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PACE RECEIVES \$15K GRANT FROM INTERO REAL ESTATE FOUNDATION

The Sunny Days Preschool & Kindergarten Campus Renovation is a priority for PACE; it's an extraordinary project to meet the growing demand for services for newly diagnosed young children with autism.

PACE needs to renovate our facility and reallocate space for a new classroom for our younger campus which includes the early intervention program at the Sunny Days Preschool and Kindergarten (K-2). The "simple-modern redesign" project of the PACE Sunny Days preschool and kindergarten classrooms is a valuable asset for our younger children two through six years of age. The classrooms and workspaces have endured years of heavy use with noticeable wear and tear. Assistant Executive Director Karen Kennan stated: "We've enjoyed many years of activity in these modular buildings which were already old when he started the early intervention program more than ten years ago. We are excited about this opportunity to give our facility a face-lift as well as a more efficient floorplan. Early intervention is often the key to giving young children with autism the greatest chances to attend mainstream school and lead independent lives. With the ongoing and growing need for both educational and behavioral services in our area, it is critical that we expand our capacity to reach more families in need."

In August, thanks to a generous \$15k grant from Intero Real Estate Foundation, we were able to replace two non-functioning accordion door/walls in the facility with permanent walls with interior doors and viewing windows that allow families and visitors to watch the children in the classrooms without disrupting the activities. This is a critical and much welcomed change as the presence of visitors touring our classrooms can be a challenge for our kiddos who may get distracted and dysregulated by unanticipated changes to their classroom routines.

Our work supports that body of academic research that suggests early intervention is key to giving young children with autism the greatest chances to attend mainstream school and lead independent lives.

As funding allows we anticipate additional upgrades to the facility including: sensory wall, sensory corners, upgrades to the bathrooms, flooring, walls, new furnishings, additional outdoor playscapes and improved landscaping.

We are in the process of applying for multiple grants from local foundations to raise necessary funds, although this is only a part of the fundraising we need to complete this project. Our fall event, Tapas & Tunes Fund-A-Need will also benefit the preschool renovation. We invite you to take an opportunity to join together with tapas, sangria, Spanish music, on November 11, 2017, for an evening of fun and philanthropy to help us renovate the preschool.

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About PACE: Founded in 1989, Pacific Autism Center for Education provides high-quality programs for individuals with autism and its related developmental disabilities. EIN: 77-0259858. www.pacificautism.org

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