

Dear Friends,

Garden Academy is excited to announce that our Annual Benefit Gala 2017 will return to the Westmount Country Club in Woodland Park, NJ on Saturday, November 11th. Our gala affair is Garden Academy’s most anticipated event of the year. This year’s “Seeing Is Believing” Masquerade Ball, is sure to be a prominent event. Guests in attendance will have the opportunity to mingle with over 400 influential leaders from New York and New Jersey, and celebrate the achievements of our school and students. Notably, our new Executive Director, Dr. Laura Grow, Ph.D., BCBA-D, will be in attendance and she is excited to meet our incredibly supportive Garden Academy community.

Our annual benefit gala is one of Garden Academy’s most visible events, and its success is critical to the financial health of our organization. Contributions from individuals like you enable our school to continue to provide educational programs, clinical training, and extensive family support to the children with autism that we serve.

Support from our gala makes *a real and meaningful difference* in the day-to-day lives of children with autism and their families. In recent weeks alone, students have met truly significant milestones:

* Sophie, who had previously only been able to eat through a feeding tube, recently chewed – and enjoyed her very first French fry!
* Aiden, a boy in our preschool classroom, was able to successfully attend his cardiologist’s office when he previously was unable to tolerate sitting in the chair!
* Christian, another student, now make regular trips to the library with his mom, and even checks books out all on his own – something his mom had to “see to believe”!

**Join us in making a difference.** There are many opportunities for your participation, each of which brings visibility and exclusivity benefits – as well as a chance to enhance the futures of those with autism. We ask that you consider joining us with an event sponsorship, commemorative journal advertisement, or through a donation to our silent or live auction.

Garden Academy was established in response to the critical shortage of appropriate autism education programs across New Jersey. It is our goal to ensure that those with autism develop the skills necessary to realize their full potential and to become integral members of their families and communities. We truly cherish your commitment to our mission.

If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to contact me at (973) 731-2030 ext. 12 or at devon.maloney@gardenacademy.org.

On behalf of the all the students and families served by Garden Academy, thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Devon Maloney

Director of Development