



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PACE Launches Free, Online Autism Education Series, Project Porchlight

Santa Clara, CA, February 12, 2015 – The **Pacific Autism Center for Education (PACE)** today announced the launch of their **Porchlight Project**, an online free-access education series designed for parents and caregivers of people living with autism. The series focuses on education and solutions to help with behavioral changes at home: <http://www.porchlighteducation.org/>. Porchlight is an easily accessible resource for those who need it, when they need it, and at their own pace. **United Way Silicon Valley** provided the funding via a community grant in order to launch the program.

As developmental centers have closed, more children on the spectrum must now rely on home-based services. Similarly, more adults on the autism spectrum are staying at home as the options for their care become increasingly limited. The most effective solution is to provide parent/caregiver support methods at home to ensure a higher quality of life. PACE can provide this in-home support for parents via Porchlight, helping them to build the skills from within.

The Porchlight platform is highly focused on direct usable strategies for delivering specific solutions from a collection of online modules that take 5-8 minutes to complete. This will also be a hybrid platform that offers direct concentrated group workshops on specific collections of module topics for more hands-on experience and collaboration. “With the addition of Project Porchlight, PACE will expand the high-quality services we already offer through our school, children’s services and residential program, allowing us to connect, support and educate throughout the larger community,” noted Kurt Ohlfs, PACE Executive Director.

Almost all government funding and grant dollars are focused exclusively on supporting the individual with developmental disabilities, with very little monies available for parent training and support. However, a successful quality of life for individuals with disabilities depends greatly on having a community of qualified support. The Porchlight Project aims to build that competence and compassion in raising a collective higher conscience in the community. The goal is to supply consistent and dependable resources, and to provide much needed structure in the lives of those who live with autism.

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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. With competence, conscience, and compassion, PACE aims to build community and be the leading provider of readily deployed, practical and implementable solutions for supporting individuals on the autism spectrum. 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/>, <https://www.facebook.com/pacificautismce>

Visit Porchlight: <http://www.porchlighteducation.org/>

About UWSV: United Way Silicon Valley believes everyone deserves opportunities for a good life. That means enough income to support a family through retirement, a quality education that leads to a stable job and good health. That’s why United Way is focused on the building blocks for a good life: Income, Education and Health. UWSV invests in programs that are achieving measurable results in our goal areas of income and education. www.uwsv.org

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