



## Honoring the Past & Building for the Future

### *60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Event to Raise Funds for Children's Center Capital Campaign*



United Cerebral Palsy of Northeastern Pennsylvania will commemorate 60 years of service to the community with an Anniversary Dinner to be held at the Radisson Hotel at Lackawanna Station on Wednesday, August 28<sup>th</sup>.

The dinner program will honor State Senator John Blake, Andy Gavin's Pub & Eatery and the

NEPA Fit Club. Senator Blake, who is a former Board member of UCP of NEPA, has been a strong advocate for people with disabilities and the organizations which provide them services for many years. Don Surace, owner of Andy Gavin's, conducts the Green Ridge Mile, a 5K race which is held in the Green Ridge section of Scranton every year over Thanksgiving weekend, and has donated proceeds to the agency for many years. Mike Marcinek, owner of the NEPA

Fit Club, along with his family and friends, each year conducts FitStock: For a Cause, and for the past several years has chosen UCP as the cause. United Cerebral Palsy of NEPA is extremely grateful to *all* of the individuals and businesses who continually support the agency and our mission. The past six decades of growing and evolving our services to meet the changing needs of individuals with disabilities would not have been possible without your involvement and generosity.



*PA Senator John Blake will be among the honorees at UCP of NEPA's 60th Anniversary.*

*continued on page 2*



*Architect's rendering of the new Children's Center*

## 60th Anniversary *(continued from page 1)*

The anniversary event will begin with a cocktail hour at 5:00pm. The program following dinner will include a retrospect of the agency along with the award presentations. A special commemorative program booklet is also being prepared, in which we are selling advertising space to local businesses and our supporters.

Proceeds from both the dinner and the program book are being designated for the Capital Campaign to replace our Clarks Summit Children's Center. As you may be aware,

the Center has been the site of repeated flooding over the years, causing costly damage to the building and equipment, not to mention interruptions to the services housed there. UCP's Lekotek and Compuplay programs are housed in the facility, along with the administrative facilities for our Early Intervention services. A private day care center also operates in the building.

Currently, the first floor of the building is set only about 18 inches above the water table which means that any

substantial rainfall can cause problems with more severe storms having resulted in the temporary closing of programs. Our plan is to erect a new building in the footprint of the existing structure, but raised well above the water table to avoid the flooding issue in the future.

Invitations to the dinner are being sent to our entire mailing list, but if you would like more information about either the event or the program book, please contact us at 570-347-3357 or [ucpnepa@epix.net](mailto:ucpnepa@epix.net).

## Executive Director's Message

Dear Friends of UCP of NE PA:

We are celebrating!!! 2013 marks UCP of NE PA's 60<sup>th</sup> year of providing supports and services to individuals with disabilities and their families. We want all of you to join us as we celebrate our 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Milestones, such as our 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary, provide us with the opportunity to look back at all that we have accomplished. In meeting the challenges of supporting individuals with disabilities we can sometimes get caught up in the "day to day" events. Although there are people who think you shouldn't look back, it is important to take a moment and realize how much we have accomplished over the last 60 years. As many of you know, UCP of NE PA was started by a group of parents who were seeking meaningful activities for their teenage children with cerebral palsy.

From those humble beginnings we have grown into an organization that provides an array of supports and services to infants, children, adolescents, adults and senior citizens with disabilities. But for as much as we have grown and developed, we have never lost sight of the fact that our primary role is to support the people we serve. Because we continue to focus on the needs of each person we are still strong and viable 60 years later.

It has been our honor and privilege to be a part of this community for 60 years. We are indebted to the individuals and families who have trusted and supported us. We are also thankful to the many people, business and organizations that have volunteered, served on our board, and have provided financial support. Without each of you we would not be here today continuing to fulfill our mission...

*"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."*

Happy 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary UCP of NE PA!

With great fondness,  
Sarah A. Drob

## Flapjack Fundraiser for Lekotek

Over 100 supporters of our Lekotek program got up early on Sunday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> and ventured out to Applebee's in the Viewmont Mall for an all-you-can-eat breakfast of pancakes and sausage, coffee and juice, plus a basket raffle, fun and fellowship at the Flapjack Fundraiser. Applebee's conducts these events periodically, allowing organizations to sell tickets to their supporters to raise money for the agency or a particular program.



