

MILESTONES AUTISM RESOURCES

2018 ANNUAL BENEFIT

POSSIBILITY

The Spectrum of

The Silver Grille at The Higbee Building | October 27, 2018

Including the
2017- 2018
ANNUAL
REPORT

Pages 41-63

Honoring
PHILLIP IRVIN
MARVIN LADER
STEVEN WEXBERG, MD



Thank you!

YOUR SUPPORT MAKES OUR
FREE HELPDESK
POSSIBLE YEAR-ROUND.



“As a parent and a pediatrician, I have found the Milestones Helpdesk to be an invaluable opportunity for our autism community. Families can often feel isolated when they are facing the challenge of a new diagnosis or a new transition for their child on the spectrum. Milestones connects and empowers families to take advantage of all of the resources that will help their loved one and families thrive.” - Robyn Strosaker, MD

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2018 ANNUAL BENEFIT

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR HONOREES.....	02
TRIBUTE COMMITTEE.....	04
BENEFIT SPONSORS.....	05
BENEFIT PATRONS.....	06
TRIBUTE ADS.....	07

2017-2018 ANNUAL REPORT

INTRODUCTION.....	42
ANNUAL IMPACT.....	43
BOARD OF DIRECTORS & STAFF.....	44
WHAT SETS US APART.....	45
OUR SERVICES.....	46
EVENT RECAPS & SPONSORS.....	50
WHY I'M INVOLVED.....	54
DONOR LIST	56

Congratulations to the

2018 MILESTONES HONOREES

INSPIRING. LEADING. EMPOWERING.

"We are now 10 years into the process with our son and I give Milestones a lot of credit for giving me the insight I needed to know our goals were possible. My relationship with this organization has morphed into so much more than I ever thought it could be."



PHILLIP IRVIN

Phillip's relationship with Milestones began when he and wife Wendy sought resources to help their son with autism succeed. Since then, Phillip has found a place to channel his passion for helping others feel like they are not alone in their journey. As a leader of father support groups, he has enriched the lives of other parents looking for a sense of hope.

"No one needs to deal with ASD alone or to feel like they are isolated," Irvin says. "Every single block in every neighborhood in all of Cleveland is impacted by autism and Milestones is working to connect all of those single points into a connected community."

With Milestones, Phillip has taken an active role as a leader on the Board of Directors, having served as the organization's Treasurer, co-chair of Milestones' annual Strike It Big bowling event, and on multiple committees. Phillip's boundless energy and continuous guidance with many of the organization's initiatives have played an integral role in Milestones' ability to expand and effectively serve families affected by autism.

"To see how Milestones has grown and gone on to address other needs of this community is so rewarding. Something like this can really thrive here in Cleveland; this organization educates people in such a beautiful way."

MARVIN LADER

Cleveland native Marvin Lader has dedicated much of his adult life to supporting philanthropic causes close to his heart, the Milestones mission being one of them. After their grandson was diagnosed with autism, Marvin and wife Carol began seeking support for their family and discovered Milestones. Impressed with its impact on local families, Marvin immediately knew he wanted to commit his expertise and resources to ensuring a prosperous future for the organization.

"Milestones answered some of the most difficult questions we had," Lader says. "There was a void which Milestones has filled by focusing on education as well as the transitions along the way."



Since the organization's founding in 2003, the Laders have facilitated the creation of new programs for families facing the life-long challenges of autism. Fifteen years later, Marvin continues to make significant contributions to Milestones, having served as chair of the Endowment Committee and as a dedicated advocate for the organization's teen and adult services. Most recently, the Laders recognized the need to support the expansion of our Helpdesk to better serve the diverse elements of our community challenged by autism. Their leadership giving is being matched by foundations and other donors in our community dedicated to the Milestones mission.

"Milestones does the right things for the right reasons. Its founders and staff have been forward-thinking in identifying the needs in the community and then addressing them. Through my involvement, I feel I am making a difference and being enlightened about important issues for families and individuals."

STEVEN WEXBERG, MD

As a pediatrician who serves families within the autism community, Steven Wexberg, MD, is reminded of the importance of autism education every day.

