



Community News

Acacia Adult Day Services Celebrated 41 Years of Service to the Community

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GARDEN GROVE...Back in 1979 when the average annual Income was \$17,500.00 and the average monthly rent was \$280.00, Acacia Adult Day Services (Acacia) was launched in Garden Grove to serve persons with dementia or other disabilities and their families by providing expert, supportive care in an inviting and interactive setting.

Recently, to commemorate the organization's 41st anniversary during National Adult Healthcare Week, Acacia held a Swing By event for families served by the organization to drive up to the facility to say hello and safely receive a goodie bag filled with activities to do, treats to enjoy and more.



Acacia staff greeted seniors in their cars during the Swing By event

Since 1979, Acacia has emerged as a leader in developing programs and services that address the needs of Orange County's growing older adults population. In 2017, Acacia merged with Alzheimer's Orange County (AlzOC), combining both organizations' resources and allowing them to serve more individuals and families in need.

Earlier this year, state funding for Community-Based Adult Services (CBAS) providers like Acacia was threatened by proposed deep cuts to Gov. Newsom's budget. Fortunately, the California Assembly and Senate agreed to reject the planned budget cuts to essential services for older adults and adults with disabilities, and put forth a new budget proposal preserving funding for these programs.

Now as the pandemic forced a temporary end to in-person programs, the team at Acacia faced one of its toughest challenges, particularly as statistics show that 80 percent of those who have died from COVID-19 are 65 and over. In response to the pandemic, the Acacia team has been rededicated to improving the quality of life for frail older adults, delivering more than nutritious 3,000 frozen meals and hundreds of activity kits, and made hundreds of phone calls in multiple languages to check in on seniors and caregivers.

"We are delighted that Acacia is a member of our family and salute the team on the 41st anniversary of providing vital services to older residents of our county," said Jim McAleer, AlzOC president and CEO. *Photos:AlzOC*

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