



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**The Provident Bank Foundation
Supports Lake Drive Educational Foundation**
Community grant supports Sound Early Start Intervention

Mountain Lakes, NJ (May 26, 2015) – The Provident Bank Foundation (<http://providentnjfoundation.org>), which supports organizations that are dedicated to improving the lives of residents in the communities served by Provident Bank, has provided Lake Drive Educational Foundation with a \$3,500 community grant to support its Sound Start program that offers listening, spoken, and sign communication services to infants and families with hearing loss in twelve Northern New Jersey counties. More than half of the participants in the program stem from low income families, multilingual homes, and/or families associated with multiple disabilities. The program is an early intervention program for children ages birth to three years to measure a series of skills, including cognitive, gross and fine motor, social/emotional, adaptive, and receptive and expressive language skills.

Since its launch in 1969, over 1,000 hearing impaired children have been impacted by the Sound Start Program. Parents and families are learning alongside their children with the help of professionals how their role can contribute to the child's potential and success. As a result of the program's success, many children by the time they reach kindergarten or first grade can smoothly transition into mainstream education.

"The Provident Bank Foundation is proud to continue its support of Lake Drive Educational Foundation," says Jane Kurek, executive director at The Provident Bank Foundation. "Every child deserves an equal opportunity to receive a comprehensive education that suits his or her learning needs- Sound Start offers this opportunity."

More information about the Lake Drive Educational Foundation is available at <http://lakedrivefoundation.org> or by calling 973-299-0166. For more information about The Provident Bank Foundation, visit <http://www.ProvidentNJFoundation.org> or call (862) 260-3990.

About The Provident Bank Foundation

The Provident Bank Foundation was established by New Jersey's oldest bank in 2003 to enhance the quality of life in the region through support of not-for-profit groups, institutions, schools and other organizations that provide services in communities served by Provident Bank. Since its founding, the Foundation has granted more than \$19 million to not-for-profit organizations and institutions working toward stronger communities. For more information about The Provident Bank Foundation, visit <http://www.ProvidentNJFoundation.org> or call (862) 260-3990.

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Caption: Bob Rocco, Vice President/Area manager, The Provident Bank, on the behalf of The Provident Bank Foundation, visits with a Sound Start child during the presentation of the \$3,500 community grant.