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BANK OF AMERICA DONATES \$100,000 TO HELP PEOPLE WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES LIVE INDEPENDENTLY

SACRAMENTO – Bank of America Neighborhood Builder fund has awarded \$100,000 to UCP – the leading provider of comprehensive services for 5,300 children and adults born with a developmental disability and their families. The Neighborhood Builder fund promotes the leadership potential and operational capacity of non-profits, empowering them to meet the changing needs in local communities.

The second installment of the grant was given to UCP to fund the UCP Family Rural Respite pilot project, build capacity for the UCP Autism Center for Excellence at Sacramento State and provide stability to the Community Living and Support Program.

UCP Family Rural Respite pilot project has started in El Dorado County providing family respite to 160 families who hadn't had access to respite. Half of these families have a child under the age of 10 with a developmental disability.

UCP Autism Center for Excellence at Sac State continues to build capacity while going through a transitional funding process. Prior to legislative action, ACE was funded by the Alta California Regional Center. By action of the state, the health insurance companies were mandated to fund socialization programs so vital to the growth and development of a child with. The result of this funding is twofold. One, the number of children in ACE has increased to full capacity. Secondly, we can secure funding from private health insurance.

For UCP Community Living Arrangements Services and Program (CLASP), this funding will continue to provide one-on-one, targeted services for clients who seek the necessary skills to live independently in their own residences avoiding institutionalization.

"The Bank of America fund is providing us the capabilities to stretch our programs so that we can serve more children, adults and their families in our respite, autism center and independent living programs." said Doug Bergman, UCP President and CEO. "We have not received any increase in state funding for fifteen years. This funding will mean that we can address the needs of families in rural areas, families with a child with autism and help adults be as independent as possible. We are appreciate Bank of America for recognizing that people with disabilities can live a life without limits when they are empowered with the right tools."

About UCP of Sacramento and Northern California

Each month, UCP of Sacramento and Northern California serves 5,300 children and adults with developmental disabilities and their families in Butte, El Dorado, Nevada, Placer, Sacramento, Shasta, Sutter and Yolo counties. Programs include Saddle Pals adaptive horseback riding, 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, visit www.ucpsacto.org.

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