



Eden's Dream of New Princeton School to Become Reality

"If a little dreaming is dangerous, the cure for it is not to dream less but to dream more," Marcel Proust told the world a century ago... and Eden listened. The new, state-of-the-art school for children with autism that Eden has envisioned, planned for and dearly needed for more than a decade anticipates opening its doors during the 2010-2011 school year, with groundbreaking expected by late 2009.

Eden president and CEO Tom McCool describes a site search that eventually settled on an existing school in Princeton Forrestal Village, which will be renovated and expanded to meet the special educational needs of students with autism. The facility will include nearly 25,000 feet of new construction and encompass not only a school for students ages 3 to 21, but also space for Eden's early intervention program for infants and toddlers.

With site approval completed, the design phase is well underway and Eden staff are working closely with architects to apply current best practices that maximize educational quality. "A best-practices learning environment," says McCool, "includes computers in classrooms, visual monitoring systems, technology-supported data keeping and physical space to support the teaching of vocational skills, life skills and leisure skills."

Adds COO Carol Markowitz, who has been with Eden since its 1975 founding, "This is an extremely exciting time for us—the opportunities at the new site are phenomenal."

Markowitz is particularly enthusiastic about plans for a culinary arts program—the existing school has a commercial kitchen that can be adapted—and for a mini-Wawa retail food store that will enable students to develop real-life employment readiness. Also of note: a two-story gymnasium complete with sensory motor area and weight room. And outside, a playing field, fitness trail and half-court basketball court.

Novelist Proust didn't talk about the price tag of one's dreams, but Eden is well aware of them. Hence the recent launch of "Nurturing Today, Embracing Tomorrow," a capital campaign to raise funds for the new school as well as for an endowment fund to ensure its sustainability (see story, page 4).

Breaking even more new ground, the school's best practices design and philosophy will enable Eden to have a positive impact on autism education programs worldwide. Says McCool, "We anticipate welcoming visitors from far and wide to engage in ongoing dialogues with our staff as we help refine and redefine autism education best practices." **E**

Eden Florida School Completing First Year in New Location

After nearly 10 years in Fort Myers, Eden Autism Services Florida moved its educational program to Naples last summer, giving the adult day program space of its own and increasing school enrollment potential considerably.

Eden Florida's Eimerman Center boasts a swimming pool with certified swimming instructor who also teaches water safety skills, not inconsequential for young Floridians. There is plenty of space for other activities, too—basketball, perhaps tennis, definitely fitness walks under sunny Gulf Coast skies.

Eden Florida director Armando Galella is pleased that the facility lends itself to community collaboration, citing as example the aptly named "butterfly garden" developed last fall by the Naples Area Board of Realtors. "The garden has been incorporated into our curriculum, and students learn not only how to care for the plants, but why they attract so many butterflies," he says.

As the first year in Naples comes to a close, Galella eyes the next with particular anticipation. "We are looking forward," he says, "to the impact of Florida's vastly increased private insurance coverage of ABA therapy for children on the autism spectrum."

Administrative offices for Eden Autism Services Florida are in Bonita Springs; Galella and his team can be reached at 239.992.4680. **E**



▲ Artist's rendering of Eden's new state-of-the-art school for children with autism.

Eden, 2009

You will notice a new look in this issue of *Edennewsbriefs*, though “new” may not be the best word. Eden is evolving and responding as we strive to ensure that everything from our logo to our classrooms keeps pace with the changing needs of the children, adults and families we serve.

Over the past couple of years, we have been re-evaluating the Eden logo, which though well recognized in our field, was also somewhat dated. Howard Design Group in Princeton guided us through the process of gathering feedback from a broad cross-section of families, staff and community members to create alternatives and evaluate their merit. Along the way, we considered a number of very different possibilities, eventually circling back to the realization that we wanted to retain the essence of the original logo...but give it a more modern look.

