

# *Michigan Shines for Autism Gala*

WHERE COMPASSION TAKES ROOT

Dear Friends,

Autism continues to have a profound impact on the lives of families across the state of Michigan. With 1 in 31 children now diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder, it's a reality we can't ignore and one we must all rally around.

Autism is in the national spotlight like never before. Media attention is growing. Policies are shifting. But for families, this visibility can be overwhelming. That's why we're proud to support the Autism Alliance of Michigan (AAoM)- an organization that cuts through the noise and helps families find clarity, community, and access to critical support & services.

As Honorary Chairs of the 2026 Michigan Shines for Autism Gala, we are inviting you to join us in standing behind this critical work. AAoM has served more than 50,000 individuals across Michigan.

But this year, AAoM is faced with a devastating and unexpected \$2 million cut in state funding. This will have a profound effect on the number of families they will be able to serve. At a time when families need more support and guidance than ever, we cannot afford to lose ground.

That's why this year's Gala is more important than ever. We invite you to join us on Saturday, April 18th, 2026, at MotorCity Casino Hotel in Detroit. This event raises nearly \$900,000 annually to support and sustain the work of AAoM while bringing together over 700 business leaders, community leaders, advocates, and families to shine a light on Michigan's autism community.

Please review the enclosed sponsorship details and consider standing with us at this pivotal moment. We are committed to supporting families in Michigan and hope you will be too.

With appreciation,



Steven K Hamp  
Sheila Hamp

Steve Hamp & Sheila Ford Hamp  
Honorary Chairs, 2026 Michigan Shines for Autism Gala





THE 15TH ANNUAL

# *Michigan Shines for Autism Gala*

WHERE COMPASSION TAKES ROOT

*Benefiting*



*Presented By*

**DTE** Foundation

*April 18, 2026*



Steve Hamp & Sheila Ford Hamp invite you to join them in support of the 15th annual Michigan Shines for Autism Gala



*Date:* Saturday, April 18, 2026

*Time:* 6:00pm-12:00am

*Location:* MotorCity Casino Hotel, Detroit, Michigan



*2026 Emcee Dan Miller*

The legendary sports broadcaster who has become an iconic voice in Detroit's sports landscape as a sports anchor for FOX 2 Detroit and the official voice of the Detroit Lions.

*Schedule of  
the Evening:*

6:00 PM: Registration & Cocktail Hour in Sound Board

7:00 PM: Gourmet Three Course Dinner in the Grand Ballroom

8:00 PM: On-Stage Program Including Speakers,  
Live Auction and Paddle Raise

9:00 PM: Your Generation in Concert in Sound Board  
with Dancing & Late-Night Snacks

12:00 AM: Event Concludes

*Attire:*

Black tie optional



# CHAIR EMERITI

## 2026 Honorary Co-Chairs: Steve Hamp & Sheila Ford Hamp

2025

Dave & Peggy Meador  
Vinnie Johnson

2024

Dave & Peggy Meador  
Chris & Colette Rizik  
Raj & Wendy Nair | Multimatic Inc.

2023

Dave & Peggy Meador  
Matt & Heather Paul | DTE Energy  
Margaret Trimer | Delta Dental

2022

Dave & Peggy Meador | DTE Energy  
Mark & Amy Miller  
Carla Walker-Miller | Walker-Miller Energy Services  
Chris & Carrie Yatooma | OGC Companies

2021

Dave Meador | DTE Energy  
Carla Walker-Miller | Walker-Miller Energy Services  
Mark LaNeve | Ford Motor Company

2020

Raj Nair | Multimatic  
Mark LaNeve | Ford Motor Company

2019

Ron Fournier | Truscott Rossman

2018

Cynthia Pasky | Strategic Staffing Solutions

2017

Jim Nicholson | PVS Chemicals, Inc.

2016

Brian Calley | Lieutenant Governor of MI.

# HOST COMMITTEE

## CO CHAIRS

Stephen & Deborah D'Arcy

Dave & Peggy Meador

Tim & Sweta Alberta

Brian & Julie Calley

Janene & Sam Cummings

Bruce & Carolyn Dall

Amy & Chris Fangboner

Ron & Lori Fournier

Alec Hagen

Dr. Tisa Johnson-Hooper &  
Bernard Hooper

Vinnie Johnson

Mark & Amy Miller

Jon & Carrie Nelson

Steve & Paula Patterson

Matt & Heather Paul

Chris & Colette Rizik

Matt & Courtney Van Haaren

Jason & Kristine Vazzano

Chris & Carrie Yatooma



# AAOM BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Brian Calley - Chairman	Bruce Dall	Jeff Gebhart	Tisa Johnson-Hooper, MD	Raj Nair
Colleen Allen, Ph.D. - CEO	Stephen D'Arcy	Michael Griffie	Kim Kerwin	Paula Patterson
Sweta Alberta	Amy Fangboner	Alec Hagen	David Meador	Matt Paul
Julie Bullock	Ron Fournier	Melissa Howell	Mark Miller	Colette Rizik

## THE TRUE MISSION OF THE GALA

Autism now affects 1 in 31 children- a growing reality that impacts families across every community in Michigan. Since 2009, AAoM has helped over 50,000 individuals across the state, offering critical services, resources, and support to those navigating an autism diagnosis.

