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The Center for Autism & Neurodevelopmental Disorders' TARGET Program Trains & Educates Children and Families for Transition into Adulthood

TARGET Supported by \$35,000 Donation from Irvine BMW, Irvine Mini, and Rolls-Royce Motor Cars Orange County

SANTA ANA, Calif. – December 7, 2016 – Backed by a \$35,000 donation from Irvine BMW, Irvine Mini and Rolls-Royce Motor Cars Orange County, The Center for Autism & Neurodevelopmental Disorders will be able to provide the training and education necessary to prepare families, schools, communities, and individuals with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) for a successful transition into adulthood.

TARGET, which stands for “Transitioning to Adulthood: Realizing Goals through Education and Training,” is a program focused on providing information and education for parents and caregivers, schools and employers that can be used to create the best possible outcomes for individuals with ASD as they move into life as an adult.

“There is a growing need for more transition-related training to address the unique challenges individuals with autism face as they move into adulthood,” said Anna Laakman, Education & Training Director. “We noticed a gap in services for caregivers, schools, and other agencies that are continuing to provide support to these individuals, so we’ve developed TARGET to focus on assisting those groups.”

The generous donation from Irvine BMW, Irvine Mini and Rolls-Royce Motor Cars Orange County will specifically support the schools-related services focus of TARGET, which is to educate both families and school professionals on setting hopeful, yet realistic goals regarding an individual’s plans after high school. Part of this program includes addressing transition issues in an individualized education plan as well as post-secondary planning.

“The community that The Center serves is very important to me,” said Damon Shelly, president of Damon Shelly Group. “I believe The Center’s extraordinary team and the alliances they have established best position



us to make a real difference in the world of autism and other neurodevelopmental disorders.”

“We have high expectations for our TARGET program and we’re confident we’ll be able to empower families and schools to be involved and actively engaged in the moving pieces involved in transitioning to adulthood,” said Catherine Brock, M.A., executive director of The Center for Autism.

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

About The Center for Autism & Neurodevelopmental Disorders

Founded in 2001 (originally 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 from 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 was established to provide help and hope to children, adolescents, young adults and their families challenged 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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