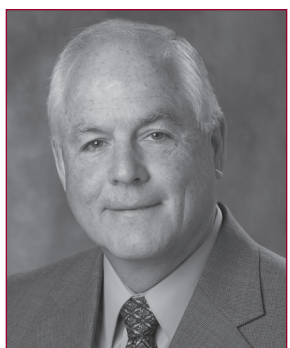
Out of this process grew a companion discussion about our name. For many years, we have used “Eden Family of Services” as the umbrella to encompass Eden Institute,

With the updated logo in place, we explored language that would be compatible, complementary and descriptive...and it took very little time to adopt “Eden Autism Services” as our new identification.

Eden ACREs, Eden WERCs and the Eden Institute Foundation; Eden Florida, Wawa House Services and our extensive outreach component became part of this designation as well. Yet none of these names reflects our reason for being, which is, of course, autism services. So with the updated logo in place, we explored language that would be compatible, complementary—and descriptive. It took many months to decide on the logo. It took very little time to adopt “Eden Autism Services” as our new identification.

On a more tangible note—and on a much larger scale—is our new Princeton school, a project that has been on the table for many years but took a major leap forward in 2005, when we initiated a formal process to select a site and begin designing a facility that would reflect Eden’s expertise in autism best practices.

Because our students travel from a wide area, we decided early in the process not to stray far from our current location. The Facilities Committee of our board visited numerous sites, eventually recommending one in Forrestal Village, in nearby Plainsboro. The property is owned by Princeton University, which has led to a collaborative relationship with the university and to our subsequently engaging KSS Architects’ Merilee Meacock and experienced project manager Chuck Klein as members of our team. You’ll read more about plans for the new school on the pages of this issue of *Edennewsbriefs*.



▲ Thomas P. McCool, EdD
President and CEO

Also on these pages is news of our capital campaign, “Nurturing Today, Embracing Tomorrow,” which officially launched April 30. Last year, we followed the recommendations of a comprehensive feasibility study that examined our potential for such an effort and began discussions with parents and community members to recruit campaign leadership. Our co-chairs reflect Eden’s multiple constituencies: Marie and Jeff Gary, parents of a student;

Marge and Ed Schwallie, parents of an adult participant; and Bob Humes, board chair and member of the community. The campaign seeks to raise \$4 million for the new school and \$3 million to strengthen our endowment fund to sustain Eden in the future.

With all of this, can an upgraded web site be far behind? The answer, I’m happy to say, is no. Through grants from long-time Eden supporter Butz Noonan (widow of former board chair Bill) and the Gannett Foundation—and under the guidance again of our friends at Howard Design, we embarked on a journey to incorporate state-of-the-art technology into our site. We look forward soon to being able to meet the dramatic increase in demand for our outreach services online, from consultations to trainings to information and referral, and we hope you will visit us often at www.edenautismservices.org. **E**

Edennewsbriefs

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Economic Crunch is Tough Time for People with Special Needs

Nearly every American is feeling the effects of the struggling economy. Eden is not immune to these hardships. An economic crisis hits people with disabilities even harder than others, as it becomes tougher to get a job and funding for many of the services they rely upon gets cut.

For the disabled who can work, there are fewer posts to fill, as companies cut jobs to reduce costs.

“Getting a job is always more difficult for people with disabilities,” says Lowell Arye, executive director of the Alliance for the Betterment of Citizens with Disabilities (ABCD), a Hamilton, NJ-based group that represents Eden and other nonprofit organizations for people with disabilities at the policy table.

On average, he says, 70 to 75 percent of people with disabilities who want to work can't find a job, because of issues including discrimination and concerns about accommodations.

“Even in a good economy, you have low employment for people with disabilities,” says Arye.

Eden's Adult Services employment division has been relatively lucky. It has

lost only one long-term job due to the economy. However, according to job developer Garrett Bernhofer, he must work a lot harder to obtain new employment opportunities for Eden participants.

The state of the economy has affected more than just Eden adult employment. The effects are being felt agency wide. Eden's Outreach Department, which serves as a consultant to schools and agencies that provide autism services, has also felt the impact.

“As a sagging economy has forced widespread budget cuts, many programs have drastically reduced consulting hours with Eden,” says Nina Finkler, director of Outreach and Support Services. One urban school district abruptly placed a moratorium on all 2008-2009 assistance. A program in north Jersey cut hours by two-thirds.

