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<u>Alzheimer's Orange County's Healthy Aging Center: Acacia Celebrates</u> Transportation Coordinator Jim Nguyen as a Strawberry Festival Hero

Team from licensed adult day center will join parade in Garden Grove, May 28

IRVINE, California, May 20, 2022 – Healthy Aging Center: Acacia in Garden Grove will celebrate the center's Transportation Coordinator Jim Nguyen as a Community Hero at the 2022 Garden Grove Strawberry Festival. More than 40 Acacia staff and friends will march in the Festival's annual parade behind the vehicle carrying Jim and his family on May 28.

Alzheimer's Orange County (AlzOC) owns and operates the community-based services provider that serves both the medical and social needs of individuals who are living at home but need daytime assistance for their health needs.

An employee of Acacia for 13 years, Jim jumped into action in 2020 when the state issued a stay-at-home order and suspended onsite services to help re-think how to get services to participants in their homes. Jim was instrumental in helping get food, essential items, friendly visits, and activities' packets set up and delivered to the participants.

Along with staff, he organized all routes and donation pick-ups, and also took a route, himself. Without Jim and his dedication, this would not have been possible. He rallied the team and they all worked together to accomplish this goal.

"I would like people to know that Acacia is a great place for seniors," said Jim, whose grandfather came to Acacia four years before needing at-home care. "I am very proud to be honored as a community hero! "

"Jim is a great example of the exemplary people who bring their dedication and expertise to our organization," said AlzOC CEO and President Jim McAleer.

About Alzheimer's Orange County

Commemorating its 40th year of service in Orange County in 2022, Alzheimer's Orange County provides programs and services that span the continuum of care of Alzheimer's and related forms of dementia to Orange County, California residents living with Alzheimer's or dementia, including older adults and frail seniors, along with their families, caregivers, and the community. Alzheimer's Orange County began as an independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization in 1982 with a primary mission of providing care and support for those impacted with dementia and their caregivers in Orange County. Alzheimer's is a devastating neurodegenerative illness that weakens the memory and other cognitive and emotional functions. For more information, call the Helpline at 844-373-4400, or visit www.alzoc.org. Find Alzheimer's Orange County on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and LinkedIn.

About Healthy Aging Center: Acacia

Founded in 1979, Healthy Aging Center: 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 AlzOC, combining both organizations' resources and allowing them to serve more individuals and families in need. Services include a nutritious breakfast, lunch, and snack; comprehensive healthcare, including nursing, supervision, medication management, and personal care as needed. Activities and exercise are tailored to meet every person's needs, including arts and music programs; comprehensive therapy; medical supervision for those who have physical and cognitive impairment; opportunities for social interaction with peers; and round-trip transportation. For more information, call 714-530-1566 or visit www.alzoc.org/adhc

About the Garden Grove Strawberry Festival

The Garden Grove Strawberry Festival is an annual 501(c)(3) non-profit FREE event produced by the Garden Grove Strawberry Festival Association, a dedicated volunteer group, which has raised more than \$7 million for various charities since its inception in 1958. The live Festival wasn't held in 2020 and 2021, due to the pandemic. The Festival's mission and goal is to give back to the community serving Garden Grove citizens by donating to non-profit organizations

which provide services for children, seniors, youth, the community, and which support the arts. To learn more and for updates on this year's Festival, please visit, www.strawberryfestival.org