



Autism
Community
Network

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Autism Community Network Steps In To Serve Children Affected by Closure

Today, the board of directors of the Autism Community Network (ACN) approved a plan to provide services to the children affected by the closure of one of San Antonio's autism service providers, Treehouse Pediatrics Center. ACN has been working with other area providers to develop plans to accommodate children who had been enrolled in former day program as well as individual therapy.

ACN will begin operating a new day program for children with autism in early 2010, authorized by the board as a pilot program. Thanks to \$235,000 in emergency bridge funding from a small group of donors, children will receive services consistent with the former program.

“For families who struggle with the daily challenges that autism presents, resumption of the 25 hours per week of intensive behavioral intervention is critical,” said Dr. Jessica Franco, executive director of ACN. “Consistency is of the utmost importance for children with autism, and we are so grateful to the donors who are making it possible for us to step in and help.”

Two anonymous donors came forward to provide working capital, as did The USAA Foundation, which is providing scholarship funding for military families affected by the closure. Any Baby Can has also stepped in to connect families with services outside the scope of what ACN will provide. A meeting for the families affected by the Treehouse closure will be held on Thursday, December 17, at 2:00 p.m. at the ACN facilities at 701 South Zarzamora Street.

The board of directors, led by Chairman and President John Emley, approved a plan of action to provide services through the end of the 2010 school year. ACN will also be working with community and business leaders to evaluate San Antonio's ongoing need for this type of service, and working on a long-term strategic plan.

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