Please help us respond to the growing need for support for adults with autism.

SAVE THE DATE!
Eden II & Genesis Foundation Nine & Dine is Monday, May 8th at Bethpage State Park Golf Course & Heritage Club at Bethpage.
A Message From
The Executive Director

There is no "one size fits all" plan for the path to adulthood.

Dear Friends:

For many autism service providers, the fastest growing programs are for autistic adults, and this is definitely true for the Eden II and Genesis Programs. The CDC released data indicating that more than 2% of the population, or more than 5.4 million adults, in the United States have autism. While many autistic adults are able to live and work independently, many others will need various levels of supports and services across their lifespans.

The Eden II and Genesis Programs support those individuals on the autism spectrum with more significant needs. There is very little participant turnover in our adult program and space can quickly become problematic, but we expand and enhance our programs annually to meet the needs of the school program’s graduates. The Genesis programs on Long Island opened the adult program in 2003 with only three participants. Within the past twenty years, we now provide services to over 49 individuals and expect to grow substantially over the next five years.

In anticipation of that necessary expansion, we are excited to announce that we were able to secure a new 12,600 sq. ft. site in Commack for our adult participants. This exciting new space allows us the capacity to enrich services to adults in the program today and creates the opportunity to expand services to more adults in need of support over the next few years. Within this newsletter, you can learn much more about all of the exciting things being developed at this new site.

It has been a long few years for our families, our staff and, most of all, our participants. We are so happy to be able to put almost all of the restrictions imposed by COVID 19 behind us. While we know COVID will probably never completely go away, we have learned how to live with it and still be able to get back to the life we lead pre-COVID. This means our programs are back to full capacity and we are once again spending a great deal of time back in the community.

We have a lot of exciting things happening here at the Eden II and Genesis Programs, and look forward to sharing them with all of you. Thanks to so many of you for helping us make these things possible!

Joanne Gerenser, Ph.D.
Executive Director
 Eden II School for Autistic Children, Inc.  
(DBA Eden II Programs)  
Financial Information for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2022

**Statement of Activities**

**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>$34,346,701</td>
<td>90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants and Contract Services</td>
<td>3,151,363</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions and Other Revenue</td>
<td>854,662</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Revenue &amp; Support</strong></td>
<td>$38,352,726</td>
<td>100%</td>
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**Expenses**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expense Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Program Services</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Educational Services</td>
<td>10,938,404</td>
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<tr>
<td>Residential Services</td>
<td>12,441,816</td>
<td>32%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Adult Day Habilitation Services</td>
<td>6,390,558</td>
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<tr>
<td>Family Support Services</td>
<td>1,215,147</td>
<td>3%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Community Outreach</td>
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<tr>
<td>Management &amp; General</td>
<td>4,364,969</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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</thead>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Net Assets as of July 1, 2021</td>
<td>9,852,012</td>
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<tr>
<td>Net Assets as of June 30, 2022</td>
<td>$9,807,162</td>
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**Balance Sheet**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Asset Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash</td>
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<tr>
<td>Program Services Receivables</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grants and Contract Receivables</td>
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<td>Property and Equipment</td>
<td>17,528,169</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Assets</td>
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<td><strong>Total Assets</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Liabilities &amp; Net Assets Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Liabilities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unrestricted Net Assets</td>
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<td>Donor Restricted Net Assets</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Liabilities &amp; Net Assets</strong></td>
<td>$36,917,703</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.

**Thank you**

Thank you to all our donors for your tremendous generosity. Your donations are essential to our programs, and we greatly appreciate your contributions.
Announcing our
Long Island Capital Campaign

We are proud to share the exciting news that Eden II’s Genesis Programs will expand our Day Habilitation Program Without Walls Programs. The new building in the Commack neighborhood of Suffolk County will focus on the growing need for support for adults with autism. The new building provides us with an opportunity for growth, improved program rooms, and technology. The site will have themed rooms to create a comprehensive environment allowing the participants we support to explore and learn various skills.