*The Glynn Family enjoying the breakfast. Clockwise from left; Vincenza, Angelina, David and Frank.*



*The Polishan Family arriving at Applebee's, from left; Roseann, Holden, Stephen, Hope and Hunter.*

## 2013 Bonanza of Baskets Raises Funds for Lekotek

Thanks to everyone who participated in the recent Bonanza of Baskets raffle; donors, ticket sellers and buyers, and volunteers. Fifty seven prizes were awarded at Boacov's in the Steamtown Mall on Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup> after a weekend of ticket sales there and at the Viewmont Mall on April 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>. For a list of winners, check out our Facebook page. Donors of prizes were:

HarperCollins Publishers  
Caesars Pocono Resorts  
Woodloch Pines  
Comfort Suites at Montage  
YMCA - Carbondale  
Elmhurst Country Club  
Woodloch Springs Golf Course  
Elk Mountain Ski Resort  
Scranton Courtyard Marriott  
Jewish Community Center  
Earl Beichler  
Keystone Community Resources  
Penn Security Bank & Trust  
St. Joseph's Center  
AAA of North Penn  
Mohegan Sun at Pocono Downs  
Paper Magic Group Inc  
Patsel's  
Price Chopper  
Voluntary Action Center  
Wegman's  
Boys & Girls Club of NEPA  
Serving Seniors

Kay's Family Restaurant  
Texas Roadhouse  
UCP Adult Program  
SWB Rail Riders  
Rossi's Ristorante

Sam's Club  
Lynn Sandy's Cakes  
Brunetti's Pizza & Deli  
Gerrity's Supermarkets  
Stirnas Restaurant  
Thirst T's Bar & Grille  
Granteed's Pizza  
John & Mary Ann Balko  
Lynn Bull  
Tony Cardell  
John Darcy  
The Drob Family  
Nanci Frick  
Phyllis Granahan  
Anne Harrington  
The Krafjack Family  
The Leo Family  
Linda, Lorraine & Connie  
Sharon McArdle  
Sally McCullon  
Tim and Linda McHugh  
Tracy Meredith  
Deirdre Spelman



*Board members Tony Cardell and Louise Krafjack helping out at the Bonanza of Baskets Raffle drawing.*

## 2012 Holiday Events

The Holiday Season was as always a busy time at UCP of NEPA. The Gift Wrap and Wreath Sale raised needed funds for the Early Intervention and Lekotek programs, respectively, our Angel Tree partners really came through providing holiday cheer for many of our consumers and families, and the Lekotek Holiday Party was a fun, festive time for all.

### Holiday Gift Wrap

The 2012 Gift Wrap benefit, held at the Viewmont Mall from Black Friday thru Christmas Eve, was a big success. Proceeds from the Gift Wrap will benefit our Early Intervention Services.

As always we sincerely thank the Viewmont Mall for their continued tremendous support and the many volunteers, individuals and groups, who make this event possible.

Volunteer Groups included:

Alpha Iota Sorority

Cadette Troop #23

The Gilgallon Family

Girl Scout Troop #50060

Hickory Street Presbyterian Church Members

Lackawanna College Students & Faculty

Mid Valley High School Leo Club

The Salmon Family

Scranton Prep National Honor Society

Volunteers in Paupack

Yusavage Chiropractic Clinic Staff

Bank of America Employees

Fell Charter School Faculty

Girl Scout Troop #291

Harford First Congregation Church Youth Group

Kiwanis Club of Scranton

Matthew Avenue CLA Consumers & Staff

Prudential Asset Management Employees

Scranton High School Students




Trinity Church Youth Group Members

Western Wayne Middle School Student Government

### Angel Tree

The Angel Tree provided holiday gifts for more than 200 children who receive services thru the various programs of UCP of NEPA.

Thanks to our partners:

-  Employees of General Dynamics - Operations & Tactical Systems, Scranton
-  Staff of Moses Taylor Hospital
-  Members of Trinity Lutheran Church



*Various members of the Leadership Team from Bank of America covered the noon shift each day for a week at the Gift Wrap. One of these groups was Kathy Ponas, Kim Meland and Pat Shultz.*

*Members of Trinity Lutheran Church Youth Group at the Gift Wrap: Cassandra Schlosser, Dan Schlosser, Heather Klien, Trinity's Director of Church Ministries, and Jake Horeis.*