“We have tried,” says Finkler, “to be realistic about what the market will bear and to adjust what we offer accordingly.” This has meant some rethinking and rebudgeting on Eden's part.

Over the last few years, New Jersey lawmakers and other state officials have made progress increasing the visibility of

disabled people, says ABCD's Arye. As a result, there's a better understanding in the state of their challenges and needs. He credits Assembly Speaker Joseph Roberts and others in the legislative and executive branch of government with bringing awareness more to the forefront in New Jersey, which has the highest rate of autism spectrum disorders in the nation.

A silver lining in the cloud of recession, Arye says, is the new administration in Washington, DC, as President Barack Obama “clearly” supports employment issues for people with disabilities.

The president spoke in his campaign of expanding services and support for people with disabilities, and he sees the need to insure that people with disabilities live independently in the community.

He has also said that Washington needs to increase funding for requirements of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, according to Arye.

Eden is hopeful for the future—determined to keep vigilant in the fight for individuals with disabilities in order to persevere through these difficult times. **E**

April is for Autism Awareness

With autism prevalence increasing—the CDC puts it at 1 in 150—autism awareness has taken on new significance, giving new life to National Autism Awareness Month, celebrated in April.

Eden's awareness activities in New Jersey kicked off this year with an appropriately international flavor when Princeton's Alchemist & Barrister Restaurant and Pub hosted a festive evening April 2 featuring “celebrity” bartenders—Eden trustees Ehab Abousabe and Peter Dawson and Eden president Tom McCool, serving his signature Irish coffee. The following morning, a ceremony at Millstone River Elementary School in Plainsboro was moved inside when April showers postponed plans for a “human autism ribbon” with students from Millstone and Eden, but spirits were not dampened and mayoral proclamations were undeterred.



▲ Promising Pathways in Florida: Keynote speakers (from right) Kiely and Paul Law and Mohammad Ghaziuddin are joined by featured presenter Anne Holmes, Eden's chief clinical officer.



▲ Proclaiming National Autism Awareness Month locally: Tom McCool (2nd from left), Eden president and CEO, and Tom Smith, West Windsor-Plainsboro assistant superintendent, are flanked by the mayors of Plainsboro (left) and West Windsor—Peter Cantu and Shing-Fu Hsueh.

Also on the April calendar were awareness tables at Quakerbridge Mall, Princeton and Mercer Chamber of Commerce lunches, Caldwell College's autism conference, POAC's (Parents of Autistic

continued on page 6

Capital Campaign Brings Promise for Many

On April 30, Eden family and friends joined CEO Tom McCool and co-chairs Marie and Jeff Gary, Bob Humes and Ed and Marge Schwallie for the official launch of “Nurturing Today, Embracing Tomorrow,” a capital campaign to support the current and future needs of Eden’s children and adults with autism. The event was held at the Westin Princeton at Forrestal Village, which not coincidentally is within walking distance of what will become Eden’s new campus some time next year.

Each year, funding from federal and state agencies falls well short of what Eden needs to maintain its commitment to quality services and meet increasing demand for them. Philanthropic support has, therefore, become Eden’s lifeline—the difference between a mission fulfilled and one only attempted. The campaign will raise funds both for the building of a new school in the Princeton area (see story, page 1)

and the establishment of an endowment fund whose income can assure the sustainability of Eden’s services for years to come.

To date, more than \$2.6 million has been raised in support of the \$7 million campaign. Commitments have been made by Eden parents, grandparents, trustees and other volunteers, as well as by foundation and corporate partners who recognize the importance of Eden’s services to families living with the lifelong challenges of autism.

The co-chairs of “Nurturing Today, Embracing Tomorrow” know those challenges well. Four of the five are parents of sons with autism; Humes, the current board chair, has served as Eden trustee or committee member for more than two decades.

For more information about the campaign, contact Melinda Gorny McAleer or Andy Armstrong at the Eden Institute Foundation at 609.987.0099. **E**



▲ Campaign co-chairs (left to right) Bob Humes, Marie and Jeff Gary, Ed and Marge Schwallie

McAleer Joins Eden as Chief Development Officer

Eden Autism Services welcomed Melinda Gorny McAleer to the new role of chief development officer early this year, on the eve of launching the organization’s first capital campaign since the early 1990s.

