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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **EDEN AUTISM CELEBRATES GRAND OPENING OF DAY CENTER FOR AGING ADULTS**

### **Press Release**

Plainsboro, NJ — After years of designing and developing a program that is among the first of its kind, Eden Autism celebrated the grand opening of its new day center for aging adults with autism yesterday.

Schalks Crossing Day Center is specifically designed for adults who are transitioning to retirement age, are ready for retirement, or have significant medical needs.

More than 100 people attended the August 15 grand opening to celebrate a new milestone in Eden's mission to improve the lives of individuals with autism. Eden families, staff, trustees, participants, and community members were in attendance to commemorate the event, and Plainsboro Mayor Peter Cantu presented Eden with a proclamation to mark the occasion.

"The township wishes to recognize Eden Autism not only for providing these important services to the many families and individuals in and around the Plainsboro community, but also for the recognition of the continued and developing needs of aging autistic people and for being a caring and wonderful organization," said Cantu.

Eden Autism President and CEO Michael Decker thanked the many individuals who were instrumental in helping open Schalks Crossing. From Eden's partners at the Division of Developmental Disabilities and Trustees to the direct support staff and families, this truly was a team effort. Decker also presented Community Trustee Mark Berkowsky with a plaque honoring him for his outstanding efforts in the development of Schalks Crossing.

"Eden has continued to grow alongside our participants," said Decker. "Many of the adults who have been with Eden since they were children are now in their sixties and seventies and their needs have grown significantly. The opening of Schalks Crossing reflects our commitment to serving individuals across the lifespan."

Despite an aging population, just 2 percent of autism and aging research is focused on seniors with autism. With little research and programming in place, many families are left facing an uncertain future as their loved one transitions to their senior years. Schalks Crossing was developed to provide stability and security for older participants and their families.

“Eden has a long-term commitment to providing services to individuals across their lifespan,” said Chief Program Officer Rachel Tait. “The opening of this location continues to show our promise to serve those individuals on the spectrum who are aging or have more significant medical needs. The development and planning of Schalks Crossing over the last two years has allowed us to adjust some of our strategic initiatives to match Eden’s vision around what aging and more significant medical needs for our participants with autism will look like, not only for the next few years, but beyond as well.”

For more information about Schalks Crossing, visit [edenautism.org/schalks-crossing-opening](https://edenautism.org/schalks-crossing-opening).

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