

## ***ATRC'S: GETTING TECHNOLOGY TO THE PEOPLE***

It has been said that technology is of no benefit if people won't or can't use it.

In the case of Assistive Technology for people with disabilities, technology is of no benefit if they can't obtain the device that best meets their needs. That's why PIAT, Pennsylvania's Initiative on Assistive Technology, is focusing a large part of its resources and efforts on programs that directly help get devices into the hands and homes of the people who need them.

Assistive technology is defined as any device used by a person with a disability to communicate, work, play, learn or do any activity their disability hinders or prevents.

Specific devices range from low-tech and relatively inexpensive items such as reachers and bottle openers, to high tech voice output computers and adapted vehicles.

PIAT has a number of programs that are part of what they call "acquisition" activities, efforts to help individuals obtain devices directly or funding to purchase them. To ensure that these services are easily accessible to people in all regions of the commonwealth, it has subcontracted with a number of organizations,

including United Cerebral Palsy of Northeastern Pennsylvania, to operate Assistive Technology Resource Centers (ATRCs). Through its subcontract with PIAT, the ATRC at UCP of NEPA serves Bradford, Lackawanna, Pike, Susquehanna, Wayne and Wyoming Counties.

### **Recycled & Exchanged Equipment Partnership (REEP)**

The partnership consists of several PIAT-supported programs that are potential sources for previously-owned assistive technology, typically available at a lower cost than purchasing new:

**The REEP Classifieds** – a statewide listing of devices that individuals have donated or want to sell. The online listing is searchable by item, price and location.

**ATMatch.com** – an online auction site for the sale of new and used devices. The site also contains information about vendors of assistive technology.

Several REEP programs accept donations of equipment and refurbish them for reuse:



*Kathy Vanvestraut using a scan and read system borrowed from PA's AT Lending Library and Linda Mesavage, ATP*

**Into New Hands** is operated by the Three Rivers Center for Independent Living (CIL), **Changing Hands** by UCP of North Central PA, and the **LIFT Recycling Program** by Life and Independence for Today, located in Altoona. **Liberty Wheels**, a program administered by Liberty Resources, Philadelphia's CIL, refurbishes and loans mobility equipment such as wheelchairs and walkers.

All of these programs operate statewide and the ATRC at UCP of NEPA can help individuals access their services. In addition, the ATRC at UCP also maintains its own recycling program, "Pass AT On," an inventory of previously-owned equipment that is given to consumers who need it.

*continued on page 2*

**November is Assistive Technology Awareness Month in Pennsylvania**

ATRC's (continued from page 1)

### Pennsylvania's Assistive Technology Lending Library

The recycling services are distinct from PA's Assistive Technology Lending Library, the state acquired inventory managed by PIAT that provides equipment for short-term use. The Lending Library is a free service that loans assistive technology devices to Pennsylvanians of all ages and with any disability. The Lending Library has an inventory of thousands of items in categories ranging from communication and computer access devices to educational and recreational equipment. The purpose of the Lending Library is to enable individuals to try out devices to find what best meets their needs prior to purchasing. The

ATRC can also assist individuals in accessing equipment from the Lending Library.

### Telecommunications Device Distribution Program (TDDP)

A state mandated program, also managed by PIAT, that provides specialized equipment free of charge for eligible persons who have disabilities that impede their access to telephone services.

### Pennsylvania's Assistive Technology Foundation (PATF)

Because persons with disabilities tend to have lower income levels and might therefore have difficulty qualifying for traditional bank loans, PIAT established the Foundation to provide funding assistance. While the Foundation is now an independent entity from PIAT, it continues to provide

low-interest loans, 0% interest mini loans, and grants in combination with mini loans, for individuals to purchase the device they need.