Steven's deeply rooted appreciation for education has led him to serve as a key player on the Milestones Board of Directors since 2006. Steven has played an integral role in seeking new collaborative partnerships and creating an educational space for health professionals at the Milestones National Autism Conference. With Steven's guidance, Milestones has been able to provide a valuable educational experience for varied disciplines in the medical field including pediatrics, psychiatry, internal medicine and nursing.



Knowing the value of bringing together professionals in different disciplines to address key topics, Steven championed the establishment of professional networking groups through Milestones. He has also been dedicated to ongoing parent education and has lent his expertise to parent-focused community workshops.

POSSIBILITY

The Spectrum of

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*Milestones Board Member

See page 44 for full Board and Staff lists.

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DAVID BETSILL

David has been an invaluable friend of Milestones over many years. As an officer of the Milestones Board, Chair of the development committee and member of the finance committee, David helped

guide the growth of Milestones' fundraising capacity and develop the professionalization of its fiscal systems.

He and wife Mary have also been very supportive of Milestones' commitment to enhancing the experience of the aging population of individuals with autism. As parents of a teen with autism, they both understand the necessity of providing guidance and planning for each individual's transitions to adulthood. David and Mary continue to generously support the Milestones mission and advocate for the organization's services in the local community.

A Very Special Thank You to



AARON GREENE

Aaron Lawrence Greene, 25, is a former Milestones intern currently studying music theory and composition through private instruction as well as piano at Cuyahoga Community

College. With an infectious passion for music, Aaron enjoys writing his own original pieces and performing. When he isn't studying or playing for others, you can find him roller-skating, watching movies, and spending time with family and friends. Aaron currently works at Heinen's in Pepper Pike, and hopes to soon establish a music performance business.



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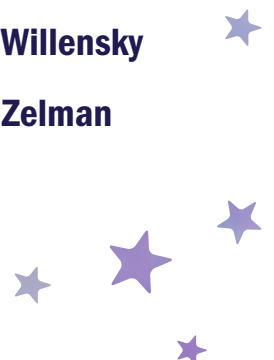
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MILESTONES TEAM FOR
*17 years of innovative programing
and steadfast dedication*
AND TO THE HONOREES FOR THEIR
*enthusiasm and devoted service
to the autism community.*

Donna Yanowitz





Congratulations to
Milestones and Honorees:

**Phillip Irvin, Marvin Lader, &
Steven Wexberg, M.D.**

for all you have accomplished for the
autism community in Cleveland.

