



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Hyatt Regency Princeton and Bill and Butz Noonan to be Honored at 2016 Eden Dreams Awards

PRINCETON, NJ (January 14, 2016) – Eden Autism Services will host its 28th annual *Eden Dreams Gala* at the Hyatt Regency Princeton on Saturday, January 16, 2016 from 6:00 to 11:00 pm. This storied event has kicked off the New Year in the greater Princeton community for over two decades and is one of Eden's premiere fundraisers.

2016 marks Eden's 41st year of serving children and adults with autism, their families, educators and other professionals. The Eden School is a nationally recognized year-round program that educates 3 to 21 year-olds. Eden Adult Services provides employment training and support and residential programs, empowering the individuals served to live full and productive lives. Eden Outreach provides early intervention, professional development, and consultation for individuals, families, and professionals who are not enrolled in an on-site program. Proceeds from this year's Eden Dreams will fund Eden's children and adult programs.

Since its inception, each Eden Dreams event has represented a time or place that can be visited only through one's imagination. Over the years, gala guests have been transported to Atlantis, Camelot, even the Lumière screening room - making this one of the most talked about and highly anticipated events in town. This year's theme will not disappoint. ***Eden Dreams: SOME KIND OF WONDERFUL: A Celebration of Extraordinary Lives*** will be an unexpected gala evening set against a backdrop of iconic designers, artists, and musicians, whose talents created the sights and sounds that define three generations. We will have the glamour of years past, but with a non-traditional twist. We will be celebrating the 60's, 70's and 80's through music, imagery and design.

In recognition of their outstanding contributions, **the Hyatt Regency Princeton** and **Bill & Butz Noonan** will be honored (posthumously) with **Eden's Guardian** and **Visionary awards** respectively. Past honorees include corporate citizens and community leaders such as Miele, Munich Re, Wawa, Peter Dawson, and Nora Orphanides.

The Hyatt Regency Princeton has a long and storied history with Eden dating back to at least 1988 when together with Eden staff and members of the Princeton community they helped create the signature event Eden Dreams. In the 28 years since, the annual event has raised some \$3 million to support Eden's programs for children, adults, families, and professionals who are touched by autism. "*Individuals with autism deserve real and meaningful work. Eden believes this and so does the Hyatt*", said Peter Bell, Eden's President & CEO. Today, six men and women – each unique and respected for the contributions they make are employees of the Hyatt in both front and back-of-house positions. "In recognition of the Hyatt Regency's Princeton's commitment to and vision for the children and adults Eden serves, we are honored to present the Hyatt Regency Princeton with the 2016 Friends of Eden Visionary Award", said Bell.

In October, we received extraordinary news that Eden was the benefactor of a \$2 million bequest from the William & Dorothy Noonan Fund of the Princeton Area Community Foundation, representing the single largest donation in Eden's 40 year history of serving individuals with autism. The Noonan's will be awarded the 2016 Friends of Eden Guardian Award (posthumously) at this January's Eden Dreams Gala. The Eden board and management are working diligently to determine the best use of the Noonan's unrestricted gift such that it addresses long term sustainability and current strategic goals.

For more on this year's Eden Dreams gala, please visit www.edendreams.org

About Eden Autism

Eden Autism is a nationally recognized leader in improving the lives of children and adults with autism spectrum disorder. Founded in 1975, Eden was among the first providers in the U.S. to address the need for services across the lifespan, from the point of diagnosis through adulthood. 2015 marks our 40th year of excellence in a broad scope of programs and services for individuals, their families, educators and other professionals. Eden's renowned programs empower individuals to live full, productive and rewarding lives.

- **The Eden School** provides a 12-month education program for students aged 3 to 21 tailored to the specific abilities and requirements of each student. Community integration, recreation, and pre-employment programs are hallmarks of the highly regarded program.
- **Eden Adult Services** provides essential support to individuals as they age out of school yet require continued support. Services available include employment training and placement, residential programs, and community integration and recreation opportunities.
- **Eden Outreach** provides evaluation and diagnostic services as well as early intervention therapy, professional development, curriculum, and consultative services.

About Autism

Autism spectrum disorder (ASD), previously known as just "autism," is a group of developmental disabilities that can cause significant social, communication and behavioral challenges. The term "spectrum" refers to the wide range of symptoms, skills, and levels of impairment or disability that children and adults with ASD can have. Some individuals are mildly impaired by their symptoms, while others are severely disabled. ASD is believed to be the result of a neurological disorder affecting the functioning of the brain. Although autism appears to have its roots in very early brain development, the most obvious signs and symptoms tend to emerge during the first two years of life.

Autism Facts

- Autism now affects 1 in 68 children and 1 in 42 boys
- New Jersey has the highest rate of autism in the U.S. with 1 in 45 children and 1 in 28 boys
- Autism prevalence figures are growing (120% higher than previous estimates)
- More children will be diagnosed with ASD this year than with AIDS, diabetes and cancer combined
- Autism is the fastest-growing serious developmental disability in the U.S.
- Autism receives only 0.5% of total NIH research funding
- Boys are nearly five times more likely than girls to have autism
- Currently, there is no medical detection or cure for autism

For more information about Eden Autism visit www.edenautism.org or call 609.987.0099 Follow Eden on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

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