eden Impact Report FY2024





Letter from Mike

A highlight of the past year was the opening of our newest residence, Oak Lane, where four young autistic men now live in their own home, supported 24/7 by Eden's staff.

While opening a new home is special in many ways, it is the dayto-day activities that take place inside the house that inspire us; housemates preparing meals together, making plans for a fun community-based activity, taking care of household chores, and enjoying their backyard.

January 2025 will kick off a year-long celebration of Eden Autism's 50 years of service. Just as we will reflect on our history, we will look forward—ensuring that Eden is here for decades to come. The Fund for Eden, which you will hear more about as the year progresses, will be important to realizing this goal.

Over the next several months, two more residences will open, providing additional families the opportunity to see their loved ones enjoy a rich life in their own home, surrounded by peers and supported by dedicated staff. Please watch our monthly newsletter for information about these exciting events.

Thank you to everyone who supported Eden Autism in fiscal year 2024. Your contributions enable us to continue celebrating milestones, both big and small.

Sincerely, **Michael K. Decker** *President & CEO*

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"I'm so incredibly excited about the opportunities for our clinical services here at Eden."

-TIM NIPE

Meet Tim Nipe, PhD, BCBA-D

Dr. Tim Nipe joined Eden Autism as Chief Clinical Officer in 2023 and was immediately impressed by the dedication of Eden's staff.

"The passion in which people deliver care here extends all the way from executive leadership through our program leadership to our direct support staff," said Tim. "You can really see the impact of that in terms of the level of care our participants receive."

Working with the clinical team and colleagues from other departments over the past year has been Tim's favorite part of the job. "It's been all of the things that I was hoping this position was going to be," he said.

His teams are responsible for assessing the clinical needs of the individuals Eden supports, creating behavior support plans, and analyzing data gathered by Teaching Assistants and Direct Support Professionals to determine if the plans are effective. For example, if there is a behavior the clinical team is seeing too much of – aggression, self-injury, property destruction – they identify potential plan components that may help decrease those behaviors, such as functional communication, and pre-vocational and social skills. Then, they design a behavior support plan unique to that individual's specific needs.

"We do a lot of functional and treatment analyses here," said Tim. "That's when we really have to dig in a little deeper for some of our more complex clinical presentations. We use experimental analysis to determine what the function of the target behavior and whether or not our function-based plan components are going to be effective or not."

Doing this work with the clinical team is the highlight of Tim's job. "Anytime that I can do clinical work, that's always my favorite because I get exposure to our staff and to our participants," he said. "But don't get me wrong, the longer I have been in the field the more I've gained an appreciation for working to put clinicians and clinical directors in a position to succeed, even though that can mean less time on the floor."

Tim has also worked to bring new initiatives to the organization. Eden is increasing its research by developing clinical research protocols and establishing relationships with other institutions to collaborate on research studies. Eden is currently working with the University of Kansas to better understand heart rate and other bio markers to predict challenging behavior. Eden is also partnering with Rutgers University as a site for a study on treatment for depression for adults on the spectrum.

Tim summed up his first year in his new role with Eden saying, "I'm so incredibly excited about the opportunities for our clinical services here at Eden. I think we're just scratching the surface of what we can provide in terms of clinical excellence and research."

Our Services

The Eden School

1:1 to 3:1

STUDENT-TEACHER RATIO

Year-round educational services for children and adolescents with autism, ages 3–21

- Individualized programs ranging from self-care and activities of daily living to pre-vocational skills
- Adaptive Physical Education and Speech and Language Programs



Adult Day Services

Empowering individuals to engage and work in their communities, ages 21+

 Vocational training and employment

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• Daily living activities and community experiences

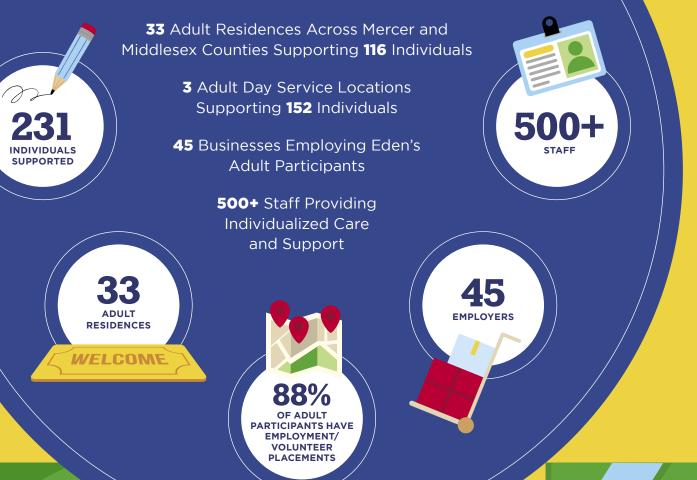
Adult Residential Services

Providing a secure environment in which adults live as independently as possible, ages 21+

• 2:1 participant to staff ratio providing 24/7 support and care

Our Community

78 Students Attending the Eden School in Princeton, NJ



Outreach Services

Our work is not limited to our walls.

- Home-based services, family training, and assessments
- Training and professional development
- The Eden Autism Curriculum Series



Celebrating Independence

EDEN OPENS 33RD GROUP HOME

Four young autistic adults moved into their own residence when Eden Autism opened its 33rd residence! The West Windsor house was developed in partnership with the New Jersey Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency (NJHMFA), the State of New Jersey Department of Human Services Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD), West Windsor Township, and Gregg Kiesel Interior Design.