Goldberg and Fromson Families



Congratulations

PHILLIP IRVIN

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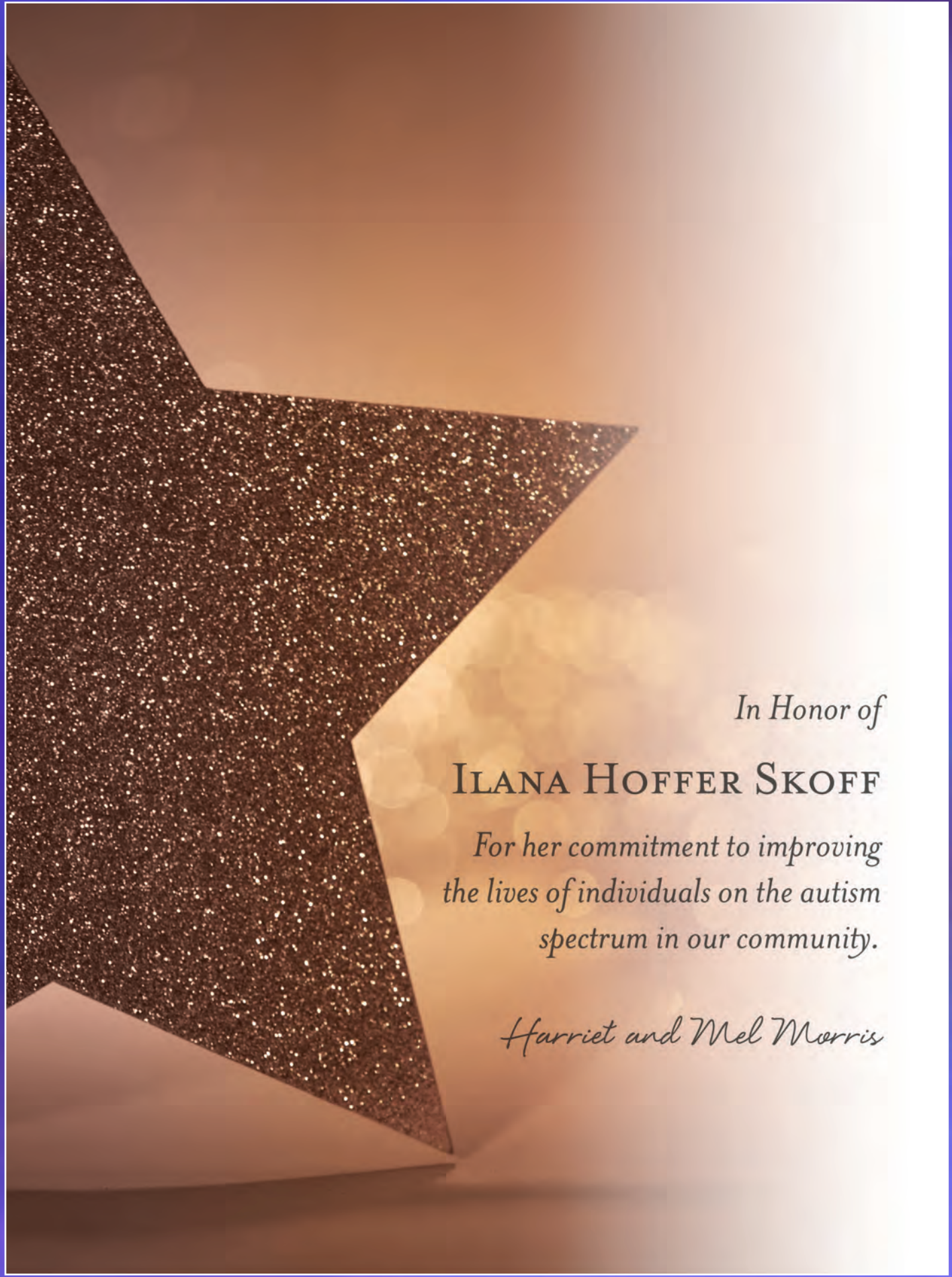
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autism spectrum by educating,
coaching and connecting the
autism community with
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spectrum in our community.*

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MILESTONES
and the honorees
continued success!

JAN AND WILL SUKENIK





**The Irvin Family is proud to
support Milestones and the autism
community in Greater Cleveland.**

CONGRATULATIONS MILESTONES AND HONOREES:

**PHILLIP IRVIN
MARVIN LADER
STEVEN WEXBERG, MD**



Best wishes to

Milestones Autism Resources

Phillip Irvin

Marvin Lader

Steven Wexberg, M.D.

*for all you have accomplished
for the autism community in Cleveland.*



The Grodin and Greenfield Families

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Steven Wexberg for their leadership and
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THE HONOREES FOR
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Congratulations to honorees Phillip Irvin and Steven Wexberg!

Your tireless leadership and
dedication to the Autism
community is an inspiration.

**We salute you and
Milestones Autism Resources.**

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Thank You

Phillip Irvin, Marvin Lader, and Steven Wexberg, MD
for your efforts in supporting the autism community
with your talents and hard work.

- Your friends at Reminger



-Allison McMeechan

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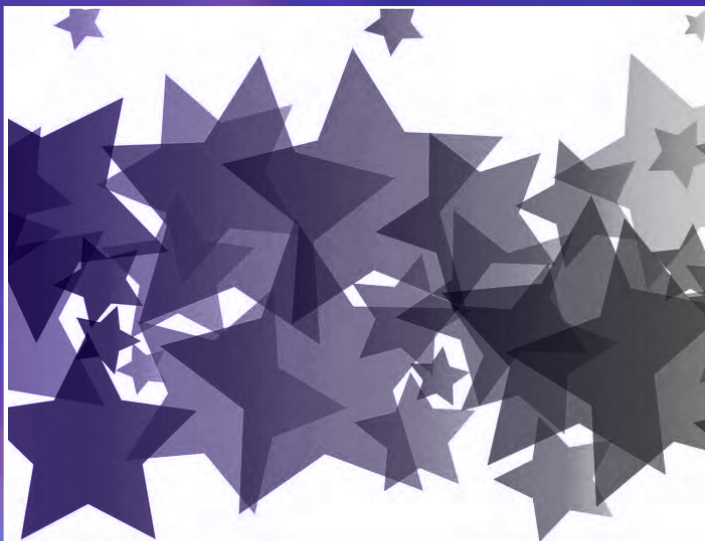
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Phil, Marv and Steve

