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Milestones 13th Annual Autism Spectrum Disorder Conference

To offer exclusive parent features and new Adult Services, Medical and Visual Technology Tracks

CLEVELAND - Milestones Autism Resources (Milestones) is pleased to announce the 13th Annual Autism Spectrum Disorder Conference to be held on Thursday, June 18, and Friday, June 19, from 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. at the Cleveland I-X Center.

“Milestones Annual Conference offers the entire autism community an opportunity to learn about evidence-based treatment options for all ages and ability levels and to network with each other,” explained Ilana Hoffer Skoff, Executive Director of Milestones Autism Resources. “With more than 80 workshops offered at the Conference there is something of interest for every member of the autism community.”

Working with community partners, this year’s conference will offer three sponsored tracks:

- Adult Services Track, sponsored by the Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Disabilities
- Medical Track, sponsored by the Cleveland Clinic Children’s and University Hospitals Rainbow Babies & Children’s Hospital
- Visual Supports & Technology Track, sponsored by Monarch Center for Autism

This year’s national keynotes include Barry Prizant, Ph.D., CCC-SLP an Adjunct Professor at Brown University and Director of Childhood Communication Services in Cranston, RI, and Sondra Williams, a self-advocate, author, poet and speaker. Together, this year’s keynote speakers will offer attendees an opportunity to learn from one of the most respected Speech-Language Pathologists in the country as well as gain a better understanding of the autism experience from a self-advocate.

Medical professionals, including physicians, nurses and physician assistants, can earn Continuing Medical Education (CME) in Medical Track sessions on Thursday, June 18. These educational workshops will increase the knowledge and skills that medical professionals use to provide services to patients with autism. The Medical Track was planned in accordance with the accreditation requirements and policies of the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) through the joint providership of Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine and Milestones.

“When planning this year’s conference, Milestones solicited suggestions from self-advocates not only about how to make the information shared at the conference relevant to persons with autism but also to ensure the environment is as welcoming as possible. The goal of this conference is to help individuals with autism reach their unique potential and fully participate in our community – the best way to do that is by listening to self-advocates,” explained Hoffer Skoff.

This year's Milestones Annual Autism Spectrum Disorder Conference is made possible by multiple sponsors including the Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Disabilities, Cleveland Clinic Children's, the University Hospitals Rainbow Children's Hospital, Monarch Center for Autism, BAIRD, OAR and others.

For more information about the 13th Annual Milestones Autism Spectrum Disorder Conference please visit: milestones.org.

History of Milestones Annual Autism Spectrum Disorder Conference

The annual conference first started in 2003 after Milestones' co-founders Ilana Hoffer Skoff and Mia Buchwald Gelles met in the waiting room of their children's therapy office. As they began talking, they realized they both had a great deal in common and began mentoring each other through the ups and downs of autism. They shared hopes and dreams for their children, but more importantly, they shared what was working with their children and learned from each other. They realized small steps added up, and they saw their children make real progress using Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA). The question in their minds shifted from, "How can we help our children?" to "How can we help other families?"

Milestones was born. The determined duo decided that what Cleveland needed was a major autism conference, and they took on the task of the first Milestones Autism Spectrum Disorder Conference.

On August 4, 2003, 400 people flooded Milestones Autism Resources' full-day Conference. The success of the Conference was a clear indication that an organization like Milestones was a necessity in Northeast Ohio and motivated the two to continue with their mission and evolve the Conference and the organization into what it is today. Milestones' footprint is growing every year. Last year more than 1,000 people attended the conference and countless others accessed Milestones' services. The community has come to depend on Milestones to help individuals with autism reach their full and unique potential.

About Milestones Autism Resources

Founded in 2003, Milestones Autism Resources improves the lives of individuals on the autism spectrum by educating, coaching and connecting the autism community with evidence-based information. We envision 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.

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