McAleer brings with her 20 years’ experience in the nonprofit sector, most recently as director of major and planned gifts at Capital Health System Foundation in Trenton. She is a member of the Gift Planning Council of New Jersey and the Association of Fundraising Professionals, serving on the New Jersey chapter’s board of directors as well as its professional development committee.

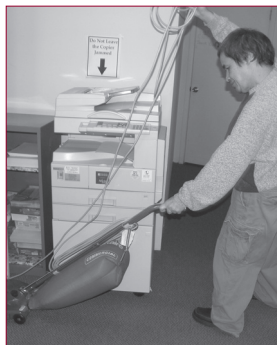
“I am thrilled to have joined Eden, especially as we begin what I know will be a successful effort to build a much-needed new school and endow adult services—a hallmark of our mission,” says McAleer. “We have some hard work ahead but I believe that our families, community members and business partners will all want to be part of Eden’s next great chapter.”

McAleer is a graduate of Hartwick College and has achieved certification from CFRE International, which administers the only internationally recognized professional credential for philanthropic fundraising executives. She and her son live in Hillsborough. **E**



▲ Melinda Gorny McAleer

Rising High



◀ Andrew Tsang replaces the liner after emptying a wastebasket and John Manuel wields a mean vacuum as part of the weekly Eden cleaning crew at Rise, a Hightstown (NJ)-based nonprofit that provides referral and support services to individuals and families in need. Participants from Eden Adult Services volunteer their time at Rise, which Eden job development specialist Garret Bernhofer calls win-win—“they’re gaining job experience, we’re giving back to the community and Rise is saving money on janitorial services.” Win-win...and win.

Because Eden Has Always Been There

It was at a Membership Meeting—the semiannual gathering of Eden parents and staff that serves both as info briefing and Q&A—when Mark and Maria Buchinski learned about the New Jersey capital campaign soon to launch. And why it mattered so much.

“A real eye opener,” says Mark of the evening. “I don’t think we had ever realized what it costs to provide the level of service we receive...how much a gap there is between what the state provides and what Eden needs.”

Michelle Buchinski was referred to Eden for early intervention services at age 2 and accepted the following year to the Early Childhood Program at Eden Institute. Now 13, she is one of six students in Transition, which serves as a bridge to the more vocationally oriented programming for older teens.

“Eden has been a godsend for Michelle,” says Maria. “She’s made a lot of progress and they have been with us every step of the way.”

Adds Mark, “Eden is not just where Michelle goes to school; they help our whole family. There’s sibling support, grandparent days...and whenever we’ve needed them—Michelle’s communion, Michelle’s haircut, Michelle at the dentist—Eden is there.”

The Buchinskis have been regular donors from the start, supporting not only the Annual Fund but also such events as Eden Dreams and Eden by Moonlight. They joined the Legacy Society in 2001, affirming a commitment to including Eden in their estate plan.

“When we learned how important it is for parents to pledge to the campaign—for the Eden family to be 100% on board before approaching people who are not as personally affected, we knew we would participate,” says Mark, a systems director at MetLife. “I think we were an easy sell.”

The capital campaign’s dual goals of new school and strengthened endowment both resonate with the Buchinskis, who are pragmatic about Michelle’s future. “We know there are no guarantees that she will always be at Eden,” says Maria. “But Eden

has always been there for us and this is our way of giving back.”

In the meantime, they look forward to watching the new school take shape and feel more closely connected to the process now that they are campaign supporters. They also feel something else. Heartened.

“This,” says Maria, “is our glimmer of hope.” **E**

Mark and Maria Buchinski are also parents to Mark, 14, and Matthew, 7. They live in Old Bridge.



▲ The Buchinski Family

Eden Accreditations, Certifications Affirm Program Excellence

Eden Institute recently received reaccreditation from the National Commission for the Accreditation of Special Education Services (NCASES). Currently, there are 25 schools nationwide—two in New Jersey—that have been accredited by NCASES, a subsidiary of the nonprofit National Association of Private Special Education Centers (NAPSEC), based in Washington, DC.

