



Milestones in Review

January 1, 2024 - Jun 30, 2025



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A Letter from Our Leadership

Dear Friends of Milestones,

The past two years have included profound change for Milestones Autism Resources. Together, we have faced moments of transition, challenge, and loss. We mourn the passing of our Co-Founder and former Executive Director, Ilana Hoffer Skoff, whose leadership created and shaped our organization. We recognize the uncertainty that change can bring. At the same time, we are deeply grateful for the resilience, commitment, and generosity of our community — supporters, families, professionals, and partners — who continue to stand alongside us. Even in the face of these challenges, our dedication to the mission has never wavered. We remain steadfast in our work to improve the lives of autistic individuals, their families, caregivers, and the professionals who support them. Every training delivered, every family guided through the Helpdesk, and every resource shared is a reminder that Milestones exists to create brighter futures.

As part of this season of change, we are embracing an exciting new chapter: Milestones will be merging with Lifeworks Autism Services. This merger represents not an end, but a continuation and expansion of our mission. By joining forces with a strong partner who shares our values and vision, we are ensuring that the critical work of Milestones not only endures but grows — reaching more autistic individuals, families, and professionals with the resources and support they need.

This report highlights both the impact we've made and our path forward. While the landscape around us continues to shift, our mission remains our compass. Together with Lifeworks Autism Services, we are committed to honoring our history, building on our strengths, and expanding our reach so that Milestones' mission not only endures but thrives. By combining our efforts, we will continue to be a trusted resource — offering brighter futures for autistic individuals, their families, and the professionals who support them for years to come.

Honoring the past. Strengthening the future. Together.

With gratitude for your trust and partnership,

<i>Connie Boros</i>	<i>Mia Buchwald Gelles</i>	<i>Phillip Irvin</i>
Chief Executive Officer	Co-founder and Chief Operating Officer	Board Chair



WE'RE ON A MISSION

Milestones Autism Resources is **dedicated to improving the lives of autistic individuals, families, caregivers, and professionals** by education, coaching, and connecting them to trusted resources.

VISION

Milestones Autism Resources envisions a community in which **autistic individuals reach their full potential** as integrated members of society, **with their needs supported and their abilities, strengths, and voices valued.**

OUR WORK & IMPACT

3,400+

People served in 2024
through our conference,
workshops, and
Helpdesk support.

900+

Helpdesk Cases
Supported in 2024.

1,800+

Professionals trained in
autism and trauma-
informed skills in 2024.



Projects

Outcomes

Helpdesk

- 908+ cases supported in 2024
- Bilingual guidance providing clear, accessible next steps

Training Workshops

- 1,847+ participants in 2024
- 1,328+ attendees Jan-June 2025
- Multiple sectors trained, including first responders, medical staff, and businesses

Annual Conference

- 640+ attendees in 2024 & 2025
- FREE day 1 provided to ensure broad accessibility
- 2024 Conference hosted attendees and speakers from 15 states and five countries.

Website

- 485,500+ website visits in 2024
- 100+ tailored articles, guides, and tools added over the last two years

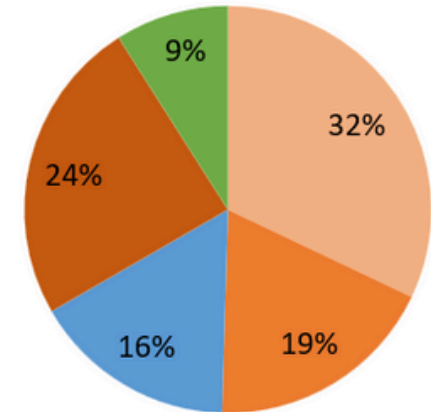
FY24 FINANCIALS

84%
of expenses
went to
programs.



