

# PROVIDENCE



SPEECH  
AND  
HEARING  
CENTER

## For Immediate Release

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## **PROVIDENCE SPEECH AND HEARING CENTER RECEIVES \$15,000 GRANT FROM DECORATIVE ARTS SOCIETY**

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

ORANGE, Calif. – June 7, 2017 – **Providence Speech and Hearing Center** (Providence) has been awarded a \$15,000 grant 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 from low-income families; 1550 represents the average cost of *one* hearing aid for a child. This program opens the world of sound to these children who often have nowhere else to go for affordable hearing care 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 so very grateful to DARTS for their continued support of Providence and our Club 1550 Program. These funds are being used to provide hearing aids to children, opening the world of sound to them and helping to start them on the path toward academic success. Communication leads to language, and language is essential for literacy. The impact of this gift is exponentially larger than a hearing aid – it makes a vast difference 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 2016, the organization completed 118,611 speech, language, and hearing appointments; 64% of those were for patients from low-income families. Community support like that from the Decorative Arts Society 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 over the past 52 years 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 120,000 patient visits annually.

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