



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MEDIA ALERT

Thursday & Friday: Milestones Autism Resources Hosts 14th Annual Autism Conference at Landerhaven

1,000 family members & professionals to gather at one of the largest autism conferences in the U.S.

CLEVELAND - Media are invited to the 14th Annual Milestones Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) Conference on Thursday, June 16 and Friday, June 17 at Landerhaven from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Interviews can be arranged by contacting Allison Peterson at agpeterson@milestones.org, 440.376.5171 (cell), or 216.464.7600 x111 (office).

The Milestones Autism Conference is a two-day event presented by Cleveland-based Milestones Autism Resources (milestones.org) that brings family members, educators, administrators, therapists, clinicians, and individuals with ASD together to share evidence-based practical strategies and best practices.

Attendees engage in 75 educational workshops focusing on field-tested ideas and national keynote speakers present leading-edge research, concepts and strategies. More than 40 exhibitors will showcase local autism products and services at the conference. Online registration is available at <http://milestones.org/what-we-do/conferences/register/>.

"The Milestones Conference puts me on the fast track to effectiveness as speakers and participants alike share insights that would have taken me years to figure out on my own," said Margaret Oliver, MEd, teacher and past attendee.

Highlights this year include:

- **Straight from the Source Workshop Series**, a series of conference panels that give a unique perspective of living with autism and feature moms, dads, siblings, and individuals with ASD.
- **Honorees**: Arts Professionals *Daniel Hahn* and *Kelly Florian* – Community Innovator Award; Local Autism Speaks Founder *Shari Goldberg* – Parent Tribute Award (Outstanding Mom); *Keith Bambic* – Parent Tribute Award (Outstanding Dad); *Evan Burg, Sari Gonick, Adam Freireich, Brittany Lieberman* from JFSA Transitions – Personal Achievement Award; *Mary Beth Koss*, Achievement Centers for Children – Professional Excellence Award; *Alexandra Wiskes* – Teen Trailblazer Award
- **National Keynotes**: *James Ball*, EdD, BCBA-D, Autism Society Executive Chair; *Jennifer McIlwee Myers*, Aspie at Large

- **Special Speakers:** *Lee Fisher*, Interim Dean, Cleveland State University Cleveland-Marshall College of Law and Senior Advisor, CEOs for Cities; *Fred Nance*, Regional Managing Partner, Squire Patton Boggs

Complete conference information is available at <http://milestones.org/what-we-do/conferences/>.

Interviews can be arranged with Milestones staff and leaders who are Cleveland-based experts in autism spectrum disorder and more than 100 speakers from across the country presenting groundbreaking research and evidence-based strategies. To view the workshop topics and speakers, visit milestones.org/what-we-do/conferences/about-2/workshops-speakers/.

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About Milestones Autism Resources

Founded in 2003, Milestones Autism Resources improves the lives of individuals on the autism spectrum throughout Northeast Ohio by educating, coaching, and connecting the autism community with evidence-based information. Milestones is the first call for help at each transition of an individual's life. Milestones envisions 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. Each year, Milestones serves more than 2,400 parents, professionals, and individuals of all ages and abilities through an annual conference, trainings, and coaching services. The website, milestones.org, connects 58,000 unique visitors to more than 1,000 autism resources.