PITTSBURGH, Pennsylvania, May 24, 2016 - Ed Supports, LLC, one of the San Francisco Bay Area’s largest providers of educational and behavioral services for children with autism and related communication disorders, was acquired by Ben Klein, owner and CEO of Platinum Health Care, LLC. Mr. Klein intends to partner with the remaining management owners to expand the company’s service offerings regionally and nationally.

The Braff Group originated the transaction, and served as the exclusive mergers and acquisitions advisor to Ed Support Services.

Ed Supports provides education and behavior services to people with disabilities in the San Francisco market. Founded in 2006 by Meredith Akers, MS, and Tanya Scott, MS, BCBA, and headed up by health care executive Don Franks, CEO, the company provides a range of services, including intensive Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA), Early Intervention (EI), behavior intervention, social skills and parental support programs through its affiliation with CA Regional Centers, as well as an array of special education services in area schools for students with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs).

Ben Klein, a health care industry veteran, has had an extensive career in long-term care. He founded and serves as CEO of Platinum Health, a diversified provider of senior housing, skilled nursing, home health care, and other post-acute services. Recognizing the growing need for highly specialized behavioral health interventions, Mr. Klein has set out to acquire and develop a diversified portfolio of behavioral health companies.

“Awareness of Autism Spectrum Disorders, and the need for skilled and early intervention has never been greater," commented Mr. Klein. “Ed Supports and its team of highly credentialed professionals and staff gives us a strong foothold in this fast evolving market.”

Mr. Franks added, “Ed Supports is excited about our relationship with Ben Klein and the vast amount of knowledge he brings to our team. We believe that combining Ed Supports' strong clinical and operational culture with new financial support will result in a successful venture.”

Having completed more ASD services transactions than any other intermediary, The Braff Group expects ASD services to remain one of the most sought after niches in behavioral health care for the foreseeable future. Ted Jordan, the Managing Director for Behavioral Health Care who headed up the deal team representing Ed Supports commented, “From an investment perspective, buyers see enormous opportunity in the highly fragmented and growing ASD services space.”

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¹Source: Thomson Reuters, based on number of deals between 2008 and 2015.