But in October 2025, AAoM experienced a devastating and unexpected \$2 million cut in state funding. This loss threatens the organization's ability to reach thousands of families who rely on their help. At a time when demand for autism support is higher than ever, this year's Gala is not just important- it's essential.





# TICKETS

*\$3,000*

Table of Ten

*\$300*

Individual Ticket

## SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

*\$100,000*

PRESENTING SPONSOR:

Thirty Guests + Sponsor Benefits

*\$50,000*

PREMIER SPONSOR:

Twenty Guests + Sponsor Benefits

*\$25,000*

DIAMOND SPONSOR:

Sixteen Guests + Sponsor Benefits

*\$15,000*

PLATINUM SPONSOR:

Twelve Guests + Sponsor Benefits

*\$10,000*

GOLD SPONSOR:

Ten Guests + Sponsor Benefits

*\$5,000*

SILVER SPONSOR:

Six Guests + Sponsor Benefits

*\$3,000*

BRONZE SPONSOR:

Four Guests + Sponsor Benefits



## PRESENTING, PREMIER & DIAMOND SPONSORS RECEIVE:

- Tickets to the event as detailed on the previous page
- Company logo listed prominently across all event promotional materials (website, emails, social media posts, etc) and night-of signage & print materials
- Recognition in event press release
- Opportunity to participate in print, radio, digital or television media coverage
- One page advertisement in MSFA Gala program booklet
- Opportunity to co-host an “Autism 101” educational seminar presented by AAoM’s outreach team for a group of your choosing at a mutually agreed upon location and date
- All benefits listed below

## PLATINUM, GOLD, SILVER & BRONZE SPONSORS RECEIVE:

- Tickets to the event as detailed on the previous page
- Name recognition on MSFA Gala website, emails, night-of signage & print materials and category-specific social media posts
- One page advertisement in MSFA Gala program booklet





REGISTER ONLINE  
AT [AAOMGALA.ORG](http://AAOMGALA.ORG)



COMPLETE THE ENCLOSED  
REGISTRATION FORM AND SUBMIT VIA:



*Email*

Erica Rakowicz,  
Event Specialist  
[Erica.Rakowicz@aaomi.org](mailto:Erica.Rakowicz@aaomi.org)



*Mail*

Attn: Erica Rakowicz  
Autism Alliance of Michigan  
26913 Northwestern Hwy. Ste. 520  
Southfield, MI 48033

# HOTEL RESERVATIONS



We have reserved room blocks at MotorCity Casino Hotel for this event for a special discounted rate.

Guests have until March 21, 2026 to book a room using our group code via the QR code on the right.





A detailed botanical illustration serves as the background for the entire page. It features various green leaves, some with red spots, clusters of small yellow flowers, and a few white blossoms. The illustration is dense and covers the entire frame.

*Thank You To Our Sponsors* \*

PRESENTING SPONSOR

**DTE** Foundation

DIAMOND SPONSOR

Steven & Sheila Hamp

GOLD SPONSOR

Deborah & Stephen D'Arcy Fund

SILVER SPONSOR

Plastipak

\*At time of printing







# **AUTISM ALLIANCE** OF MICHIGAN

*Help. Hope. Answers. Today.*

## CHOOSE ONE

- ☐ Presenting Sponsor  
\$100,000
- ☐ Diamond Sponsor  
\$25,000
- ☐ Gold Sponsor  
\$10,000
- ☐ Bronze Sponsor  
\$3,000
- ☐ Premier Sponsor  
\$50,000
- ☐ Platinum Sponsor  
\$15,000
- ☐ Silver Sponsor  
\$5,000
- ☐ Individual Ticket | QTY \_\_\_\_  
\$300
- ☐ Table of 10  
\$3,000
- ☐ I am unable to attend but would like to make a donation: \$ \_\_\_\_

## REGISTRATION INFORMATION

COMPANY/FOUNDATION/INDIVIDUAL NAME

CONTACT PERSON

EMAIL

PHONE

ADDRESS

CITY

STATE

ZIP

SIGNATURE

DATE

*My signature indicates authorization to make this commitment on behalf of my company.*

**Important note: Once your purchase is processed, you will receive an email with a link to access your event tickets. We will send this link to the email written above. Each ticket must be assigned to a specific individual and you will be responsible for inputting and managing your guest's information.**

## PAYMENT INFORMATION

Please choose one of the following:

Check: ☐ Enclosed (payable to Autism Alliance of Michigan) ☐ Will be mailed separately

Credit: ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐ American Express

CARD NUMBER

SECURITY CODE

EXP. DATE

NAME (As it appears on the card)

EMAIL

PHONE

ZIP

BILLING ADDRESS (If different than above)

DATE

  
*Michigan Shines  
for Autism Gala*  
WHERE COMPASSION TAKES ROOT

Purchase Tickets and  
Sponsorships Online



*Need Help?*

Please contact Erica Rakowicz at [Erica.Rakowicz@aaomi.org](mailto:Erica.Rakowicz@aaomi.org)  
26913 Northwestern Hwy. Ste. 520, Southfield, MI 48033