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**WYNANT FOUNDATION DONATES \$10,000 TO UCP
Funding to help send kids with autism to summer camp**

SACRAMENTO – The Irma Ceunis and Simone Wynant Foundation has generously granted \$10,000 to help fund UCP's A.C.E. Camp 2015 program. This program serves kids ages 8-12 diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder who attend our Autism Center for Excellence after-school program during the school year. The A.C.E. Camp gives kids with autism the chance to interact with each other and typically developing children - and the chance to experience the excitement of summer camp, all while developing friendships with their peers. This five-day, four-night camp is often the first time these children have ever been away from home.

“Because the expenses for the A.C.E. Camp are covered solely through private donations, we are grateful to the Irma Ceunis and Simone Wynant Foundation to help ensure that children with autism have the same opportunities as other children to experience the one-of-a-kind thrill of summer camp,” said Doug Bergman, UCP President and CEO.

A.C.E. Camp is a part of UCP’s Autism Center for Excellence at Sacramento State, which includes an interdisciplinary team of graduate students in applied behavioral analysis, consultants in the fields of occupational therapy, speech therapy and adaptive physical activity, as well as paraprofessionals and student interns. During the school year, participants take part in a large group activity to practice communication skills before dividing into smaller groups that help them see the inter-relatedness of the people in their lives. Parents are then instructed on techniques to use at home.

All 18 campers have been learning the skills to interact with other children with autism, as well as typically developing children, at UCP’s Autism Center for Excellence at Sacramento State. A.C.E. Camp will give them the chance

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to put those skills into practice. A.C.E. campers will also learn swimming, arts and crafts, kayaking, archery, volleyball, scooter hockey, fishing, soccer and dancing. They also will have a movie night, campfire time and a talent show, as well as the chance to build on the skills they learn throughout the year.

UCP of Sacramento and Northern California, which empowers people with developmental disabilities, is seeking further donations to help children ages 8-12 with autism attend A.C.E. Camp this summer at Grizzly Creek Ranch in Portola. A.C.E. Camp costs \$1,575 per child, but families are only charged \$600. UCP relies on the community to fund the remaining \$975 per child.

“Summer camp is a rite of passage, and we want to make sure all kids have the chance to enjoy this experience, regardless of having a developmental disability,” said Doug Bergman. “This is a great opportunity for the community to get involved and help these kids not only enjoy camp, but become involved members of their community instead of feeling isolated.”

To support the UCP A.C.E. camp, visit: <http://ucpsacto.org/programs-services/a-c-e-camp/>

Each month, UCP of Sacramento and Northern California serves 4,775 children and adults with developmental disabilities and their families in Butte, El Dorado, Nevada, Placer, Sacramento, Shasta, Sutter and Yolo counties. Programs include the Saddle Pals adaptive horseback riding program, UCP’s Autism Center for Excellence at Sacramento State, adult day programs, independent living services, transportation and in-home respite care for families. For more information about the organization, visit www.ucpsacto.org.

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