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.

**ATRC’s: Getting Technology to the People**

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**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.
- **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.

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*continued on page 2*
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.

ATRC’s (continued from page 1)
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.

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

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.
Evening of Treasure

UCP’s spring fund-raiser, Evening of Treasure was held on Sunday, June 3rd 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.

PRIZE DONORS
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Penn Security Bank & Trust
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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

See additional event photos online at www.ucpnepa.com
Golf Tournament a Success

UCP’s annual Golf Tournament at Stone Hedge Golf Course in Tunkhannock was held on July 21st. Now in its 2nd 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
Mattress Man Sleep Centers
Art McHale Heating & A.C.
Price Chopper Supermarkets
Magnotta Construction
Maco Enterprises

Additional sponsors and a few more photos are featured on our website: www.ucpnepa.com

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 Krafjack 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 Krafjack 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 Krafjack 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.

### 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

### 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Donor Levels</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$2,500 – Benefactor</td>
<td>Joseph &amp; Debra LaSala</td>
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<td>$1,000 – $2,499 – Partner</td>
<td>Charles R. Dees, Jr.</td>
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<tr>
<td>$500.00 – $999.00 – Associate</td>
<td>Eleanore K. Huddy</td>
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<td>$250.00 – $499.00 – Friend</td>
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<td>$100.00 – $249.00 – Patron</td>
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<tr>
<td>$50.00 – $99.00 – Donor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Up to $49.00 – Supporter</td>
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### FRIENDS
- Mr. Stephen K. Fellows

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- Dr. Mark Kandel
- Mrs. Theo Lumia
- Ms. Marilyn Vitali
- Dr. & Mrs. Richard Weinberger

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- Mrs. Violet R. Kelly
- Mrs. Linda Schuller
- Mrs. Grace Griggs
- Mrs. Jean Mecca
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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for the staff, volunteers and friends of this agency.
Barbara Siarkievicz, 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