The ATRC at UCP of NEPA can assist individuals in accessing or learning more about all of these programs. As an ATRC, UCP also provides device demonstrations, technical assistance and training for service providers, and public education and awareness activities. Additional services include evaluations and assessments, and individualized trainings. These services are provided in Bradford, Lackawanna, Pike, Susquehanna, Wayne, Wyoming, Luzerne and Monroe Counties.

## Annual Meeting & Staff Appreciation Dinner

UCP of Northeastern Pennsylvania held its 54th Annual Meeting, along with the annual Staff Appreciation Dinner, Tuesday, June 26th at the Melting Pot in Scranton.

Officers for the 2007-2008 term were installed. They are: Robert Schwartz, President; John Darcy, Vice President; Edward Karpovich, Treasurer; and Marilyn Vitali, Secretary.

David Walline, who left the board after nine years as a member and officer, was given a Certificate of Appreciation. ServiceMaster was recognized for their decade of commitment to UCP and a number of staff members were also honored for their years of service to the agency.



Several staff members were honored for their years of service. Standing: Robert Schwartz, Board President; Patricia Dominick, 10 years; Michael Bochancow, 10 years; Linda Mesavage, 15 years; Patricia Votaw, 10 years; Carrie Rafter, 5 years; and Executive Director Sarah Drob. Seated: Tamara Murray, 5 years; and Jean Bengtson, 20 years.

UCP Director of Operations Tim McHugh presents a plaque to Chris Griffing, owner of ServiceMaster by Griffing for his company's decade of support to UCP as agency Executive Director Sarah Drob and Board President Robert Schwartz look on.



## United Cerebral Palsy of Northeastern Pennsylvania

### Board of Directors

#### Officers

Robert Schwartz, *President*  
John M. Darcy, *Vice-President*  
Edward Karpovich, *Treasurer*  
Marilyn Vitali, *Secretary*

#### Members

Anthony Cardell  
Linda B. Gable  
Daniel Ginsberg, Ph.D.  
Ralph Heller  
Robert Jones  
Mark Kandel, Ph.D.  
Louise Krafjack  
Barbara D. Noto  
Barbara Wagner

## Evening of Treasure

UCP's spring fund-raiser, Evening of Treasure was held on Sunday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> at Boscov's in the Mall at Steamtown. The event featured a treasure hunt based on written clues which led guests from one department of the store to another in hopes of winning one of more than 50 prizes that were available.

As always, we thank Boscov's for hosting the event, all those who attended and helped, and all of the donors listed on this page.



*Ronna Long and John Balko receive their first clues to the hunt from volunteers Jeanne Simoncelli and Geri Rogers.*

### PROGRAM ADS

Kelly, Barbetti & Co. CPA's  
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Triguard Security Systems  
Jack Williams Tire & Auto  
Zandy's Auto Service  
Deutsch Institute  
Keystone Prosthetics & Orthotics  
Ted & Cindy Neubert



*The basket raffle is always a popular feature. In line to purchase chances from Tessie Bauer are Michael Krajjack, Josh Drob, Kathy Cusick and Bill and Joyce Ziegler.*

**See  
additional  
event photos  
online at**

**[www.ucpnepa.com](http://www.ucpnepa.com)**

### FOOD, BEVERAGE ETC. DONORS

Arcaro & Genell's  
Arcaro's Pizza  
John's Italian Restaurant  
Entenmann's Bakery  
A & A Beverage  
Quinn's Supermarkets  
Sarah & Jim Drob  
Tim & Linda McHugh

Melting Pot  
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Mamma Mia's  
Minooka Pastry Shop  
Giant Markets  
Wegman's  
John Guse  
Dupli Craft Printing

### PRIZE DONORS

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Penn Security Bank & Trust  
Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins  
Scranton/Wilkes-Barre Yankees  
Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Pioneers  
Gertrude Hawk Chocolates  
Jim Dandy's  
Kay's Italian Restaurant  
Perkins Restaurants  
South Side Floral Shop  
Texas Roadhouse  
Coopers Seafood House  
Cinemark  
Marquee Cinema Steamtown 8

## Golf Tournament a Success

UCP's annual Golf Tournament at Stone Hedge Golf Course in Tunkhannock was held on July 21<sup>st</sup>. Now in its 2<sup>nd</sup> year the tournament, coordinated by UCP's Director of Operations Tim McHugh, attracted 80 golfers and raised over \$6,000 for agency services.

