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**Autism Speaks Founder Goldberg Receives Parent Tribute Award
for Outstanding Mom**

CLEVELAND, OHIO – Shari Goldberg, founder and past president of Autism Speaks – Cleveland Chapter, received the Parent Tribute Award for Outstanding Mom at the 14th Annual Milestones Autism Spectrum Disorder Conference. Presented by Milestones Autism Resources, the conference took place June 16-17 at Landerhaven. With 1,000 family members, educators, administrators, therapists, clinicians, and individuals with autism in attendance, this must-attend autism event featured 75 workshops, more than 100 speakers, and more than 50 exhibitors.

“Life is about perspective and choices,” said Goldberg of Pepper Pike. “I made a choice to help others and make a difference in our community because that was important to me for my journey and for those who need support. Helping others has helped me as much as them.”

Other 2016 honorees and their respective awards include:

- Keith Bambic – Parent Tribute Award (Outstanding Dad)
- Mary Beth Koss – Professional Excellence Award
- Alexandra Wiskes – Teen Trailblazer Award
- Daniel Hahn and Kelly Florian from Playhouse Square – Community Innovator Award
- Evan Burg, Sari Gonick, Adam Freireich, Brittany Lieberman from JFSA Transitions – Personal Achievement Award

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About Shari Goldberg

Shari Goldberg has had a large impact on the autism community in Northeast Ohio. Goldberg was the founder and president of Cure Autism Now – Northeast Ohio Chapter, which became Autism Speaks – Cleveland Chapter. She helped spearhead Autism Speaks’ Light it up Blue in Northeast Ohio, creating awareness by involving the community and illuminating a variety of iconic local structures. She is involved with many organizations dedicated to welcoming the autism community, including Friendship Circle, Great Lakes Science Center, and the Children’s Museum. Currently, Goldberg is the volunteer development coordinator for Creative Living for Life/Pepper Pike, providing quality housing, services, and supports for individuals with ASD.

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 life transition, focusing on education to help families succeed. 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 helpdesk, annual conference, consultations, and trainings. The website, milestones.org, connects 58,000 unique visitors to more than 1,000 autism resources, a comprehensive event calendar, and helpful tool kits.