Such endorsement assures the community that a private special education provider has met best current practices, identifies agencies that are worthy of financial support, assists prospective clients in choosing a service provider and helps in the development of agency improvement goals, according to NCASES.

Eden Adult Services, meanwhile, has received first-time accreditation for its employment services program, this from CARF International, which currently accredits more than 5,500 providers on five continents. Receipt of a three-year accreditation follows a rigorous review in which an organization demonstrates to a team of surveyors that its programs and

services are of the highest quality, measurable and accountable.

Eden’s Outreach Department, which provides training, program consultations and diagnostic evaluations, was recently approved as a Board Certified Behavior Analyst continuing education provider.



▲ Rachel Tait, Eden’s director of educational services, and student Spike Lofgren accept the NCASES certificate of accreditation from Sherry Kolbe, NAPSEC executive director and CEO.

This certification by the Florida-based Behavior Analyst Certification Board allows Eden to expand the scope of trainings it provides as well as the group of people who can be trained. Eden Outreach is one of just five programs in New Jersey with BCBA certification. **E**



▲ Jamie Douglas (left), managing director of Eden Adult Services, and assistant director Yasmin Qazilbash flank participant Steven Winsten, doing the honors holding the CARF certificate.

Children) Walk for a Difference and the Trenton Thunder's own autism awareness day. Fundraisers at JR Trading Company (Monmouth Junction), Cheeburger Cheeburger (Mercer Mall), TGI Friday's (East Windsor) and Applebee's (Lawrenceville) raised dollars along with the awareness.

In a more academic awareness vein, Eden Florida partnered with Florida Gulf Coast University in Fort Myers April 25 for the second annual Promising Pathways—the Road to Best Practice in Autism, a free conference for physicians, parents and educators addressing autism spectrum disorders. Eden Florida director Armando Galella again served as conference chair and Anne Holmes, Eden's chief clinical officer, was a featured speaker with keynotes by Kiely and Paul Law, physicians and researchers at Baltimore's Kennedy Krieger Institute and parents of a son with autism, and Mohammad Ghaziuddin, MD, MRCPsych, associate professor of child psychiatry at the University of Michigan.

The month concluded with several more "a" words as Eden conveyed its appreciation with artwork by Antonio. The note cards, sent to a cross-section of donors, vendors and friends, used an original design by Eden Adult Services participant Antonio Leon, who has been drawing and painting since the age of 6. **E**

Eden Florida Takes Vocational Training to the Stables

Eden Autism Services Florida's older students are being given a special opportunity to work at a local ranch, as part of a project that executive director Armando Galella hopes will blossom into a creative way for many of Eden's participants to gain valuable vocational skills.

Eden is in an area of southwest Florida where hundreds of acres of stables are located. Over the past year and a half, Eden has developed an alliance with Triple V Ranch, a 30-acre farm in Naples that has two large barns and pastures accommodating more than 30 horses. Its owner, Dr. Ginny Condello, is a psychiatrist who understands the value of equine therapy.

Eden students currently participate in therapeutic riding at Condello's ranch, as well as at Naples Equestrian Challenge, a program specifically for people with disabilities. Those relationships have demonstrated how children with autism can benefit from equine therapy and simply being near animals, especially horses, says Galella.

Over the past six or seven months, there developed a need for trained stable hands in the region, particularly at Triple V and other ranches in Collier County. Eden staff discussed with Condello the idea of training some of Eden's older teens, and a pilot project was launched this year.

So instead of training at a fast food restaurant or grocery store, students are now learning how to use a special cleaning tool for barns. They'll next move onto other steps required to become a stable hand, including feeding and grooming horses.

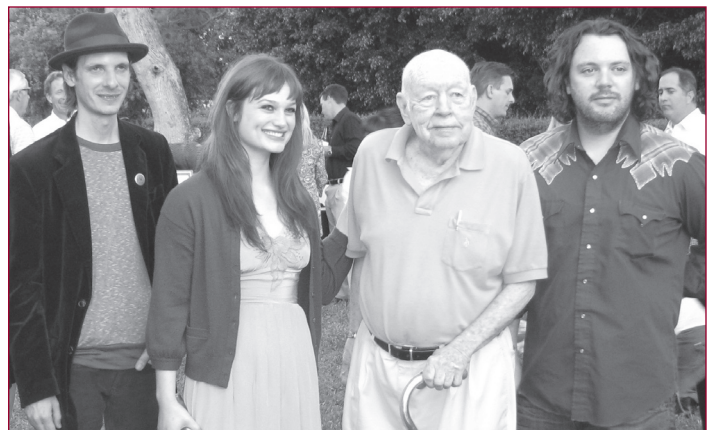
"The repetitiveness of the stable jobs makes them very suitable for people with autism," says Galella. "The students are adapting well to the work, and they're doing the work extremely well."