We thank all of our sponsors and other donors, volunteers and everyone who participated.

### Gold Member Sponsors

Durabilt Fence Company

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Price Chopper Supermarkets

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Maco Enterprises

Additional sponsors and a few more photos are featured on our website: [www.ucpnepa.com](http://www.ucpnepa.com)



Winners of the 2007 Golf Tournament are from left: Sandy Quatra, Dave Walters, Egan May and Paul May.



Employees of Blue Cross of NEPA who participated in United Way of Lackawanna County's Day of Caring pose with UCP Director of Operations Tim McHugh after painting the agency's Adult Program area.



UCP's Benefit Gift Wrap  
will be held at the Viewmont Mall  
Friday, November 23  
thru Christmas Eve

If you like to wrap,  
call us at 347-3357 to volunteer

If you don't like to wrap,  
stop by and we'll do it for you  
at a great price!



Executive Director Sarah Drob spent an afternoon volunteering for the Northeast Pennsylvania Classic, held at the Glenmaura National Golf Course. UCP is one of several local organizations that receive contributions from the tournament proceeds. Last year, we received \$1,500 from the tournament.

## Executive Director's Message

UCP of NE PA, as an agency supported by the United Way, has the honor of participating in the annual Day of Caring. Day of Caring is used to kick off the United Way's annual campaign. As part of Day of Caring, local businesses allow their employees to spend their day at local agencies supported by the United Way. Over the years, UCP's Day of Caring events have included picnics with our Day Program consumers, painting the restrooms and sprucing up the exterior of our main office. This year UCP was honored to host the employees from Blue Cross of Northeastern PA. This dynamic group of women painted our entire 4,500 square foot Day Program area! They were efficient, thorough and neat! Their work has had a great impact on both our day program consumers and staff. Everyone comments on how great the area looks.

On behalf of the consumers, staff and Board of Directors of UCP of NE PA, I would like to congratulate all of the businesses and employees who participated in Day of Caring. Your continued commitment to UCP of NEPA and other non-profit agencies in our community is greatly appreciated. To the employees of Blue Cross of Northeastern PA, THANK YOU! You did a fabulous job!

I would also like to take this opportunity to wish everyone the happiest of holidays and all the best in the New Year.

Sarah A. Drob

## DONOR PAGE

All contributions were received between March 1 and August 31, 2007

### Memorials

In Memory of William Merritt Cole

Gwendalyn Pierce, Dana Pierce  
& Lisa Pierce Stefanie

In Memory of William Merritt Cole

Sheree Hosterman

In Memory of Ruth English

Mr. & Mrs. George Marinchak

In Memory of Eleanor Kane

Bill & Doris Lindsley

In Memory of Francis Quinlin

The Ronald Kraffack Family

In Memory of William Merritt Cole

Ben Cole & Olivia M. Polansky

In Memory of William Merritt Cole

Ronald E. Ishler

In Memory of Emily Mullen

Nancy Savage

In Memory of Ronald Bloom

Bill & Doris Lindsley

In Memory of G. Joseph Basalyga

The Ronald Kraffack Family

In Memory of Bernard Malinowski

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Malinowski

In Memory of Kevin Hallock

Angela Gard

In Memory of Natividad Villarez

Carl & Tess Bauer

In Memory of Betty Ames

Bill & Doris Lindsley

In Memory of Veronica Inch

The Ronald Kraffack Family

Mary Loftus Butler served for 16 years on the Board of Directors of UCP before moving to New Jersey several years ago. Mary passed away on July 30. We extend our condolences to Mary's family and thank them for naming UCP as a recipient of contributions in her memory.

