

For Immediate Release

**St. Madeleine Sophie's Center
receives \$100,000 grant from the
Theresa & Edward O'Toole Foundation**

El Cajon, California, July 23, 2013 – St. Madeleine Sophie's Center, a non-profit, licensed vocational day training center for adults with developmental disabilities, received a \$100,000 grant from New York-based Theresa & Edward O'Toole Foundation in June 2013. Their generous contribution will help to support St. Madeleine's core programming for its 400+ adult students.

According to Debra Emerson, St. Madeleine's Chief Executive Officer, *"we were absolutely delighted to receive this incredibly generous gift from the O'Toole Foundation. This is the second time that they have provided significant funds. In 2008 and 2009 they granted us a total of \$200,000. We named our Adaptive Computer Learning Center in honor of that support. So we were thrilled that they chose to once again support our work with this magnanimous \$100,000 grant."*

St. Madeleine's relies on the generosity of foundations, corporations, and individuals to provide the funding needed to offer its Life-Long Program of comprehensive services. These services help individuals with developmental disabilities to gain self-sufficiency and inner fulfillment through meaningful work and self-expression.

About St. Madeleine Sophie's Center: St. Madeleine Sophie's Center serves 400+ adults with developmental disabilities, ages 22 to 70+. Its mission is to empower its students to discover, experience and realize their full potential as members of the greater community. Developmental disabilities include autism, Down syndrome, cerebral palsy, and other cognitive disorders, for which there are no cures. Programs are offered on a staff-to-student ratio of 1:3 to 1:6, depending upon the level of each student's disability. These programs include: Activity Center; Adult Development Center; Seniors (for adults age 50+); Behavior Modification; Supported Employment; and Work Activity Program. Under these program areas, students can participate in the following activities: Sophie's Gallery Art Program; Adaptive Computer Lab; Therapeutic Organic Garden and Worm Farm; Therapeutic Aquatics and Special Olympics Swim Team; Culinary Arts; Aerobics/Fitness/Yoga/Tai Chi; Dance (in collaboration with Malaschock Dance Company); Theatre Arts; Music Therapy (on campus and in the community in collaboration with Rock and Roll San Diego in Point Loma); Reading; and Speech Therapy/Sign Language.

Sites: St. Madeleine's has three sites: its main campus on the outskirts of El Cajon; Sophie's Gallery and Gift Shop in Downtown El Cajon; and a satellite gallery, Sophie's Gallery at NTC Liberty Station.

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