*Thank you for
INSPIRING,
LEADING &
EMPOWERING
the autism community.*

*WITH GRATITUDE,
Rabbi Joshua & Ilana Hoffer Skoff*



*Congratulations
TO THE HONOREES!*

Sharon & Joel Peerless

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**PHILLIP IRVIN,
MARVIN LADER, and
STEVEN WEXBERG, M.D.**
for all they have done for
Milestones Autism Resources.

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Congratulations to Milestones
and its 2018 honorees
who demonstrate to our
community that the
Spectrum of Possibility
is truly unlimited.

CHERYL AND STUART GARSON

Thank you to all 2018 honorees
for making an impact in the
local Autism community.



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★
★

*Congratulations to this year's
honorees, Phillip Irvin,
Marvin Lader and
Dr. Steven Wexberg.*

We commend the three of you as you are
recognized and honored by Milestones for
"Inspiring, Leading and Empowering"
in your commitment to to this wonderful organization.

It is our pleasure to support Milestones Autism Resources
as it continues to be an amazing source of help to so
many families touched by autism in Northeast Ohio.

We would also like to express our tremendous respect for our
dear friend Ilana Hoffer Skoff for her devotion to Milestones.

We wish you continued success and growth!

Peter & Alik Rzepka

To Honor

**MARVIN
“MARVELOUS”
LADER**

From his pals,

Naomi G. & Ed Singer





CONGRATULATIONS TO
DR. STEVEN WEXBERG

*An exemplary doctor,
a caring friend and
community leader.*

WITH LOVE AND GRATITUDE,

Michal and Steven Soclof

Rachel, Elana and Alan

Congratulations to Marvin the mensch and his loyal partner Carol.

Your support of the autism community and others in need in **Cleveland, Chicago, Naples, Israel** and every community you touch is an inspiration to us all.

May you go from strength to strength.

BILL AND ANITA HELLER





Congratulations!

PHILLIP IRVIN • MARVIN LADER • STEVEN WEXBERG

THANK YOU MILESTONES!

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CONGRATULATIONS TO THE **HONOREES** AND
TO **MILESTONES AUTISM RESOURCES** FOR
YOUR OUTSTANDING WORK IN OUR COMMUNITY!

WISHING YOU MUCH MORE CONTINUED SUCCESS.

Board Chair, Brian Fox
Executive Director, Rabbi Yossi Marozov





We could not be prouder of you dad/papa!! You will always be the “visionary leader” of the entire family, and you have moved mountains with your generous spirit and kind heart.

With so much Love,
Deborah, Michael,
Daniel & Evan



Congratulations to the Honorees and Milestones

for your accomplishments in bettering
our community.

— CAROLE & BART BOOKATZ



The world is a better place because of Phil Irvin.

These are some of the words that come to mind when we think of you!

You're truly an inspiration to all of us and we congratulate you on being recognized by Milestones as an Enthusiastic Champion.



WITH LOVE AND ADMIRATION,
Richard, Beth, Emma,
Ethan, Lily and
Lukey Grossberg



The BAND very much loves Marvin and we wish we were there in person to literally SING your praises. Giant Hugs & love from

Deb Bruce & Sue



Sons of the Never Wrong

We're so proud of the profound impact you've made on your community, and thankful for the love and warmth with which you've raised our 'sensational' family...



We love you so much!!! Ellen, Al, Jonah, Elijah & Hannah

Congratulations Farfar...
We are all so proud of you...

...We love you.

David, Asa, Linnea, and Noah

*In honor of our
dear friend
Marvin Lader.*

MR. AND MRS. STUART GILLER

*Congratulations to the
Milestones staff on another
wonderful year of serving
the local autism community,
and to this year's
extraordinary honorees.*

LYNN & BARRY CHESLER

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to MILESTONES and to
the 2018 HONOREES.

