

**PRESS RELEASE
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Parents' Stories Take Centre Stage at BeyondAutism Casino Night Raising Over £35,000

London, UK – 26 May 2026 - Roulette wheels stopped and conversations fell silent at BeyondAutism's recent Casino Night fundraiser at Battersea Arts Centre, as parents spoke about isolation, exhaustion and fighting to secure support for their autistic children.

Final figures are in and the event raised more than £35,000 for the charity's Early Years service, supporting families at a time when demand for autism services continues to grow and many parents face long waits for assessment, specialist support and school placements.

Combined with the charity's recent Miles for Milestones Camino challenge, **BeyondAutism has now raised almost £50,000 in just a matter of weeks**, creating strong fundraising momentum during the charity's 25th anniversary year.

Supporters, trustees, corporate partners, volunteers and families came together for an evening of casino tables, live music, auctions and fundraising focused on improving outcomes for autistic children and young adults.

For many guests, it was the stories from families that defined the evening and that the event struck a powerful balance between celebration and purpose.

One parent described feeling as though she was "drowning in isolation" before accessing support that helped her rebuild confidence, secure the right school placement for her daughter and ultimately change the direction of both their futures. Another family shared how specialist support helped their child move from no intentional communication to actively connecting with others, whilst helping them feel less alone as parents.

Tracie Coultas-Pitman, CEO of BeyondAutism, said:

"The honesty and courage shown by families during the evening was incredibly powerful. Parents spoke about moments of fear, exhaustion and isolation that far too many families still experience whilst trying to access support for them and their autistic child.

"What stood out was not only the challenges they faced. It was also the resilience, love and determination behind every story shared. Early support can change the trajectory of a child's life and transform how families feel about the future. The generosity shown at Casino Night means more families will be able to access that support when they need it most."

Angus Johnston, Chair of the Board of Trustees at BeyondAutism, said:

“What made the evening so powerful was hearing directly from families. Their stories reminded everyone in the room why early support matters so much, not only for autistic children, also for parents and carers who are often trying to navigate overwhelming systems on their own.”

“To raise more than £35,000 in one evening is extraordinary. Combined with the recent Camino fundraising challenge, we are approaching £50,000 raised in just a few weeks. That support will directly help more families access specialist services, guidance and community at a time when demand continues to grow.”

BeyondAutism would like to thank event partners Koolatron, ITA Solutions, South London Jazz Orchestra, Airway Interline, Axcis Recruitment, Amarante London, Private Cellar and Wigit for their support, alongside Battersea Arts Centre for hosting the event.

Funds raised will support BeyondAutism’s Early Years service, which provides specialist intervention, communication support, parent training and advocacy for families with autistic children in their early years.

To support BeyondAutism’s work with autistic children and families, visit:

<https://www.beyondautism.org.uk/donate>

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About BeyondAutism

BeyondAutism is a UK charity driving change in autism education so every autistic learner can belong, succeed and shape their own future. Our mission is to ensure every autistic child and young adult accesses the education and support they need to lead lives full of opportunity, choice and independence.

Founded in 2000, BeyondAutism has grown from a single school into a leading provider of specialist education, outreach and training services for autistic children and young adults from Early Years to age 25. We work alongside families, professionals and communities to create environments where autistic learners can thrive.

Through our specialist Schools, Post-19 provision, Early Years services, Outreach and Training, and BeyondAutism Fast Responder, we combine direct support with sector-leading expertise to build confidence, capacity and inclusive practice across education settings. Our work is underpinned by understanding behaviour and guided by evidence-informed approaches that support meaningful, aspirational outcomes.

BeyondAutism is proud to challenge assumptions, shift attitudes and champion inclusive futures for autistic learners and the people who support them.

For more information, visit beyondautism.org.uk or contact info@beyondautism.org.uk