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AUTISM CHAMPION TEMPLE GRANDIN TO KICK OFF 15th ANNUAL MILESTONES AUTISM CONFERENCE ON JUNE 14, 2017

CLEVELAND, OH (January 23, 2017) – Milestones Autism Resources presents *A Special Evening with Temple Grandin, PhD* at Playhouse Square's State Theatre on June 14, 2017 at 7:30 p.m. A VIP sponsor reception precedes the presentation and a book signing follows. The event kicks off the 15th Annual Milestones Autism Spectrum Disorder Conference that will take place on Thursday, June 15 and Friday, June 16 at the Cleveland I-X Center.

Dr. Grandin has become one of the most famous spokespersons for autism despite being unable to speak until she was nearly 3½ years old. Her journey affirms that the right intervention, support and resources enable individuals with autism to realize their potential.

“Hearing directly from Temple Grandin is an amazing opportunity,” says Ilana Hoffer Skoff, Executive Director of Milestones Autism Resources. “Her inspiring story and message lift us all as we strive to help our loved ones with autism lead independent, productive, happy lives.”

Heading into its 15th year, the Milestones Autism Conference is the region's must-attend event for family members, educators, administrators, therapists, clinicians and individuals with autism. Learn evidence-based strategies for all ages, stages and abilities. Network with leading experts and connect with high-quality exhibitors. In addition, professional development credits for more than eight disciplines will be provided. Registration information is available at milestones.org with discounts through April 1, 2017.

To purchase tickets for *A Special Evening with Temple Grandin, PhD* visit www.playhousesquare.org or call (216) 241-6000. Tickets for the 15th Annual Milestones Autism Spectrum Disorder Conference, which include a ticket to see Temple Grandin, can be purchased at www.milestones.org/templegrandin.

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About Temple Grandin, PhD

Raised in Colorado by a determined mother, Temple Grandin benefitted from early intervention by Boston's leading specialists. Her science teacher became her mentor and encouraged her to build and study the effects of her now-renowned "squeeze machine" to reduce anxiety. This motivated her work in humane livestock handling processes.

Today, Dr. Grandin is a prominent advocate for the humane treatment of livestock for slaughter as well as an internationally recognized speaker on autism. In 2010, she was named one of the 100 most influential people in the world by *Time Magazine*. She has been the subject of everything from documentaries to punk music. In 2011, HBO produced the Emmy-award winning film about her life, *Temple Grandin*. Grandin earned her PhD in animal science from the University of Illinois–Urbana-Champaign and currently serves as Professor of Animal Science at Colorado State University.

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 a free autism help desk, consultations, trainings and an educational conference. In addition, milestones.org connects 69,000 unique visitors to more than 1,000 autism resources, a comprehensive event calendar and helpful tool kits.

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