

News Release



Ilene Shapiro – Summit County Executive
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Summit County Executive Ilene Shapiro Receives Autism Ambassador Award

Today marked the fourth annual Autism Summit held by the Autism Society of Greater Akron (ASGA). This year, County Executive Ilene Shapiro was honored with the Autism Ambassador Award, as Summit County became the first county in Ohio to be declared Autism Friendly under her leadership in 2017.

“I am honored to have the opportunity to lead a community whose citizens truly care about the health, safety, and well-being of each other, as well as the programs and resources provided to ensure a good quality of life,” said County Executive Shapiro. “Summit County is an Autism Friendly county and we are a welcoming community. We will continue to focus on diversity, inclusion, economic and educational opportunities for all, and continue to make our community the very best place to live, work, and play.”

The Autism Summit is the kick-off event for the month of April as Autism Awareness Month. At the Summit, the Autism Society released its annual report which featured collaborators throughout the community and focused on organizational initiatives that support the over 1,200 families served by ASGA. In addition to Executive Shapiro, Summit County Prosecutor Walsh was honored with an Ambassador Award for the Take Me Home Program, which she founded, and Joseph and Marilyn Henn were honored for not only their autism advocacy, but also as founding

members of ASGA. The Henn's daughter Nancy lives with autism and has been an exemplary employee of the County of Summit for the past twenty-three years.

To become involved with Autism Awareness Month please visit: www.autismakron.org

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