DARLENE & BOB DUVIN

THANK YOU MILESTONES!

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Steven Wexberg
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Congratulations, Marv!

You are the kindest, most
generous person. We are so
proud to call you our friend.

—Gordon & Evie Safran

Congratulations
to all the honorees
and Ilana Hoffer Skoff

— *Eleanor Schwartz* —

CONGRATULATIONS
MARV LADER!

Your leadership **inspires** us!

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MILESTONES AUTISM RESOURCES 2017- 2018 ANNUAL REPORT



DISCOVERING THE SPECTRUM OF POSSIBILITY TOGETHER



Dear Friends,

In 2003, Milestones Autism Resources was created to improve the lives of individuals on the autism spectrum through education.

Since then, we have seen education empower this community at every level, from the individual, to local families and professionals, to the agencies here in Cleveland serving those with autism.

With the resources you invest each year, Milestones can continue to improve the lives of those affected by autism.

With 1 in 59 children now being diagnosed with autism, Milestones is grateful to be able to support this growing community in navigating the challenging road ahead and continue to raise the bar for what is possible. Our extraordinary team is committed to evolving with the needs of our clients and is honored to be your trusted guide along the way.

With heartfelt gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Ilana Hoffer Skoff'.

Ilana Hoffer Skoff
Executive Director

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Mia Buchwald Gelles'.

Mia Buchwald Gelles
Operations Director

MISSION Milestones Autism Resources improves the lives of individuals on the autism spectrum by educating, coaching and connecting the autism community with evidence-based information.

VISION A community in which individuals on the autism spectrum reach their full potential as contributing members of society, recognized for their strengths and supported in their challenges.

TOGETHER MAKING A DIFFERENCE

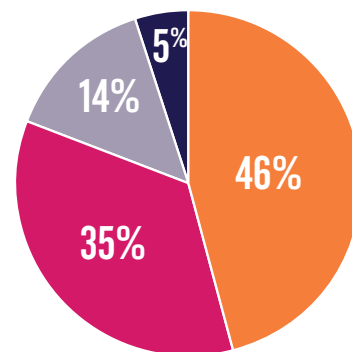
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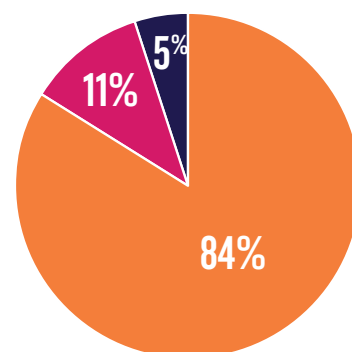
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2017 BY THE NUMBERS



2017 INCOME

- Contributions
- Program Fees
- Grants
- Government Allocation



2017 USES OF REVENUE

- Programming
- Fundraising
- Administrative

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AGENCY PARTNERS1,200
CONFERENCE
ATTENDEES750 TRAINING
& WORKSHOP
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As of 10.12.2018

WHAT SETS MILESTONES APART

For every age,
stage, and ability

Evidence-based,
practical strategies



Serves families,
professionals, and
individuals with ASD



 **Milestones
AUTISM
Resources**

A comprehensive
website with
1,400 resources



Full-time, professional
staff dedicated to
providing information
and local resources



A neutral agency



HELPDESK

Led by a trusted team of ASD specialists, Milestones' Helpdesk guides family members, caregivers, professionals and individuals on the spectrum to vital autism services and providers. This individualized service minimizes the stress and challenges that may arise when searching for new supports.



**SUPPORTING YOU EVERY
STEP OF THE WAY**

TOP HELPDESK REQUESTS:

- Therapy Providers
- IEP/School Issues
- ASD Assessment
- Social & Recreation
- Medical Specialists

Helpdesk made possible in part by Cuyahoga County Council, Edwin D. Northrup II Fund, Helen F. Stoler and Louis Stoler Family Foundation. Additional support provided by donors to the Milestones Annual Fund, Strike it Big, and Annual Benefit.

New Initiative:

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION

Research shows that autism is more likely to be identified later in minority children, which can lead to delayed access to treatment and less intensive intervention.