Our goal to renovate and prepare the building is $500,000. To date, over $400,000 has been raised. We need your help to meet our goal and soon occupy this exciting new space. We are counting on families, friends, staff, local businesses, elected officials, and the community to support us.

Thank you!

Visit eden2.org/licc to make a donation.
Naming Opportunities

With a new building, there are many opportunities to honor someone, continue a person or corporation's legacy of care and compassion, or promote a business. Naming opportunities have been created for each of the themed rooms.

Gifts can be made one time or for up to three years. For example, a donation of $5,000 can be divided into a plan that works for you. Perhaps a monthly or quarterly check or an automatic credit card charge by our development staff on a regular schedule.

Our dedicated development staff will work to build the gift and payment schedule that best fits your situation.

Some naming opportunities can be found below.

| $10,000 Arts & Entertainment Room (SOLD) |
| $10,000 Business Room |
| $10,000 Café Room (SOLD) |
| $10,000 Clinical Room |
| $10,000 Culinary Room (SOLD) |
| $10,000 Environment/Society Room |
| $10,000 Health & Wellness Room |
| $10,000 Philanthropy Room (SOLD) |
| $10,000 Seasons for a Reason Room (SOLD) |
| $10,000 Technology & Recreation Room (SOLD) |
| $5,000 Smart Board (FOUR NEEDED) |

If you are interested in Naming Opportunities, contact a development associate at info@eden2.org or call 718-816-1422 ext. 1040.
Jillian Panni is the Director of Adult & Family Support Services for Long Island. She began her career at Eden II’s Genesis programs in 2003 and has over 20 years of experience in the field of autism. Jillian is involved in numerous autism committees on Long Island, NYC, and New York State.

What excites you about Eden II’s vision for the future?

Eden II Programs & Genesis Programs understands the needs of adults with ASD. We are also looking to expand our transitional services to better prepare students with ASD, and our vision will include a comprehensive program involving transitional services. Our Social Enterprise, Seasons for a Reason, provides career training opportunities for participants with ASD. The new Commack space enables us to expand our program and enhance our participants’ lives by providing a specialized location that creates opportunities to explore various specialties such as cooking, health and wellness, and business development. Our goal with a space for our adult learners is to provide the highest level of services to enable them to generalize acquired skills into the community.

What do you see as our greatest strengths and challenges?

Our greatest strength is that we continue to look for and find innovative ways to support our adult learners through the evidence-based practice of applied behavior analysis (ABA). Although we provide services in a group setting, we do our best to find the right fit for every individual based on their unique abilities and needs. Our greatest challenge is to provide services in a location that will provide a comprehensive and individualized program. We hope that the experiences provided in this new state-of-the-art location will improve the quality of life for the participants we support.
VISIT OUR ETSY SHOP TODAY!

We are pleased to announce that SuccessLoomsGifts is up and running on Etsy!

Every item you see has been made with fabric handwoven by our students. All products are priced lower than the standard handmade Etsy items. When you make a purchase, you are making a difference in the lives of children and adults with autism.

Thank you for your continued support!

https://www.etsy.com/shop/successloomsgifts

Learn more at eden2.org/successlooms
Promoting Successful Dental Visits with Children with Autism

By: Randy Horowitz, M.S. Ed., S.A.S.
Originally published on Different Roads To Learning at www.blog.difflearn.com.

Children with autism often engage in problem behavior when asked to participate in activities to which they are infrequently exposed (e.g., doctor/dental exams, haircuts, etc.). In many cases, the problem behavior serves as a means to avoid an unpleasant situation or to communicate a need.

Why are dental visits problematic?
Infrequent exposure, combined with fears associated with dentists, sensory issues related to dental implements and changes in schedules (going to the dentist when you should be in school) prevents some children with autism from learning the appropriate skills and behaviors needed to be successful at the dentist.

Because of these challenges, parents and teachers tend to avoid dental exams, when in reality, they need to do the opposite. Create many opportunities to practice. Build skills. Practice appropriate behavior. Come into contact with reinforcement. Do so under the best circumstances (e.g., in the absence of a tooth ache or painful dental issue).

