



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 2, 2015

Eden Autism Services Receives Transformative Bequest

*Single largest donation in Eden's 40 year history,
gift will enhance the organization's programmatic excellence.*

Princeton, NJ – Peter H. Bell, President and CEO of Eden Autism Services, announced today that the organization has received a bequest of \$2 million from the **William & Dorothy Noonan Fund of the Princeton Area Community Foundation**. This gift represents the single largest donation in Eden's 40 year history of serving individuals with autism spectrum disorders across the lifespan.

"We are absolutely thrilled and honored by the generosity of Bill and Butz Noonan, two extraordinary individuals who fell in love with Eden and its mission. Their commitment to serving others is tremendously inspiring," said Mr. Bell. "This transformative gift will enable us to enhance and expand our programmatic excellence, make improvements to our facilities with a particular focus on our adult services program, and help ensure our long-term sustainability for those we serve, both today and in the future."

"This is a wonderful and thoughtful legacy by the Noonans and great news for Eden," said Chairman of the Board, Anthony J. Kuczinski, President of Munich Reinsurance America. "Now in its fifth decade of service, Eden has spent much of the last year planning for its future. Integral to its rich history is the indelible mark that the Noonans have made on Eden during their lifetime and through their bequest."

Upon moving to Princeton in 1987, Bill and Dorothy "Butz" Noonan became deeply engaged in Eden's mission despite having no family connection to autism. Bill was named Chairman of the Eden Board of Trustees in 1998 and served as such until 2003, and then again in 2005 until his death in 2006. Caring and committed members of their community, the Noonans counted Eden and several other human services organizations among their philanthropic interests. Bill's interest in people, and his vast experience as a Marine Captain, Officer Candidate School instructor, radio and newspaper reporter, and ultimately an executive with Merrill Lynch, helped those organizations pursue their missions.

In an interview published by Eden in 1997, Bill Noonan provided insight into what inspired him to become engaged in Eden's mission: "...a year or so later [after being introduced to Eden] I was elected to the Board of Trustees. In the process, I learned a great deal about autism. It was clear that people with autism – and their families – desperately need the assistance of others. The individuals that Eden serves simply cannot survive without help, and what I found so heartening was the realization that with that help, they not only survive but often thrive."

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"In life, and in death, Bill and Butz Noonan have made a remarkable impact on Eden. It is in our hands to honor their faith in this organization and to leverage their generosity such that it raises our individual and collective sights on what is truly possible for Eden - and those we serve. With gratitude and deep respect for their legacy, we are humbled by this extraordinary gift," said Mr. Bell.

"As grateful as we are to Bill and Butz for remembering Eden through their legacy giving, we also extend our sincere gratitude to the Princeton Area Community Foundation (PACF) for its role in promoting philanthropy throughout the greater-Princeton region, and for stewarding the intentions of generous individuals like the Noonans," said Melinda Gorny McAleer, Chief Development Officer for Eden.

For information about becoming a member of the William J. Noonan Legacy Society, named in Bill's memory in 2006, contact Ms. McAleer at (609)987-0099 x3513 or go to www.edenautism.org.

About Autism

Autism is a complex, lifelong developmental disability that impacts the development of the brain in the areas of social interaction and communication skills. The result of a neurological disorder affecting the functioning of the brain and frequently other systems of the body, autism typically appears during a child's first three years.

Autism Facts

- Autism affects 1 in 68 children and 1 in 42 boys
- New Jersey has the highest rates with 1 in 45 children and 1 in 28 boys
- Autism prevalence figures are growing
- More children will be diagnosed with autism this year than with AIDS, diabetes & cancer combined
- Autism is the fastest-growing serious developmental disability in the U.S.
- Autism costs the nation over \$265 billion per year
- Autism receives less than 5% of the research funding of many less prevalent childhood diseases
- Boys are five times more likely than girls to have autism
- There is no medical detection or cure for autism

About Eden Autism Services

Eden Autism Services is a recognized leader in improving the lives of children and adults with autism. Founded in 1975, Eden was among the first service providers to expand its program to address the needs of individuals on the autism spectrum from the point of diagnosis through adulthood. Our services include early intervention therapy, a school for students aged 3 to 21, adult employment and residential programs, and curriculum and consultation for educators and other professionals. Autism is the fastest growing serious developmental disability in the U.S. with a national prevalence rate of 1 in 68 children (1 in 45 in New Jersey). For more information about Eden Autism Services visit www.edenautism.org or call (609) 987-0099. Follow Eden on Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn and Instagram.

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