


# A Voice Discovered

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## **AVD Mission – What Does Your Donation Do?**

In this newsletter we wanted to share what we have been able to do this year because of the many generous donations and the support that we have received. We have been able to provide 4 individual grants each up to \$1000 to either purchase necessary equipment or fund services such as AAC assessments, AAC therapy and training of families and staff when no other funding method was available. We have also hosted family/caregiver coffee meet-ups, social events for the kids, and an AAC information workshop that was free to attend. This year we have added to our lending library to include more switches and other access devices for people to trial before purchasing. Check out our website to see the list of items we have in our library and contact us if you think you may need to borrow something!  
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Because of all of the support we are able to sustain our individual and organization grant programs for next year and increase the total amount that we can give for the year to \$7000! This also allows us the ability to give more to each person as needed. We are excited to share that each year we have been able to increase the amount that we give thus benefitting more people in our community with communication impairments!

## **3rd Annual Casino Night and Silent Auction**

We had such an amazing event this year and the best attended to date! We are happy to share that we are again able to donate a portion of our proceeds to The Arc of Ventura County to benefit their continued work with adults with communication impairments.

The success of our event was made possible by all of the people who volunteered their time to get silent auction and dessert donations, sell tickets, and spread the word as well as all of the many local businesses who donated to our silent auction and dessert table. For a list of all of the businesses who donated please visit our website! Like us on Facebook to

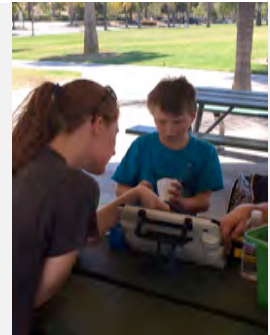


## Upcoming Events

### **AAC Family/Caregiver Group**

Coffee Meet-up – TBD/Camarillo  
Info Workshops – TBD/Camarillo  
Social Events – TBD

### **4th Annual Casino Night -- TBD**



Snack Break conversation during AAC Family/Caregiver Group Park Meet-up



3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Casino Night Fun!

learn about when our 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Casino Night will be as well as other fundraisers we will be having throughout the year!

## [AAC Family/Caregiver Support Group Update](#)

In the last few months, we have seen a great amount of interest in AAC from families in our community! In November, AVD hosted a free informational night for families that included time to try out various AAC systems. We had nearly 40 participants and many of them have asked if these presentations can be offered regularly. Our bimonthly coffee meet-ups have been a very effective way for parents who support AAC users to connect and learn from one another. We are looking forward to several restaurant night fundraisers this year. These allow us to raise awareness about AAC in our community while raising some money for the A Voice Discovered grant program as well. A win win! Please check AVD's Facebook page for details and join us if you can! For more information and/or to be added to the email list you can contact Linda at [Linda@avoicediscovered.com](mailto:Linda@avoicediscovered.com)



## [Testimonial](#)

In both 2015 and 2016 AVD was able to provide a grant to a gentleman who otherwise would not have been able to receive services for an AAC assessment and therapy, which was necessary to obtain funding for a speech generating device. With the grant he was able to receive an assessment, therapy and caregiver training. With the assessment he was able to receive funding for a speech generating device. This is an excerpt from the testimonial -- *"What a blessing! This never would have been possible without their incredible generosity. Though we may miss conversing in the way we once had, we are so thankful that Bob is on a path where he may soon be able to express once again his thoughts, concerns, dreams, etc., and contribute with his incredible mind and heart into my life and the lives of his family members, friends and even caregivers. The hope that this new kind of communication brings is so immense that it is hard to describe unless you've had the great opportunity to experience it firsthand."* – Sandy – August 2016. Please visit our website for the full testimonial.

## [2017 Goals](#)

It is our mission to continue to provide funding, education, information, awareness and advocacy to those with complex communication needs, their families, caregivers, support staff, and the community. We are excited about what 2017 has in store for AAC in Ventura County! This year in addition to more parent/caregiver group activities, we plan to continue our grant program for both individuals and organizations, add to our lending library, and continue to raise awareness about AAC. Follow us on Facebook and Twitter and join our email list to get updates about upcoming events! If you are interested in volunteering we can always use help at our fundraising events, vendor fairs or to help use make low-tech communication books. Send us an email more information! [info@avoicediscovered.com](mailto:info@avoicediscovered.com).