## 2012 Holiday Events

### Annual Holiday Party for Lekotek

Our Annual Lekotek Holiday Party was held on Saturday, December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012 at the Clarks Summit Methodist Church. It was attended by 36 Lekotek families and several agency staff and families. We are again very grateful to the church, and to the many families who donated food and gave of their time, talents and resources to make this year's party a great success. Special thanks to the Finnerty family for their Domino's pizza donation, and Heather Daube for the hoagie donation. Gerald Gryzcko, Mobile DJ Service brought the mood of the Holiday to our party with all of our yuletide favorites. Our Executive Director, Sarah Drob, our Coordinator of Children's Services, Cheryl Burger, and our Assistive Technology Specialist, Linda Mesavage were on hand to help with the many gifts and raffles that also contributed to the fun. Kelly Kongvold and Toni Christ did an awesome job for us this year serving our food. Teri Butler adorned our tables with a "delicious" centerpiece. We are grateful once again to the Abington Lions Club for their monetary contribution and to Joe Skinner, who was again able to provide us with the Santa suit. Our Santa's helper again this year was Colin Young who did a great job with all of the children, and the adults too! Our volunteer students included Sarah Wagner, Natalie Khalife, Zak, Annika and Evan Kongvold, Doug and Lexi Walsh, Michael Christ and many friends of our volunteers. They did a great job of handling the raffles and setting up for this year's party! We especially want to thank Kathy Platt for her unending support and enthusiasm for this party. Dawn Demm of Pepsi in Purchase NY again contributed the XBOX 360 and Barb Golob contributed many items for our raffles. This was our 21st party and we are still going strong! We're already looking forward to #22!

#### *Thanks also to:*

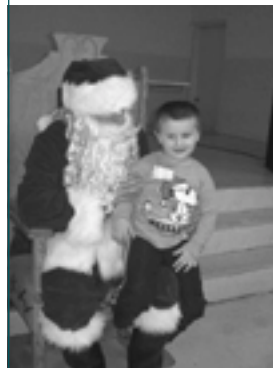
Bayada Nurses \* Butler Family \* Christ Family \* Daube Family \* DeCarlo Family  
Domino's Clarks Summit \* Fritch Family \* Finnerty Family \* Gertrude Hawk Chocolates  
Glynn/Bonacci Inc. \* Horrocks/Dalton Family \* Khalife Family \* Klonoski Family  
Knelly Family \* Kongvold Family \* Lena Family \* Laminations Inc./Heisey Family  
Mannings Dairy \* McDonald's Clarks Summit \* Ann Moskovitz \* Moroski Family  
Naniewicz Family \* Platt Family \* Pepsi Co/Cannizzaro/Demm Family \* Policastro Family  
Price Chopper, Dunmore \* Rinaldi Auto Sales/Rakauskas Family \* Riverfront Sports Complex  
Rossi Family \* Rosetti Family \* Serenity Martial Arts \* Smestad/Abicca Family  
Tim Walsh Family \* Wegmans \* Young Family \* Yusinski Family  
Parents Loving Children Through Autism Foundation  
Parents of Down Syndrome of Lackawanna County

*Michael & Kristy Policastro arrive along with their children Michael and Julia,*



*The Cannizzaro Family enjoying the festivities. From left; Jennifer, Alex, Ryan and Stephen.*

*Daniel Glynn shares his Holiday wish list with Santa.*



*Raegan and Kyrh Williams wait their turn to see Santa, along with their parents Amy and Scott.*

To see more party pictures go to our website: [www.ucpnepa.org](http://www.ucpnepa.org) and click on the Photo Archive tab.



### PIAT

Pennsylvania's Initiative on Assistive Technology leads the Commonwealth's efforts to implement the provisions of the federal Assistive Technology Act of 1998, as amended. As a sub-contractor, the Assistive Technology Resource Center at UCP of NEPA has provided services in six counties of northeastern Pennsylvania. Our activities include: Device Demonstrations (a hands-on opportunity to learn more about different AT devices so individuals can make an informed choice about what will work best for them); Device Loans (Pennsylvanians of any age and ability can borrow AT devices, at no cost, to try at work, school, home or in their neighborhoods); Acquisition, Training, Technical Assistance and Public Awareness Activities. Please contact the ATRC if you would like more information on any of these services.

### iCanConnect

The ATRC at UCP of NEPA recently became part of the outreach activities for iCanConnect, the National Deaf-Blind Equipment Distribution Program (NDBEDP). The ATRC has begun conducting outreach events to increase awareness of this program. The NDBEDP will ensure that low-income individuals who have combined hearing and vision loss can access telephone, advanced communications and information services. This program was mandated by the Twenty-First Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act of 2010 (CVAA), which authorizes the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to provide funding for local programs to distribute equipment to low income individuals who are deaf-blind or have hearing loss and vision loss.