Prepping for success
Prepare the dentist/hygienist/receptionist in advance. Talk to the dentist prior to your scheduled appointment. Explain your child’s preferences and aversions (e.g., one person speaks at a time, noises, etc.)
Visit the dental office without having an actual exam. Take a tour. Provide reinforcement for appropriate skills and behavior (e.g. labeling objects in the environment, walking nicely etc.). Leave on a good note. Consider repeating this across several visits. Introduce pictures (e.g., the dentists' office, waiting room, exam room, etc.) during structured teaching sessions
Use visual schedules to indicate when the appointment will be
Consider using social stories, peer models or video modeling procedures during regular teaching sessions

Some Prerequisite Skills (Mastery of these skills may create the occasion for more success during a dental exam)
Sits in chair (also lays back/tolerates the reclined position)
Imitates adult movements (e.g., opens mouth)
Follows simple directions (e.g., “say ah,” “open wide,” etc.)
Tolerates toothbrushing. Use many different types of toothbrushes and toothpastes during teaching sessions at home. Programming for generalization across materials may help your child accept what the dentist offers.

Strategies for waiting
Strategically schedule the appointment for times that are less crowded. Ask the office if the first appointment of the day is less wait time than the end of the day. Use a timer
Bring things to do (but avoid a situation where terminating a preferred activity or relinquishing a preferred object may cause problem behavior)
Wait in the car, take a walk around the block and ask the receptionist to call or text when the dentist is ready

Strategies for during the appointment
Begin with mastered skills. Ask the dentist to do a few trials of general direction following. This builds momentum and also provides an opportunity for the child to access reinforcement for correct responses
Pair the exam with reinforcement (e.g., preferred music, TV, etc.)
Give breaks out of the chair
End on a positive note. Even if the entire exam is not complete, if the child has tolerated many steps for longer periods of time, terminate the exam and schedule follow up

Through systematic teaching and gradual exposure, children with autism can learn needed skills and behaviors to be successful during a dental exam. The rate of acquisition of these skills and behaviors varies across children. In some cases, mastery may take weeks or even months. In the meantime, remember to celebrate each successful step along the way!
Matthew Rosen has been a participant with Eden II Programs since he was four years old. When he began, his speech was very limited until around seven years old. Today, Matthew is a social butterfly. Our Director of Educational Services, Jamie Arnold, even refers to Matthew as the “Mayor of Eden II,” as he knows all of the students and staff, and loves to greet everyone in the morning. Matthew has excelled in so many areas during his time here—he loves to dance, play board games, participate in sports and drama, make his own bed, do laundry, and cook.

Prior to his graduation in 2021, Matthew assisted in the Eden II café, where he learned a number of duties and responsibilities. Matthew continues to receive services from Eden II since his graduation in 2021, and, in addition, in 2022, we were thrilled to offer him a part time position working in the café! Matthew shared that he loves working there and his favorite thing is “helping all of the staff and students at the café.”

Jamie Arnold shares, “Matthew has grown into such an independent young man throughout his years at Eden II. Since graduating, he has blossomed into an even more independent man. As an employee in the Eden II café, he arrives at work by himself using Access-A-Ride. Once here, he helps in the café. He works the register, makes coffee and food, runs the coffee cart, helps with the inventory and shopping, and he has even taken some of the younger students under his wing and has begun mentoring them in their café roles. He is a dedicated and hard-working employee, and I am so proud of him!”

Lauren Grimaldi, Director of Little Miracles Preschool and SEIT-SETSS, notes, “It has been said that “education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.” Over the years that Matthew has been a part of our Eden II family, we have had the chance to watch him grow into a bright, educated, and motivated young man. Matthew has always exemplified a caring heart, and his charming demeanor has left an impression on all those who have worked alongside him. Matthew has worked so hard on his journey with us. It is without a doubt that he will continue to leave a lasting impression on those around him, and use all that he has learned to change this world for the better.”