Galella plans to reach out to other ranches in the vicinity of Triple V to discuss their staffing needs, which he hopes will enable him to open the stable hand program to more students and to adult participants from Eden Florida's group residences as well. **E**



▲ Student Ryan Floyd gets serious about sweeping as part of the new stable hand training program at Eden Autism Services Florida.

A Fine Frenzy in Florida



▲ Talented singer-songwriter-pianist Alison Sudol, this year's star attraction at the Alive in the World concert benefiting Eden Florida, posed gamely for photos, here with (at left) Bob, Megan and JP Goldman—Bob and wife Susie established the annual "Alive" event 11 years ago—and (at right) long-time Eden Florida supporter Wilson McGregor, flanked by musicians Stephen LeBlanc and Jesse Siebenberg. Sudol and her band, known professionally as A Fine Frenzy, charmed the crowd at the Naples Hilton and Towers on March 27, and won the hearts of many by donating tickets so several Eden participants could attend.

UMDNJ Medical Students Gain Clinical Experience at Eden

First year medical student Vicky Lent of Morganville, New Jersey, says her recent afternoon at Eden Autism Services was an informative look into the lives of future patients. “Visiting Eden gave me insight into crucial developmental factors—family life, education and daily activities—of children with autism, which will help me be more aware of the needs and intricacies when I’m treating patients with autism,” she says.

Lent was one of 10 students from the Patient Centered Medicine course at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey’s Robert Wood Johnson Medical School who spent the afternoon of March 25 at Eden’s school in Princeton. Eden hosts about a half-dozen such site visits annually, welcoming the chance to be part of RWJMS’s commitment to introducing clinical experience early in the first year.

“It’s our chance to impact a whole crop of young doctors,” says Eden COO Carol Markowitz, “and we think that’s an important contribution we can make.”



▲ UMDNJ students who visited Eden March 25 were (left to right) Vanna Parikh, Jason Litt, Dorian Batt, Alan Caces, Daniel Perl, Vicky Lent, Kristine Goins, Lincoln Smith, Osvaldo Zumba and Christine Cloke.

After observing each class in action, the medical students spend lecture time with Markowitz and nurse Ilona Gundersen, who address early autism diagnosis, the increase in autism prevalence and medical issues related to autism. The site visits are coordinated by J. Anna Looney, PhD, of UMDNJ’s Department of Family Medicine.

“I appreciated how open all the staff were,” says Lent, whose area of interest is Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, “and I hope many more generations of UMDNJ students will have the same opportunity we did to visit Eden.” **E**

Just Launched!

Eden’s New Fully Interactive Multimedia Website



www.edenautismservices.org

design team

Howard Design Group and Aardvark Brigade

generous underwriting support from

Butz Noonan

The Gannett Foundation



Eden Autism Services

Our Way of Saying Thank You

by Stacie Servetah

One chilly afternoon in late February, I stood outside my seven-year-old daughter’s speech therapy session. From behind a door and through a tinted window, I watched as Brielle’s therapist prompted her to pick one of three picture cards. My baby girl got the right one and smiled, happy with herself and the reinforcement she got. Then she sat obediently, staring at the teacher, waiting for her next move. I was mesmerized.

Brielle was such a different child than the one I had seen the last time I visited Eden just a few months earlier. As I watched her now, I saw a wide, beautiful grin on her face, a happy glow in her big brown eyes. She listened and followed directions, all the while laughing, playing and interacting like I’ve never seen before.

