



For Immediate Release

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PROVIDENCE SPEECH AND HEARING CENTER RECEIVES \$15,500 GRANT FROM DECORATIVE ARTS SOCIETY

Gift helps provide Hearing Aids to Children from Low-Income Families

ORANGE, Calif. – June 2, 2016 – **Providence Speech and Hearing Center** (Providence) has been awarded \$15,500 from the **Decorative Arts Society (DARTS)** in support of its Club 1550 Program. Club 1550 is comprised of Providence supporters who are committed to providing the gift of hearing to children of low-income families; 1550 represents the average cost of *one* hearing aid for a child. This program opens the world of sound to children from low-income families and gives them the first step toward success, both academic and in their future in general. Funding from DARTS will directly provide 10 hearing aids to local children in need, all of whom are uninsured or under-insured.

The gift of a hearing aid helps a child hear for the first time. The sooner hearing-impaired children are fit with hearing aids, the better equipped they are to overcome educational hurdles, allowing many to enter school ready to learn like their peers and with a decreased need for special education. This, in turn, saves the school system hundreds of thousands of dollars over the child's educational career.

"We are extremely grateful to the Decorative Arts Society for their continued support of Providence. Right now, these funds are providing 10 hearing aids for children, opening the world of sound to them and helping to start them on the path toward academic success. But, the impact of this gift is exponentially larger in the vast difference it makes over the lifetime of each child who is benefitting from it," said **Linda H. Smith**, RN, BSN, PHN, Providence Speech and Hearing Center Chief Executive Officer.

Providence Speech and Hearing Center continues to grow and serve more patients each day. In 2015, the organization completed 108,034 speech, language, and hearing appointments; 64% of those were for patients from low-income families. Community support like that from DARTS helps ensure that no patient is turned away due to the inability to pay.

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About Providence Speech and Hearing Center

Providence was founded in 1965 to provide Audiology and Hearing Care and Speech-Language Pathology to all those in need, regardless of their ability to pay. What began in a single room at a local hospital has grown to become one of the largest clinics of its kind in the country. Providence strives to achieve its mission of "*Enriching Life Through the Gifts of Speech and Hearing*" by continually providing the highest quality services in the identification, diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of speech, language, and hearing disorders for persons of all ages, races, and socioeconomic backgrounds. Today, Providence is the leading service provider to the speech and hearing impaired of Orange County, providing nearly 110,000 patient visits annually.

To find ways to donate, visit www.pshc.org/donate-now; for media inquiries or to volunteer, contact Kathy Corpuz at (949) 600-9967, or email kcorpuz@pshc.org.