Caregiver Resources, Inc.  
National Benefit Partners, LLC  
Winston Financial Services  
Boston Mutual Life Insurance Co.

Joseph & Debra LaSala  
Charles R. Dees, Jr.  
Eleanore K. Huddy

### General & Membership Contributions

If we have omitted or misspelled your name, or if you would prefer not to be listed, please call us at 347-3357. Corrections will be made in the next newsletter.

#### Donor Levels

\$2,500 – Benefactor  
\$1,000 2,499 – Partner  
\$500.00 - \$999.00 – Associate  
\$250.00 - \$499.00 – Friend  
\$100.00 - \$249.00 – Patron  
\$50.00 - \$99.00 – Donor  
Up to \$49.00 – Supporter

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Mr. Stephen K. Fellows

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Mrs. Theo Lumia  
Ms. Marilyn Vitali  
Dr. & Mrs. Richard Weinberger

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Mrs. Linda Schuller  
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### Special Funds

Contributions were received for the  
Susan D. Keller Memorial Fund  
from Frieda K. Robertson

In Memory of:

R. Warren Brown  
Kathleen Naegeli  
Audrey R. Snyder

Janice D. Siefert  
Ruth C. Sunday  
Harry Steier

Contributions were received for the  
Salvatore Lumia Memorial Fund

In Memory of Lt. Col. Salvatore Albert Lumia

Mrs. Theo Lumia & Family

Mr. & Mrs. James Rogers

Contributions were received for the  
Assistive Technology Resource Center fund

In Memory of Phebe Jane Mesavage

Linda Gilsdorf Mesavage

Joan Gilsdorf, Jack Holland  
& Family

### The Mission of UCP

To provide opportunities and resources to individuals with disabilities as they build and lead their lives in the community. We do this by providing advocacy, home and community supports, and education.

### UCP's Vision

UCP respects each person, her/his choices, and her/his contributions.

### Non-Discrimination Statement

No person shall be excluded by UCP from services due to race, color, creed, sex, disability, age, national origin or limited English proficiency.



### How to Contact UCP

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The United Cerebral Palsy Newsletter is published three times a year by:

**United Cerebral Palsy of Northeastern Pennsylvania**  
425 Wyoming Avenue  
Scranton, PA 18503

for the staff, volunteers and friends of this agency. Barbara Siarkiewicz, *Editor*  
We welcome your comments and suggestions. If there is an error in your address label, or if you have any questions regarding agency programs or services, please contact us.



*Please recycle*

**United Cerebral Palsy of Northeastern Pennsylvania**  
a non-profit, voluntary health agency serving those with cerebral palsy and other disabilities since 1953.

Robert Schwartz, *President*

Sarah A. Drob, *Executive Director*

**Member of** – United Cerebral Palsy Association, Inc. • United Cerebral Palsy of Pennsylvania  
Pennsylvania Association of Child Care Agencies • Pennsylvania Association of Resources: Autism - Intellectual Disabilities

**Licensed by** - Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare • Pennsylvania Department of Education

**Primary program funding provided by:** the Mental Health/Mental Retardation Program of Lackawanna and Susquehanna Counties  
the Mental Health/Mental Retardation Program of Wayne County • the Human Services Development Fund of Lackawanna County  
the Human Services Development Fund of Wayne County • the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation  
the United Way of Lackawanna County • the United Way of Wyoming County  
the Pennsylvania Elks State Association • Pennsylvania's Initiative on Assistive Technology (PIAT)

*UCP is registered with the Pennsylvania State Bureau of Charitable Organizations.*

*A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the PA Department of State by calling toll-free, within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.*

A United Way Agency

Non-Profit  
Organization  
**PAID**  
Permit  
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Scranton, PA

United Cerebral Palsy of Northeastern Pennsylvania  
425 Wyoming Avenue  
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