Matthew has shown an exceptional work ethic, running the café on his own and greeting customers with his signature smile and warm personality. We are all so proud of him and look forward to seeing Matthew accomplish even more in the future!
Give Thanks
TO OUR GENEROUS SUPPORTERS

MALLIOTAKIS ANNOUNCES $500K FOR EDEN II SCHOOL FOR AUTISTIC CHILDREN

Nicole Malliotakis announced she helped secure $500,000 for Eden II School for Autistic Children as part of the federal government’s appropriations process. Eden II will use the funds to renovate an existing building to expand day habilitation services for adults with autism.

“For nearly 50 years, Eden II Programs have gone above and beyond to support people with autism by helping them achieve their full potential through a number of educational, residential, and day habilitation programs,” Malliotakis said. “Serving more than 500 individuals across the New York City and Long Island communities, Eden II has become a leader in helping participants and their families overcome many of the challenges associated with Autism Spectrum Disorder. As their programs and services continue to grow, access to more space has become a necessity. I’m proud to have secured federal funds for Eden II to physically expand its services to ensure adults with autism can continue to receive the high-quality day habilitation services they deserve.”

ASSEMBLYMAN CHARLES FALL SECURES $1,000,000 FOR NEW PROGRAM FOR OLDER ADULTS WITH AUTISM

With a $1 million funding allocation from Assemblyman Charles Fall, Eden II will launch a new program for older adults with autism, renovate one of its buildings and expand other services. Eden II will utilize the $1 million in funding to renovate its Stapleton-based building and create a new, integrated, senior-based program.

It will also allow Eden II to create new vocational training opportunities, establish a senior program for older adults that accommodates their changing needs, and inspire community partnerships with other non-profit organizations.

“The aging autism population has specific needs that are not being adequately addressed. I know that by securing the additional funds and working with Eden II Programs, our community will be able to provide invaluable resources to those with the most needs within the Staten Island autism community,” said Fall.
Meet the Staff: Dr. Eileen Hopkins

Dr. Eileen Hopkins is the Deputy Executive Director of Eden II Programs. She is a graduate of the State University of New York at Binghamton, and holds a doctorate in neuropsychology from the Graduate Center of the City University of New York. Dr. Hopkins has worked for over thirty years to provide quality services and specialized supports to hundreds of children and adults for people with autism spectrum disorders through Eden II Programs.

In addition to her work with the Eden II Programs, Dr. Hopkins is an adjunct assistant professor for the Department of Early Childhood Education/Art Education at Brooklyn College, and serves on the board of the Staten Island Opportunities Alliance, an organization focused on strengthening organizations and services for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities on Staten Island.

HOW DID YOU FIRST GET INVOLVED WITH EDEN II?

In the summer of 1990, I saw a job advertisement in the classified section of the Staten Island Advance. It was for a summertime teaching assistant/job coach/intern position at Eden II, working with adults. I was getting close to finishing college as a psychology major at Binghamton, and thought it would be a good idea to try out a position in the field and see if it might be something I liked doing.

WHY DID YOU DECIDE TO WORK WITH INDIVIDUALS WITH AUTISM?

In my sophomore year at college, I did a practicum at the Children’s Unit for Treatment and Evaluation at Binghamton, run by Dr. Raymond Romanczyk, a leader in the field of services for children with autism and other developmental disorders. Working within the Children’s Unit gave me a strong understanding of how important the right to effective treatment is and really taught me the “duty of care” as far as the responsibilities and accountability required of teams supporting individuals with intense needs.

It was the first time I saw some very difficult clinical issues being addressed by a team that felt genuinely accountable for helping the children progress educationally and medically/behaviorally, despite the challenges. I learned so much and realized for the first time that there were so many children who were excluded from, or not benefiting from, instruction in a “typical” school environment and how important the right to effective treatment was. I still remember each of the children I worked with there.

Then, when I started the summer job at Eden II, I saw the impact of great treatment and supports and learned about the consequences of no treatment and, unfortunately, also no treatment or unethical fad treatments that had no basis in the science and put vulnerable children and adults at risk of harm.