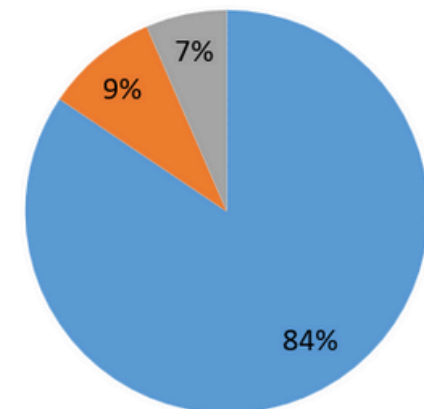
2024 Income

- Contributions & Investments
- Events (net)
- Program Fees
- Grants
- Public Support



2024 Expenses

- Programming
- Fundraising
- Admin



OUR STORIES



Trainings That Transform: Milestones Raises Autism Response Confidence by 62%

Crisis moments are especially high-stakes for autistic individuals, who are **7x more likely to encounter law enforcement** and at higher risk of suicidal ideation. From January–July 2025, Milestones partnered with Cuyahoga County's ADAMHS Board to **deliver 11 trainings for police, EMTs, and community providers**—equipping them with autism expertise to save lives and build safer, more inclusive communities.

89%

Gained practical skills to support autistic individuals in crisis.

81%

Better understood their own sensory preferences.

81%

Deepened empathy and knowledge of stimming as self-regulation.

OUR STORIES



Helpdesk in the Community: Closing Gaps, Building Trust

For families navigating autism, access to help often depends on whether the right door opens at the right time. The Milestones Helpdesk embeds support in trusted community spaces and to ensure no one is left without a path forward. From January–June 2025, in partnership with MetroHealth and United Way, the Helpdesk reached families in clinics, libraries, Head Start centers, and cultural events—**on track to support more than 1,200 families this year.**

617

Families Served

Between January–June 2025, the Helpdesk guided families to resources and support—on pace to reach 1,200+ this year.

63

Patients Connected

At the MetroHealth Autism Clinic alone, families received direct scheduling, referrals, and follow-up support.

4

New Sites Launched

Libraries, Head Start centers, and schools now host Helpdesk access, expanding reach in trusted community spaces.

LOOKING AHEAD

Effective October 2, 2025 Milestones Autism Resources (Milestones) and Lifeworks Autism Services (Lifeworks) are merging. By combining two trusted organizations, each with unique and complementary strengths, shared values, and a deep commitment to empowering the autism community we will strengthen and expand our collective capacity to serve autistic individuals, their families, caregivers, and the professionals who support them.



Expand Reach & Resources

Enhance access to vital resources, professional training, and create new opportunities for innovation and impact across the lifespan.



Build Capacity for Tomorrow

Create a stronger future for the autism community with an ability to reach more people and meet more needs.



OUR SUPPORTERS

2024-2025



Board of Directors

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Jeff Davis
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Donna Yanowitz

*in memoriam

WITH GRATITUDE: A LEGACY OF LOVE AND LEADERSHIP

Milestones Autism Resources was founded in 2003 by Ilana Hoffer Skoff and Mia Buchwald Gelles, two mothers who met in their children's speech therapy waiting room. Out of their shared need for guidance and community, they built the organization they once wished for themselves.

What began as a grassroots effort has grown into a trusted leader serving thousands each year through the free Autism Helpdesk, online Resource Center, Training Workshops, and the Milestones National Autism Conference, which now attracts participants from across the country and around the world.

Over two decades, Ilana and Mia guided Milestones from a staff of two to a team of 20. They championed autistic voices, hiring autistic employees and including self-advocates as interns, board members, and conference presenters. Their vision ensured autistic individuals weren't just served by Milestones, but also helped shape its programs and direction.



The founders also recognized deep disparities in autism diagnosis and care. They launched the free Spanish Helpdesk and forged a partnership with MetroHealth Medical Center to offer onsite services for Black and Hispanic communities. By investing in DEIA initiatives, Ilana and Mia broke down barriers and brought vital resources to families who had long been overlooked.

Through all of this, Ilana and Mia never lost sight of their original purpose: to make sure no one would feel alone on this journey.

Their legacy lives on in every call answered, every connection made, and every life changed. Milestones is, at its heart, a reflection of their love, their courage, and their belief in the power of community.



HOW YOU CAN HELP

Your support has closed critical service gaps, built life-changing connections, and created lasting impact for families touched by autism—at every age and stage. We invite you to continue this journey with us by learning more about Lifeworks Autism Services at lifeworksautism.org and staying connected as we carry forward our shared commitment to serving autistic individuals, their families, and the professionals who support them.



THANK YOU!!