"We are grateful to all of the organizations that provided funding and support that made opening this residence possible," said Eden Autism President & CEO Michael Decker. "Their commitment enables us to carry out our mission to provide lifespan services for autistic individuals. As children with autism grow into young adults, it is vitally important that residential options which provide an excellent quality of life are available to them."

This is Eden's fourth residence in West Windsor. Four individuals moved into the home in July 2024, with Eden staff providing 24/7 care.

Funding from the NJHMFA and other public sources made development of the house possible.

"Eden Autism's latest residential project offers stable housing and supportive services that will assist New Jersey residents with autism build successful, independent, fulfilled lives," said NJHMFA Executive Director Melanie Walter. "The Special Needs Housing Trust Fund makes transformative projects, including this one, a reality."

In addition to the NJHMFA funding, West Windsor Township contributed \$100K from their Affordable Housing Trust Fund, DDD funded the home's fire suppression, and Gregg Kiesel Interior Design donated his design services to ensure that the house feels cozy and welcoming for the new residents.

GIFTS AND PLEDGES MADE IN FY24 \$4,165,000

July 1, 2023-June 30, 2024

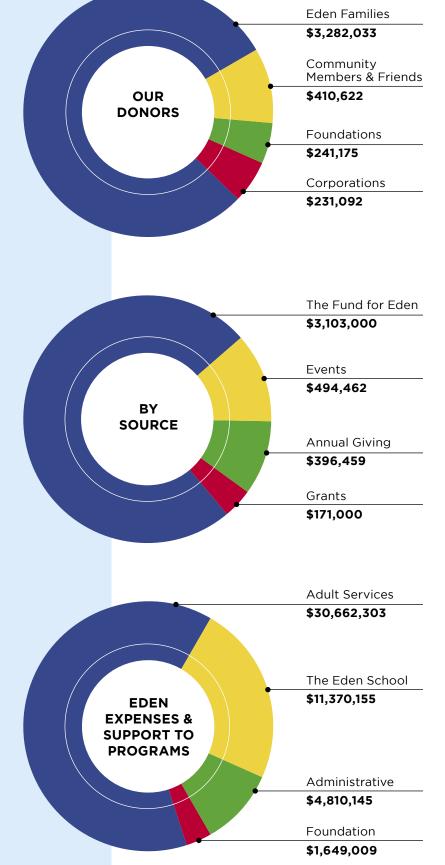
Looking ahead another 50 years...

THE FUND FOR EDEN

2025 will mark the 50th anniversary of Eden's founding. The vision of fourteen families who were determined to see their autistic children receive school services appropriate for their unique needs, Eden is now a model for providing support for individuals with profound autism throughout the lifespan. This sets Eden apart.

While federal law requires that school expenses are largely covered by each student's school district, the costs associated with providing adult services are not guaranteed—and they are extraordinary. To ensure that Eden is here for the individuals and families who seek our programs over the next 50 years, and can continue to support autistic individuals at any stage of life, The Fund for Eden has been established to grow and secure the financial resources necessary to carry out our mission to improve the lives of people with autism one individual at a time, one family at a time, one community at a time.

For information about contributing to the Fund, contact Melinda McAleer, Chief Development Officer, at melinda.mcaleer@edenautism.org or 609.987.0099.



Gifts Made in 2024

Those listed here contributed \$100 or more to Eden Autism Services during the fiscal year 2024 (July 1, 2023–June 30, 2024).

Every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of this information. Please contact the development office should you have a question about the information presented here or wish to update our records. For a complete list of donors, please visit edenautism.org.

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The Noonan Society

Helping to Ensure Eden's Sustainability

Established as the Eden Legacy Society in 1997 and renamed Eden's Noonan Society in honor of inaugural chairman Bill Noonan and his wife Dorothy, the Noonan Society recognizes individuals who have included Eden in their will or a planned gift. This includes gifts of life insurance, qualified and charitable distributions (QCDs), charitable gift annuities, charitable remainder trusts.

Eden is deeply grateful to the families, trustees, staff, and community members whose foresight and generosity ensures that future generations of children and adults with autism will benefit from Eden's mission.

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Bold print indicates charter members + Deceased members

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"Once you are part of Eden, you are part of the family."

-CAROLINE CRANE

Noonan Legacy Society Spotlight: Caroline Crane

Caroline Crane retired from her role as Eden Autism's Development Associate/Donor Information Specialist in 2019, but she remains connected to the organization through the Noonan Legacy Society. "Once you are part of Eden, you are part of the family," she said.

During her time at Eden, Caroline saw how the work done in classrooms and throughout the Adult Services program changed lives. Success stories—stories of children's frustrations fading as they learned to communicate on their iPad, the story of a child who used to cry when she came to school now laughing and smiling with her Eden teachers, stories of participants mastering daily living skills—touched her heart. "At Eden, they can take a problem that other places can't solve and they know how to address it," she said.

Inspired by these stories and the other donors she encountered through her work, she and her husband David joined the Noonan Legacy Society to help these success stories continue. "You can see all the good that Eden does for people with autism and their families," she said.



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