In 2017, the Milestones Board of Directors established a community-wide Inclusion Taskforce, led by Board Chair and Inclusion Taskforce Chair Nicole Crews (pictured), to address this health equity gap.

With generous multi-year grants awarded in 2018, Milestones will fully embark on its Inclusion Initiative next year, working to improve accessibility, education, outreach and representation of minorities in all areas from programs to leadership roles. For example, this project will incorporate a significant expansion of our Helpdesk services to improve education as well as broaden our outreach to additional diverse communities.



*Mia Buchwald Gelles, Nicole Crews,
and Ilana Hoffer Skoff*

THE INCLUSION INITIATIVE AND HELPDESK EXPANSION ARE MADE POSSIBLE BY:

the Mt. Sinai Health Care Foundation
the Cleveland Foundation
the Lader Family
and an anonymous donor



INDIVIDUAL & FAMILY CONSULTATIONS

Milestones is here to support families and individuals on the spectrum by developing a solid path to success. Through one-on-one consultations, we provide practical, evidence-based approaches that help lead individuals to increased independence and community integration, resulting in an improved quality of life.



CREATING A ROADMAP TO SUCCESS

COMMON CONSULTATION TOPICS:

- New Diagnosis
- Funding
- Employment
- Life Skills
- Challenging Behaviors
- Residential

"When our daughter turned 18, we realized we needed a sustainable plan for her future. I set up a consultation and met with Milestones' transition specialists. Soon after that meeting they sent me a report full of options for our daughter - tailored to her abilities and our vision for her future."

-Lisa Zimmerman, Parent and Board Member

AGENCY TRAINING

Milestones agency trainings help raise the bar for individuals with autism by providing effective strategies to school teams, healthcare systems, first responders, corporate staff, and more.



WORKING TOWARD A MORE INCLUSIVE TOMORROW

MILESTONES HAS PROVIDED TRAINING TO:

- Case Western Reserve University
- Cuyahoga County first responders and FBI
- Coshocton County Board of Developmental Disabilities
- Jewish Federation of Cleveland
- Ohio Association of Pupil Services Directors
- University Hospitals
- Ursuline College *and more!*

**750 PARTICIPANTS
GAINED VALUABLE
STRATEGIES FROM
A MILESTONES
TRAINING IN 2017**



“

"Milestones.org has been a wonderful resource for me, providing me with many tools I've used with my sons Aaron and Matthew. I can't imagine where my boys and I would be without Milestones in our lives. It has enriched us all in more ways than I can count."

– Debra Greene, Parent and Board Member

ONLINE RESOURCES

With more than 1,400 autism resources, frequently asked questions, and tool kits created by local and national experts, milestones.org is a one-stop hub for your most essential autism tools. Features include a robust community calendar and the Milestones blog with practical strategies from specialists, families, and self-advocates.



STRATEGIES TO LIVE BY

**ONLINE
TOOL KIT
TOPICS
INCLUDE:**

- Camp, Social & Recreation
- Challenging Behaviors
- First Diagnosis
- Guardianship
- Mental Health
- School Strategies
- Toilet Training
- Visual Supports

95% OF WEBSITE
USERS SAY
THEY FIND
INFORMATION
AND RESOURCES
THEY CAN **TRUST.**

2018 Ideas in Focus Survey

COMING SOON!

EXPERIENCE
THE NEW...



milestones.org

MILESTONES NATIONAL AUTISM CONFERENCE

Now in its 17th year, the Milestones National Autism Conference has become the leading educational event of its kind. With specialized tracks for family members, professionals, and individuals with autism, enthusiastic attendees return year after year because they know they can count on Milestones to supply cutting-edge information and a customized learning experience.



"Having a conference where you bring together different stakeholders is critical. We're all providing each other the professional development, advocacy training or the social support for another parent, or self-advocate, teacher... it is a way to learn alongside somebody else and start a community for yourself in a new way."