### TDDP

The Telecommunication Device Distribution Program provides specialized equipment free of charge, to eligible Pennsylvanians who have disabilities which impede their independent access to telephone services. This includes people who are deaf, hard of hearing, speech impaired, blind or have visual problems, or have physical or intellectual disabilities. Created through PA Act 34-1995, the TDDP is implemented by PIAT, Pennsylvania's Initiative on Assistive Technology, a program of the Institute on Disabilities at Temple University, in conjunction with the PA Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) and the PA Public Utility Commission (PUC). Pictured at left is the Fortissimo, an amplified speaker phone which can be used with a wireless switch/pendant for people who have difficulty dialing. Contact the ATRC at UCP of NEPA for a demonstration of this or any of the other phones offered through the TDDP.

## **United Cerebral Palsy of Northeastern Pennsylvania Board of Directors**

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## **Connect with UCP of NEPA!**

- ◆ "Like" us on Facebook - we're United Cerebral Palsy of NEPA.
- ◆ Become a Fan on United Way's "Get Connected" Page - [http:// uwlc.galaxydigital.com](http://uwlc.galaxydigital.com), sign up, then click the Agency tab, find UCP and click "Become a Fan."

## Special Contributions

*Received November 1, 2012 - April 30, 2013*

UCP of Northeastern Pennsylvania gratefully accepts contributions of any amount made in honor of a special occasion or in memory of a loved one. We send an acknowledgment to the donor and to the person being honored or the family of the individual being memorialized. If you would like more information, contact us at 570-347-3357 or [ucpnepa@epix.net](mailto:ucpnepa@epix.net).

*In Memory of Lucille Ruggeri*

Doris Lindsley

*In Memory of Margaret Thomas Ferri*

The LaSorsa Family

*In Memory of Lucille S. Kesslre Plotkin*

The Ronald Krafjack Family

*In Memory of Natalie Quidi Vitali*

The Ronald Krafjack Family

*In Memory of Mary Savage*

Francis, Nancy & Regina Savage and Family

*In Memory of Richard Brennan*

Francis, Nancy and Regina Savage

*In Memory of Mary Savage*

Marie J. Savage Leach

*In Memory of Edward J. Thomas Jr.*

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Doris Lindsley

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*In Memory of James L. Astolfi*

The Ronald Krafjack Family

*In Memory of James L. Astolfi*

Susie Rothwell

*In Honor of Deirdre Spelman*

Jane Strobino

*In Honor of John Veneski*

Janet Hunt

## General & Membership Contributions

*Received November 1, 2012 - April 30, 2013*

*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*

ASSOCIATES

William & Mary Jean Lynett

Prudential Asset Management

*Designated for Lekotek*

FRIEND

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Rose Gesell

DONOR

Janet Dobson

SUPPORTERS

Judith Golden

Jane Strobino

Mary Hart

Dominick A. Cruciani Jr.

### 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

United Cerebral Palsy of Northeastern Pennsylvania  
425 Wyoming Avenue  
Scranton, PA 18503-1227

Phone: 570-347-3357

Toll free: 1-877-UCP-TECH

Email: [ucpnepa@epix.net](mailto:ucpnepa@epix.net)

TTY: 570-347-3117

Fax: 570-341-5308

Website: [www.ucpnepa.org](http://www.ucpnepa.org)

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for the staff, volunteers and friends of the 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.

Mark Bennett., *President*

Sarah A. Drob, *Executive Director*

Member of – United Cerebral Palsy Association, Inc. • United Cerebral Palsy of Pennsylvania  
Pennsylvania Association of Resources: Autism - Intellectual Disabilities • the National Lekotek Center

Licensed by the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare

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the Wayne County Office of Behavioral & Developmental Programs and Early Intervention • the Human Services Development Fund of Lackawanna County  
the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation • the United Way of Lackawanna & Wayne Counties • the Wyoming County United Way  
the Pennsylvania Elks State Association • Pennsylvania's Initiative on Assistive Technology (PIAT) • the Scranton Area Foundation

*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

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Scranton, PA

United Cerebral Palsy of Northeastern Pennsylvania  
425 Wyoming Avenue  
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