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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RIPIN Celebrates 25 Years of Serving Rhode Island Families

Cranston, Rhode Island—November 8, 2016—Last Friday, over 280 people came to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the founding of the Rhode Island Parent Information Network (RIPIN).

“We were thrilled with the turnout,” says Stephen Brunero, RIPIN Executive Director. “It shows how important RIPIN’s mission is to Rhode Island Families.” RIPIN’s mission is to assist individuals, parents, families, and children to achieve their goals for health, education, and socioeconomic well-being by providing information, education, training, support, and advocacy.

Mr. Brunero opened the evening by recognizing the founders of RIPIN, two of whom were present that evening, Linda Katz of the Economic Progress Institute and Stephen Cavalieri, who has recently returned to RIPIN as a Resources Specialist in the RIPIN Call Center. Mr. Brunero gave special recognition to Nicole Beade, whose mother, Pat Beade, was also a founder.

Business leader Tim Hebert, CEO of Atrion, and his wife, Kim Hebert, hosted the evening. Mr. Hebert shared his family’s own story of seeking support for their grandchild who has autism. By sharing his love for his grandchild and his belief in anyone’s ability to make a difference in their own and other’s lives, Mr. Hebert infused the audience with optimism and inspiration for RIPIN’s mission. Alison Bologna of NBC 10 was an enthusiastic emcee for the evening, energetically guiding guests through speeches, live and silent auctions, and a 50/50 raffle.

Many local dignitaries attended the event, including Lieutenant Governor Dan McKee, Senator Louis DiPalma (Middletown), Rep. Jean Phillipe Barrios (Pawtucket), Rep. Carlos Tobon (Pawtucket), and Rep. Robert Lancia (Cranston).

RIPIN received diamond sponsorships from Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island and Mr. and Mrs. Hebert. RIPIN raised over \$40,000, including over \$20,000 in sponsorships. The proceeds from the event will enable RIPIN to continue to provide vital programs and services to families in need for another 25 years.

Through its peer-support model, RIPIN offers a variety of programs and customized services to support Rhode Islanders from all backgrounds. Some of RIPIN’s work includes:

- Helping families access appropriate services in schools for children with special needs,
- Enabling Rhode Islanders access healthcare and health insurance,

- Providing extra support to families accessing Early Intervention services for children with developmental delays,
- Reducing the cost of healthcare by improving education and services to families in need

For additional information, go to www.ripin.org.

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