

of kindness.”
 addition to hosting annual
 h expos, Nguyen serves as
 chair of the Senate Commit-
 n Health, and has authored
 r bills to improve access to

Acacia merges with Alzheimer's OC

Alzheimer's Orange County (AOC) and Acacia Adult Day Services announced the merger of the two organizations.

The merger, currently in process, will bring Acacia under AOC's programs, combining both organizations' resources and allowing them to serve more individuals and families in need.

Following a strategic split from a national association in 2015 that freed AOC from previous service restrictions, AOC embarked on a plan to provide more in-person care to families by expanding into the adult day services and

respite care territory. AOC took over operations of South County Adult Day Services last year, moving it into a new 11,000-square-foot building in Laguna Woods, revamping the program's standards, and increasing program census by 28 percent in 13 months.

"We are proud of the progress we have made with South County Adult Day Services and how much more of south Orange County we have been able to serve," said Jim McAleer, president and CEO of AOC. "However, a large area of Orange County still needs our

help, and this merger with Acacia will allow us to reach more families in the northern and central parts of the county."

Last year, Acacia served 178 participants with each having an average of two family members helped with caregiving duties. Acacia and AOC will open an additional new space at Wesley Village near the current Acacia building and populate it with more programs.

"Our board of directors witnessed the advancement of South County Adult Day Services under the oversight and direction of AOC's team, so when AOC approached us with a merger proposal with the promise of the same transformation, we couldn't say no," said Mallory Vega, executive director at Acacia. "AOC's reputation for its work in senior and dementia care is incomparable, and we look forward to working with them to make a greater impact in the community."

The organizations are ironing out operational logistics, and are planning to fully integrate Acacia under AOC's programming and branding by July 1, 2017. Both will continue to operate under their own respective names.

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