



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

# PACE Awarded Grant from the Intero Foundation

**Santa Clara, CA, March 29, 2016** – The Pacific Autism Center for Education (PACE) has received a generous **\$10,000 grant** from the **Intero Foundation**. This grant will provide PACE School students with a completely updated play and Occupational Therapy space at the PACE School in Santa Clara.

PACE School students range in age from 6 to 22 and live with moderate to severe autism. These students exhibit a wide range of motor deficiencies and sensory triggers. PACE Occupational Therapists (OTs) worked with local landscape architect, **Christine E. Reed, RLA, ASLA** to create a therapy play space at the school site to help students with these issues. The concept design is called “The Journey: A Path to Physical and Cognitive Skill-building,” and includes a stimulating visual path, challenging obstacle course structures, and fragrant plantings. Ms. Reed, who provided the landscape plan pro bono, has a particular interest in designing therapy gardens and also designed the garden at one of the PACE group homes. The Intero funds will make her vision a reality and provide a welcoming site for students to experience sensory stimulation daily.

“These funds will ensure that PACE continues to provide innovative programs and services for those with Autism Spectrum Disorders and greatly improve our students’ physical acuity,” said Kurt Ohlfs, PACE Executive Director. “PACE was pleased to receive this very generous grant, and we thank the Intero Foundation for supporting our mission and allowing us to improve our play and therapy space and support our students.”

*~Insert Intero Foundation quote~*

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Autism is a neuro-developmental disability that impacts an individual’s ability to regulate sensory input, to communicate, to interact socially, and to learn in conventional ways. Autism is considered a spectrum disorder and so affects each individual differently and at varying degrees. <http://pacificautism.org/about-pace/about-autism/>

**About PACE:** Founded in 1989, Pacific Autism Center for Education provides high-quality programs for individuals with autism and its related developmental disabilities. PACE operates a non-public school for ages 6-22, offers Early Intervention therapy services, and operates two children and four adult group homes in Santa Clara County. EIN: 77-0259858. <http://pacificautism.org/> [facebook.com/pacificautismce](https://www.facebook.com/pacificautismce)

**About the Intero Foundation:** Funded, promoted and governed by Intero agents and employees, the Intero Foundation is a non-profit organization guided by the principle that one must give in order to receive and committed to helping children in need. Since its inception in 2002, the organization has raised more than \$3 million and has supported over 140 charities that positively impact the growth and well-being of children in need. <http://www.interofoundation.org/>

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