

## Elpida Autism Foundation Gala Supports ISAND Services and Programs

**TORONTO, ON (November 7, 2016)** — At its 3<sup>rd</sup> annual fundraising gala on November 4, the Elpida Autism Foundation raised more than \$100,000 to support autism research and services in Toronto. This year, for the first time, Integrated Services for Autism and Neurodevelopmental Disorders (ISAND) was honoured to be a co-beneficiary of the event, receiving \$47,500 (and still counting!) to support its services and programs.



**PHOTO CAPTION:** ISAND was privileged to be a beneficiary of the Elpida 2016 Gala! From left: James Koutrakos, Paula Koutrakos, ISAND Clinical Director Dr. Wendy Roberts, ISAND Executive Director David Gray, and Themy Koutrakos.

Inspired by their son Matthew, who was diagnosed with autism at age 3, Themy and Paula Koutrakos established the Elpida Autism Foundation in 2014. “Elpida” is the Greek word for hope, which is reflected in the Foundation’s goal to increase autism awareness, funding research and development, and supporting programs that help young people living on the autism spectrum live a fulfilling life.

“On behalf of my family and the Gala committee, we want to thank everyone who contributed to the Gala’s success,” said Themy. “We are thrilled at the opportunity to support vital autism research and services.”

“We are so grateful for the wonderful support of the Elpida Autism Foundation,” said ISAND Executive Director David Gray. “Each child, youth, young adult and family served by ISAND faces significant challenges. But thanks to the generosity of organizations such as the Elpida Autism Foundation, we can serve even more families living with autism and help young people reach their potential.”

### **About ISAND**

ISAND is a registered non-profit organization that serves children, youth and young adults with autism and other neurodevelopmental disorders. ISAND’s integrated team of developmental pediatricians, psychologists, clinicians, and therapists work together with families to achieve the best possible outcomes for young people with autism and neurodevelopmental disorders. The team provides developmental medical care, language and social communication, occupational and behavioural therapies, as well as mental health and wellness supports for individuals and families. In addition to providing a wide range of comprehensive, innovative, and evidence-based supports and services, ISAND is becoming increasingly known as a teaching centre by providing mentorship across all levels of pediatric medical training and speech-language pathology. For more information about the important work of ISAND, please visit [www.isand.ca](http://www.isand.ca). ISAND is a member of Imagine Canada, Volunteer Canada and The Canadian Autism Spectrum Disorders Alliance (CASDA).

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