisfaction surveys, and program audits) directly affects the quality of our participants’ lives. I am lucky to have two experienced and committed staff on my team - QA Specialist Sherie Pennino and Incident Management Coordinator Marcia Langaigne. My colleagues are a really dedicated and selfless group of people who work at Eden II for the right reasons. I am lucky to have known some of them for almost three decades.

HOW HAVE YOU SEEN EDEN II GROW SINCE YOU BEGAN WORKING HERE?

The growth I have witnessed during the almost-27 years I have worked at Eden II is truly extraordinary. Besides the obvious growth in the number of participants served, employees, programs, and facilities, I have seen tremendous growth in the many safety systems we’ve created over the years in response to untoward events. The success of these systems is supported by our annual occurrence statistics which show a reduction in untoward events in many areas. I am proud to have been part of this growth.

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

It is heartwarming when an individual I provided direct services to many years ago greets me exuberantly during one of my site visits. It is also amazing to see the progress many of our participants have made since they first started attending Eden II in the early 90’s as 5 or 6 year-olds, some with limited communication skills and severely challenging behaviors. Those participants, now in their thirties, have become contributing members of society - participating in family activities, volunteering and helping other community members, and developing meaningful friendships.
STATEN ISLAND FOUNDATION GIVES $50,000 GRANT FOR CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

The Staten Island Foundation has provided a $50,000 grant to Eden II’s Early Childhood Capital Campaign. “As The Staten Island Foundation increasingly turns its attention to early childhood education, we are pleased to support developing Eden II’s capacity to serve more children facing the delays and challenges associated with autism spectrum disorder,” says Betsy Dubovisky, Executive Director.

The Staten Island Foundation has been a steadfast supporter of Eden II for many years, providing funding towards both our Beach Street and Wright Avenue Capital Campaign projects.

Eden II Executive Director, Dr. Joanne Gerenser, shares “We’re beyond thankful to everyone at Staten Island Foundation. As our need to provide more services has increased, the Foundation has always been there to help us achieve this necessary growth.”

DRIVE FOR AUTISM AWARDS $12,000 FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD CAMPAIGN

Eden II Programs has been awarded a $12,000 grant from Drive for Autism Foundation! The funds will be used to purchase furniture for our new early childhood building on St. Paul’s Avenue, including desks, chairs, bookshelves, and cabinets.

Drive for Autism Trustee, Thomas Trezza shares, “We strive to create a positive impact on programs like Eden II, because we know they are so important to the community. As the need to help individuals with autism grows, our foundation is thrilled to be able to assist programs in their mission of educating and treating individuals with autism.”

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 number of funding opportunities over the years, including the purchase of smartboards, iPads and a CCTV system. For their contributions to the Early Childhood Program, a classroom at St. Paul’s will be named in honor of the Drive for Autism Foundation.

JPMORGAN CHASE AWARDS $10,000 GRANT TO EDEN II

Last year, Eden II partnered with JPMorgan Chase’s “Force for Good Program,” which teams up their technology employees with nonprofits to help solve challenges through the development of technology solutions. This collaboration led to the creation of an app that would help students communicate with an easy-to-use, speech-to-text solution. You can read more about the solution at www.eden2.org/jpmorganchase.

As a result of our work together, Eden II was featured in JPMorgan Chase’s Philanthropy Campaign, where students attending technology recruiting conferences and high-profile hackathons around the country had the opportunity to vote on one of three participating charities that were involved in JPMorgan Chase’s Technology for Social Good programs. Ultimately, JPMorgan Chase donated $10,000 to each of the participating charities, including Eden II Programs!

Head of Technology for Social Good, Diversity & Inclusion at JPMorgan Chase, Ali Marano, shares, “Our technologists are incredibly passionate about using their skills to give back, and the employees on the Eden II project worked hard to deliver a solution that would bring value to the Autism community. In addition to our broader commitment to the Autism community through programs like Autism at Work, we’re thrilled to see our work with Eden II come full circle through this donation.”

