



Beyond the Stars *

EDEN DREAMS 2017

saturday JANUARY 28TH

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

January 25, 2017

Rush D. Holt and The Princeton Windrows Community to be Honored at 2017 Eden Dreams Gala

PRINCETON, NJ (January 25, 2017) – Eden Autism will host its 29th annual *Eden Dreams Gala* at the Hyatt Regency Princeton on Saturday, January 28, 2017 from 6:00 to 12:00 pm.

Join us for our annual gala and travel to a place attainable only through *Eden Dreams: Beyond the Stars*. Guests will gather to chase dreams into a sky that has no limits and to celebrate Eden and the individuals it serves. We are excited to welcome Lucy Noland, anchor at Fox 29, as Master of Ceremonies and Central Park the Band. Guests will enjoy cocktails, dinner, and dancing and the opportunity to bid on silent auction items such as the Hamilton ticket and hotel package. This storied event has kicked off the new year in the greater Princeton community for over two decades and is one of Eden's most visible fundraisers. Visit edendreams.org for more information.

Since its inception, Eden Dreams has represented a time or place that can be visited only through one's imagination. Over the years, guests have been transported to such faraway places as Atlantis, Camelot, and Tír na nÓg making this among the most unique events in town. This year's theme **BEYOND THE STARS: An evening of chasing dreams into a sky that has no limits** will also be one to remember. The event has raised over \$3 million to support Eden's programs for children, adults, families, and professionals who are touched by autism.

In recognition of their outstanding contributions to Eden's mission, **Rush D. Holt** and **The Princeton Windrows Community** will be honored with the **Friends of Eden Visionary** and **Guardian awards** respectively. Past honorees include corporate citizens and community leaders such as the Hyatt Regency Princeton, Munich Re, Wawa, Peter Dawson, and Nora Orphanides.

Rush D. Holt, PhD, chief executive officer of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) and executive publisher of the Science family of journals, leads the world's largest multi-disciplinary scientific and engineering society. A founding member of the Congressional Caucus on Autism, Holt worked to educate legislators about autism and the shortfall in funding autism research. In 2001, Congressman Holt facilitated collaboration between Eden and the US Office of Education for the purpose of making the Eden Curriculum more widely available to public and private schools. In 2010, Holt was on hand to help Eden celebrate 35 years of service.

The Princeton Windrows Community, which sits adjacent to the Eden School in Princeton Forrestal Village, has been a friend since 2007 when a small group of spirited residents joined their neighbor, the Reverend Dr. Richard S. Armstrong, in Eden's 5K and Fun Run/Walk. A public relations, fundraising, and community-building expert extraordinaire, Reverend Armstrong dubbed the group the "Windrows Wonders" and by 2012 the team had grown to over 140 members including Windrows residents, staff, and their families – many of whom also walked or ran in the Fun Run and 5K. In the years since, the Windrows community has collectively contributed some \$100,000 for Eden's programs and operations.

“Recipients of Eden’s *Friends of Eden Visionary and Guardian Awards* exemplify the important role that critical thinkers, advocates, and influencers play in advancing Eden’s mission. We are grateful to Rush Holt for his demonstrated leadership and to our Windrows neighbors for their outstanding generosity. Eden is proud to honor these individuals at this year’s Eden Dreams,” said Peter Bell, Eden’s President & CEO.

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

About Eden Autism

Eden is a not-for-profit organization with a mission to improve the lives of children and adults with autism. The organization has over 40 years of clinical experience and success in educating individuals with autism, and training family members, educators, and other professionals in best practices. Eden improves the lives of people with autism: **one individual at a time, one family at a time, one community at a time.**

- **The Eden School** provides a 12-month education program for ages 3 to 21 tailored to the specific abilities and requirements of each student. Community integration, recreation, and pre-employment 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 include employment training and placement, residential programs, and community integration and recreation.
- **Eden Outreach** provides early intervention therapy, professional development, curriculum, and consultations.

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 edenautism.org or call 609.987.0099

Contact: Christopher Bogusz, Director of Communications & Marketing
christopher.bogusz@edenautism.org or 609.987.0099 x3515



###