Brielle joined the Eden family last Septem-

ber. I won’t lie and say it’s been all wonderful and uphill from the first day. My stubborn little one put up a fight at first, prompting me to ask myself on more than one occasion if I had made a bad decision for my younger child.

Months later, Bree is settling in. Her fits are fewer and farther between, and she’s making really good progress, at school and at home. She’s become VERY opinionated and is able to use her picture book to express her wants and needs. She’s learned so much and so have I.

I’m grateful, more than words can express. That is why I’m so happy to have an opportunity to help Eden by contributing to this newsletter.

As Trenton bureau chief of Bloomberg News, I spend my days writing and editing stories about state government and finances. Writing for Eden is my way of giving back.



▲ Stacie Servetah with her daughter, Brielle Babula

Edennewsbriefs News Briefs

The 21st annual Eden Dreams gala, held January 17 at the Hyatt Regency Princeton, transported guests to the land of pyramids, pharaohs and Nile River temples—and raised a welcome \$100,000 in proceeds at a time when economic uncertainty was at its peak. Dreams of Amon-Ra was co-chaired by Janet Quarterone of Flemington and Rob Robinson of Doylestown (Pennsylvania), and corporate sponsors included Access Communications, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Continental Airlines, the Hyatt, Janssen LP, Jennifer Angelo Design, JPMorgan Chase, Merrill Lynch, Munich Reinsurance America, the Olsen Foundation, Turn-Key Environmental Services and Tyco; Howard Design Group and Ancraft Press donated graphic design and printing, respectively. Also donated: 12 airline tickets (from long-time Eden friend Richard Chibbaro of Continental), which put extra spring in the step of silent auction bidders.

Edha Majumdar of Kendall Park, lead teacher in Eden's Transition Program and 23-year Eden veteran, was named the 2008 Andors Teacher of the Year in recognition of exemplary dedication and professionalism. The award is presented through the endowed Andors Family Fund—established in 1999 by Eden parents Toni and Leon Andors—which helps each year to subsidize the salary of one faculty member in Eden's educational program. Amy Sassi of Levittown (Pennsylvania), teaching assistant in Transition, was selected as the 2008 recipient of the Kristin Ann Culley Award, a peer-driven honor that is given annually to a front-line Eden staff member known

among colleagues as one always to go the extra mile. Eden parents Tom and Mary Ann Martin established the Culley Award 10 years ago in memory of a young cousin.

Irish eyes smiled early when the Conor P. Casey Foundation for Autism hosted its seventh annual Blarney Benefit February 28 at the Bordentown Elks Lodge. Sweeney's Irish Saloon of Trenton donated the food and DJ services by Steve and Company kept the crowd of 400 on its feet. Blarney proceeds support scholarships for children who are receiving early intervention services at Eden's Wawa House, with upwards of \$165,000 raised since the event's inception. Kolleen and Dan Casey of Lumberton established the foundation to honor their son, Conor, who was diagnosed with autism at age 2 and received services at Wawa House.

Robert E. Humes, chair of Eden Autism Services' Board of Trustees, received the Bob Clancy Culture of Caring Award from the American Red Cross of Central New Jersey at its 13th annual gala, held March 7 at the Bedens Brook Club in Skillman. A Red Cross volunteer for more than 25 years, Humes served two terms as board chair and has assisted with relief efforts during large local disasters; he is also a regular blood donor. The award is named in memory of former trustee and long-time Red Cross volunteer Clancy, a former Eden trustee as well. Humes, who is also co-chairing Eden's capital campaign, "Nurturing Today, Embracing Tomorrow," lives in Skillman with his wife, Nancy. **E**

Upcoming

June 19

Just for Joey Golf Outing
Heron Glen Golf Course
Ringoes, NJ

June 19

Friends of Eden Awards Dinner
Westin Princeton at Forrestal Village
Princeton, NJ

July 19

Eden Family 5K and Fun Run
Princeton Forrestal Village
Princeton, NJ

September 14, 21, 28

Autumn Nights Wine Tastings
Stonewood Grill & Tavern
Naples, FL

October 3

Eden by Moonlight
Hamilton Manor
Hamilton, NJ

October 5, 12, 19

Autumn Nights Wine Tastings
Stonewood Grill & Tavern
Naples, FL



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