Eden II Executive Director, Dr. Joanne Gerenser, shares, “Working with the students from the ‘Force for Good Program’ has been wonderful. For eight months, these individuals worked hard to design and implement an innovative app idea to benefit our students. It was really fun and rewarding to watch the process. The generous donation from JPMorgan Chase was an incredible way to cap off this experience, and I look forward to our continuing partnership.”
Visit eden2.org/2019 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/2019

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.
Handmade Items—Made by Individuals with Autism

SHOP ONLINE
etsy.com/shop/SeasonsForAReason

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK
facebook.com/SeasonsforaReason

Thank You to Our Sponsors

FOR SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES:
please contact Kara Alicakos at 516-937-1397 ext. 1314 or email kalicakos@eden2.org.
SET UP YOUR CROWDRISE FUNDRAISING PAGE TODAY!!

Set up your Crowdrise fundraising page
Go to: https://www.crowdrise.com/eden2campaign
Click the grey SET UP YOUR FUNDRAISER button on the right
Choose to CREATE or JOIN A TEAM
Add photos, your goal, and your story
Log into Crowdrise (or create an account)
Personalize your page via EDIT FUNDRAISER
Start raising money today!

Thank you to board member Terry Tarangelo and everyone who came out to support Terry’s “Oktoberfest” birthday celebration at Flagship Brewery! The funds raised will benefit Eden II’s Early Childhood campaign.

Terry shares, “I wanted to do something different for my birthday. I have been a member of Eden II’s board for 10 years and I wanted to give back to the agency. It was a wonderful night, and the presence of my family and friends coming out to support this cause was the best present I could have received.”

DONOR RECOGNITION WALL

A custom donor recognition wall is being created to acknowledge gifts of $500 or more. The donor wall will have bronze, silver, and gold stars, each engraved with a donor’s name or message.

**PRICING**
- Gold Star $2,500
- Silver Star $1,000
- Bronze Star $500

Actual design may differ.
Thank You to Our Early Childhood Campaign Major Donors

$50,000 & Up
Borough President James Oddo
Omundsen Construction Corp.
Staten Island Foundation
TAO Cares

$25,000 to $49,999
Kevin Chau
Northfield Bank Foundation

$10,000 to $24,999
James & Yvonne Caldarella
Chris & Michele Carr
Drive for Autism
Joanne Gerenser & Amy Powell
Ralph & Liliana Scamardella

$5,000 to $9,999
Deepak Alur
The Hyde and Watson Foundation
Lauren Grimaldi and the Little Miracles Staff
Natale Family
North Shore Rotary Club

$1,000 to $4,999
Atlas Acon Electric Service Corp
Benton Family
Brooklyn Home for Aged Men
Casale Jewelers
Anthony Castiglione
Contemporary Laser
DeSoye Family
Eagle Academy
Kathy Glosik
Hellstrom Family
Eileen Hopkins

Lois & Richard Nicotra Foundation
Pour Standards
Racano Family
Richmond University Medical Center
Don & Marilyn Russo
Section 16H Group
South Shore Rotary Foundation of SI
Staples Foundation
Terry Tarangelo
Victory State Bank

Eden II Programs is grateful to the many donors listed who made contributions to our Early Childhood Campaign. If we have inadvertently omitted or misspelled your name, please contact the Development Department at info@eden2.org so that we may update our records. Thank you for your support!

ATTENTION PARENTS!

We value your opinion and ask that you take the time to complete this survey.

Please remember to complete your parent survey when it comes out this spring!

YOUR COLLECTIVE INPUT HAS A DIRECT IMPACT ON OUR PROGRAMS AND SERVICES.

The survey is anonymous and easy to complete - once you begin, it should only take 10 to 15 minutes to answer the questions. Input from this survey provides us with valuable insights that illuminate our strengths as well as areas for continued growth.

If you have any questions about the survey, please email our survey administrator, Shirley Dunn, at sdunn@eden2.org.
EDEN II OPENS NEW COMMUNITY CENTER

Eden II Programs recently opened a new community center during a ribbon cutting ceremony on December 5, 2018. Parents, donors, staff and elected officials joined together to tour the new site at 400 Victory Boulevard, in Tompkinsville. "Through the expansion of opportunities we provide and based on their unique strengths, differences, and challenges, we are helping individuals living with autism to be valued, contributing members of their communities," said Francesca Saraniero, director of employment and business development. "By participating in meaningful daily activities, whether vocational or recreational, our participants gain self-confidence. This is powerful and why we do what we do. We are excited for whatever opportunities this space will bring in the future."

