



THE CENTER FOR AUTISM
& NEURODEVELOPMENTAL DISORDERS

3rd Annual
Hope & Help Gala
The Sky is the Limit

**The Center for Autism & Neurodevelopmental Disorders
Raises Awareness and Funds at Third Annual
Hope & Help Gala**

SANTA ANA, Calif. – October 19, 2017 – The Center for Autism & Neurodevelopmental Disorders hosted its third annual Hope & Help Gala on October 7 at The Resort at Pelican Hill in Newport Beach to raise awareness for those affected by autism spectrum and other neurodevelopmental disorders.

The sold-out event raised more than \$500,000 to benefit The Center's services, including diagnosis and evaluation, clinical support and treatment, education, wellness and research.

"This year's Gala was a tremendous success thanks to the remarkable support from our donors and the community," said Catherine Brock, M.A., executive director of The Center for Autism & Neurodevelopmental Disorders. "The funds raised this year will go towards expanding our clinical and training programs to help increase our reach, and recruiting a top Research Director."

The theme of this year's Gala, "The Sky is the Limit," highlighted guest of honor, Bonnie Gillman, founder of The Grandparent Autism Network, the Family Autism Network program and Gillman PROJECT SEARCH at CHOC Children's, who spoke about ways individuals can be supportive of the autism community everyday.

"Speaking publically about autism helps to eliminate the stigma associated with autism and makes those who are affected feel less isolated," said Gillman.

Co-hosted by Ellen Liefer and Danielle Reindl, the program for the evening also included dinner, a high-energy live auction and inspirational stories about how The Center is making a difference in the lives of families throughout Orange County.



Home to a team of experts in the field of autism and neurodevelopmental disorders, The Center helps parents and families navigate the system, overcome obstacles, and assist children in reaching their optimal potential through excellent clinical care, innovative research, quality education, and community engagement to children, adolescents and young adults from birth to 22 years old.

Additionally, education and training are a key component of The Center's mission, which continuously strives to provide innovative educational and training opportunities to benefit parents, grandparents, caregivers, and professionals impacted by autism spectrum and other neurodevelopmental disorders.

For more information, please visit www.thecenter4autism.org.

About The Center for Autism & Neurodevelopmental Disorders

Originally founded in 2001 (as For OC Kids), The Center is home to a team of experts in the field of autism and neurodevelopmental disorders. Since its opening, The Center has been a leader in clinical services, research, education, and outreach, serving clients birth through 22 years old.

In late 2012, a catalytic investment by the Thompson Family Foundation and the Children and Families Commission of Orange County provided \$14.8 million to expand The Center for Autism & Neurodevelopmental Disorders.

The Center aims to provide help and hope to children, adolescents, young adults and their families affected by autism spectrum and other neurodevelopmental disorders through excellent clinical care, innovative research, quality education, and community engagement. For more information, please visit www.thecenter4autism.org.

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