I became aware that each person we help support is worthy of our true respect and best efforts on their behalf. While the work Eden II’s employees perform is often hard, it is incredibly important and valuable work (which I, along with thankfully so many talented and dedicated Eden II employees, will not walk away from as long as there is a need.)

WHAT IS YOURFavorite MEMORY WHILE WORKING AT EDEN II?

My favorite memories were probably a combination of times when I played some small part in a team that was there in a way that was helpful for someone we served; times when I was just overwhelmed with seeing a great example of the level of care, creativity, persistence, and dedication that Eden II’s employees have for the children and adults served; graduations are always beautiful and memorable; seeing the genuine love the educational professionals have for their students and appreciation for what makes each student so special; and opening group homes and being able to help create and maintain a safe and caring home environment.

WHAT DO YOU DO WHEN YOU AREN’T WORKING AT EDEN II?

It’s not exactly “not working,” but I like to read articles and listen to audiobooks relevant to my role at Eden II and to make sure I stay up-to-date with the literature for a course I teach in child development. I also enjoy traveling with friends and family, as well as attend and/or present at relevant professional conferences when opportunities come up. When REALLY not working I enjoy spending time at the beach, kayaking, bike rides, cooking and/or just hanging out with family and/or friends. Also maybe a round of golf every once in a while or attending events for charities I care about.
Save the Date:
FRIDAY, July 21, 2023
OUTING
To Benefit the Eden II & Genesis Foundation

Golf Outing & Dinner Dance
Monday, May 8, 2023
Bethpage State Park Golf Course
& the Heritage Club at Bethpage
eden2.org/ninedine

GOLF OUTING
To Benefit the Eden II & Genesis Foundation
SAVE THE DATE:
FRIDAY, JULY 21, 2023
SILVER LAKE GOLF COURSE
eden2.org/golf
Handmade by Individuals with Autism

SHOP ONLINE
etsy.com/shop/SeasonsforaReason

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK
facebook.com/SeasonsforaReason

Seasons FOR A Reason

BOARD HIGHLIGHT

JANET BARSKY

Janet Barsky currently serves as Senior Counsel at Locke Lord. Janet Barsky focuses her practice on independent contractor compliance and litigation. Janet has enhanced independent contractor compliance for over 60 companies across the country in dozens of industries, ranging from Fortune 500 companies to medium and smaller ones. She has defended businesses before numerous administrative agencies in independent contractor misclassification claims brought under an array of federal and state laws seeking unemployment insurance, workers’ compensation, employment taxes, employee benefits, and overtime and minimum wage payments.

As an experienced labor and employment lawyer, Janet also works on special projects involving employees, such as wage and hour, workplace harassment and Fair Credit Reporting Act matters. Janet is Managing Editor of the Independent Contractor Misclassification and Compliance Blog, the only legal blog in the country dedicated to that subject. She compiles and drafts summaries of each of the cases reported in the news updates published each month on the blog.

In addition to her work as an attorney, Janet continues to serve as a Trustee of the East Meadow Public Library and a Chair of the Cornell Alumni Admissions Ambassador Network. Prior to joining Locke Lord, Janet practiced Labor and Employment Law at Pepper Hamilton from 2011-2017.

For Sponsorship Opportunities

Please contact Kara Lamendola at 516-937-1397 ext. 1314 or email klamendola@eden2.org.

eden2.org/seasons
We’ve recently partnered with RoundUp, an App that allows you to “round up” the change from your debit or credit card purchases and donate it to Eden II monthly.

We would be honored if you would commit to giving via Round Up as it provides another way for us to continue our mission to support people with autism throughout their lives to achieve their full potential. You can download the app for iPhone, Android or create an account on the web!

Donors can choose to set a monthly giving cap, so you can set a limit that you are comfortable with.

Visit www.eden2.org/roundup to register today!

For any questions, contact mhiggins@eden2.org or 718-816-1422 x 1029.