Eden II parent, Lisa Coldera, was delighted with the new space. "My son, Nicky, is so blessed to be part of this wonderful program. He gets a sense of independence and structure with the most dedicated staff who works to provide amazing integrated opportunities for my son," she said. "He enjoys being out in the community every day doing various jobs. Then he gets to go back to the center for cooking classes, gym and downtime activities in this beautiful space."

The community center allows participants to engage in volunteer, pre-vocational and recreational opportunities. A local charter school also uses the community center on a daily basis. Through the different opportunities Eden II provides, the participants gain valuable skills to prepare them for competitive employment. "The additional space the community center provides gives us more opportunities to do exciting things that will positively impact our students in the program. I’m looking forward to what the future holds for this space," said Eden II Executive Director, Dr. Joanne Gerenser.

Encore!
A THRIFT STORE FOR EVERYTHING KIDS

Eden II is thrilled to announce the development of a new social enterprise called "Encore! A Thrift Store for Everything Kids." The store will sell gently used children’s clothing, toys, and other items, all geared to children under the age of 10.

Encore! provides an array of vocational skill development opportunities for individuals with autism spectrum disorders, in an environment where structure and supports are carefully arranged to meet each individual's unique needs.

We are getting ready for our anticipated opening in mid-May 2019. We hope you will stop by, say hi and browse our selection while helping us in supporting our autism community!

Visit Eden2.org/EncoreThriftStore

LET YOUR OLD STUFF DO GOOD

We are collecting clothing, coats, toys, bottles, strollers, and any other item for boys and girls ages newborn to 10-years old.

Eden II parents may send items in with their children or drop-off to their child’s site. All other donations should be delivered to our 400 Victory Boulevard site.

For more information or to schedule a pick-up, please contact Francesca Saraniero at 718-816-1422 ext. 1801 or fsaraniero@eden2.org.
HOW CAN YOU SUPPORT EDEN II ONLINE?

Looking for a way to support Eden II online, but not sure where to start? There are a number of options available that make it easy to donate or raise funds for the children and adults with autism that we serve. Here are some safe and easy ways to support the work we do:

DONATE ONLINE VIA THE EDEN2.ORG WEBSITE:

Desktop: Visit www.eden2.org and click the pink “Donate” button that appears on the far right and fill in the required fields.

Mobile: Click the dropdown menu from the upper right-hand corner of your screen and select “Donate” from the dropdown menu to be brought directly to our online donation page.

Donors can choose to give a one time gift, or set up recurring donations monthly, quarterly or annually.

SET UP YOUR FACEBOOK FUNDRAISER:

Creating a fundraiser on Facebook is one of the best ways to support the mission of Eden II Programs online! This is a fantastic way for family and friends to learn about the good work Eden II does. You can create a Facebook fundraiser to celebrate a birthday, any special occasion, or just because! Here’s how to get started:

a) Click Fundraisers in the left menu of your News Feed.

b) Click Raise Money.

c) Select Nonprofit/Charity.

d) Type in “Eden II Programs” and click on the profile that appears.

e) Choose a cover photo and fill in the fundraiser details.

f) Click Create.

That’s it! Now you can share your fundraising page and encourage your loved ones to do the same.

DONATE TO OUR EARLY CHILDHOOD CAMPAIGN VIA CROWDRISE:

Eden II has a Crowdrise page dedicated to our Early Childhood Capital Campaign. You can donate directly to a fundraising page or create your own!

Donate Directly:

a) Visit www.crowdrise.com/eden2campaign

b) Select “DONATE TO A FUNDRAISER”

c) Choose a team from the drop-down list

d) Fill in needed details to complete your donation

BOARD HIGHLIGHT

MICHELE CARR

Michele Carr is a seasoned sports marketer with over 20 years of experience in the industry. She was the Vice President of Team Marketing and Business Operations at the NBA and Group Managing Director at the NFL. She currently works at American Express on the global brand experiences and partnerships team on such sports properties as the NBA and Wimbledon. 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.
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.

RECEIVE YOUR FREE BOOKLET:

HOW TO MAKE A WILL THAT WORKS

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!