– 2018 Keynote Paula Kluth, PhD
Inclusive Learning Expert and Author



EMPOWERING THROUGH EDUCATION

2018 FEATURED TRACKS:

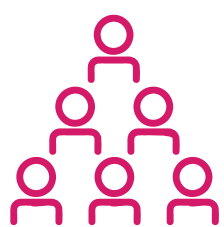
- Behavior Analysts
- Behavioral Health
- Communication & Technology
- Individuals with ASD
- Medical
- Occupational Therapy
- Parent, Family & Caregiver
- Physical Therapy
- School Team
- Teen & Adult Services



**99% OF CONFERENCE
ATTENDEES FIND
ATTENDING THE
CONFERENCE TO BE
ESSENTIAL.**

2018 Ideas in Focus Survey

MILESTONES *National* AUTISM CONFERENCE



**1,200
ATTENDEES**



**96
SESSIONS**

**21 STATES
REPRESENTED**



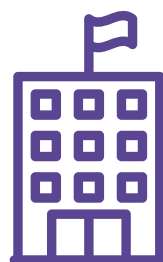
**151
SCHOLARSHIPS
AWARDED**

**56
EXHIBITORS**



**17
PRESENTERS
WITH ASD**

**70 SCHOOL DISTRICTS &
COUNTY BOARDS IN ATTENDANCE**



“

“Each time I attend, I always learn something new. I am challenged and amazed by the impact this conference has on those of us connected with the autism community.” – Peggy Kmetz, SLP, Strongsville Schools

Recognized for the first time as a 'national' autism conference, the 2018 conference continued an upward trend in out-of-state attendance and hosted the most sessions and speakers ever.



2018 NATIONAL AUTISM CONFERENCE

PREMIER SPONSORS



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NEW IMAGE PHOTOGRAPHY

POLLACK STUDIO

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STRIKE IT BIG

FOR

MILESTONES

FAMILY FUN.
STUDENT LEADERSHIP.
TEAM BUILDING.



400+
BOWLERS

17 
SPONSORS

 **84 TEAMS** 

“

“Strike It Big for Milestones provides inclusion and support for individuals on the spectrum, serving as a “no-judgment zone” in which children can be themselves. My involvement has certainly enriched my professional knowledge but more importantly, it has enriched my life, period.”

– Edie Ungar-Shafron, Strike It Big Co-Chair and school psychologist, Orange City Schools



2018 STRIKE IT BIG SPONSORS

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PREMIER SPONSORS



LANE LEADERS



AUTISM COMMUNITY FRIENDS



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Joe
Pollack



“WHY I’M INVOLVED



MITCHELL BALK, COMMUNITY PARTNER

Mt. Sinai Health Care Foundation

"The way Milestones has grown is an indication of how great the need was and continues today. We're proud of the Mt. Sinai Health Care Foundation's involvement with Milestones from the very start."



TRACY MASTERSON, BOARD MEMBER

John Carroll University

"The more I work with Milestones and get to know the staff, the more I see what consummate professionals they are from the top down. They have paved the way for many families facing overwhelming issues and their impact is truly profound."



BRIAN TAYLOR, PARENT AND BOARD MEMBER

Sherwin-Williams

"I joined Milestones because I was moved by the cause and inspired by the team. Having a son on the spectrum, I understand the challenges many families face and the uncertainty that can follow. Milestones is such a great resource that provides help and guidance, with the goal of helping any individual on the spectrum to reach their full potential. How great is that!"



ALLISON MCMEECHAN, BOARD MEMBER

*Reminger Attorneys
at Law*

"I stay involved because of the enthusiasm of the other Board members, the dedication and passion of Ilana, Mia, and the Milestones staff, and most importantly, the difference Milestones makes to our local autism community. I stand behind Milestones because of its positive impact on individuals and families in Northeast Ohio."



JOSEPH STRAM, PARENT AND BOARD MEMBER

Eaton

"Milestones is for life. Milestones educated our family during our confusion in the early years after diagnosis. Now we attend the annual conference with our son and marvel at his independence through healthy connections with his life coach and job coach."



DONNA YANOWITZ, DONOR

*Yanowitz Family
Foundation*

"It is seldom we can experience firsthand the results of our support. Through Milestones' innovative programs, we see young people develop their particular skills and talents, preparing them to become valued members of the community."

Thank you!

YOUR SUPPORT MAKES OUR WORK POSSIBLE

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Oct. 1, 2017 to Sept. 30, 2018

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