Assistive Technology Recycling Programs

Assistive technology can make the world accessible to those with disabilities. One thing that can make assistive technology inaccessible is the cost. Some items such as voice output computers and adaptations for homes or vehicles can cost thousands of dollars. Compounding this problem is the fact that the individuals who need these devices typically have lower incomes and may not be able to afford even the co-pay from medical assistance or insurance.

To help remedy this, Pennsylvania's initiative on Assistive Technology (PIAT) supports several programs that may be a source for "previously-owned" devices which can be significantly cheaper than buying new. Frequently, individuals can even find equipment that has been donated and is therefore available to them at no cost.

PIAT's Recycled and Exchange Equipment Partnership (REEP) consists of several programs that accept donations of equipment, clean and repair them as needed, and furnish them to people in need. Into New Hands and Changing Hands both accept and refurbish a variety of items for reuse. Into New Hands is maintained by the Three Rivers Center for Independent Living in Pittsburgh and Changing Hands by UCP of North Central Pennsylvania, located in Camp Hill.

Liberty Wheels, located in Philadelphia, refurbishes and loans mobility devices such as wheelchairs and walkers. While their location might make it more convenient for a consumer to start with a particular facility, each of these programs serves all Pennsylvanians.

In addition to the above programs, the "REEP Classifieds," is a free statewide service for people with disabilities, their families, friends, service providers, and other interested individuals who want to find, buy, sell, or donate previously owned assistive technology. This online listing of devices is searchable by item, location and cost and is constantly updated.

Also online, ATMatch.com is an auction site for the sale of new or used AT devices, as well as a

(continued on page 4)

In Memoriam

William F. Lindsley, a longtime friend of UCP of NEPA, passed away on May 22nd. Bill grew up in Binghamton, NY and graduated from Broome Community College. He earned a degree in business education from Central Connecticut University and master's degrees in special education and educational administration from Lehigh University. He was a special education teacher for the NEIU for 25 years. He and his wife Doris were married for nearly 44 years.

Bill was a member of UCP's Board of Directors from 1981 to 1997, serving as vice-president and as treasurer as well as on numerous committees during his tenure. He and Doris remained loyal supporters of UCP in the years since he retired from the Board. They donated the grand prize for UCP's Evening of Treasure fund-raiser, a week at their condo on Hilton Head, every year since the event's inception, and they both volunteered at agency events.

UCP was named a recipient of contributions in Bill's memory. A list of contributors appears on page 5.

We express our sympathy to his family and our thanks for their continued support of the agency.
**55th Annual Meeting Held**

United Cerebral Palsy of Northeastern Pennsylvania celebrated 55 years of service to the community at the agency’s Annual Meeting on Tuesday, June 24th at the Melting Pot in Scranton. Officers for the 2008-2009 term are: John M. Darcy, President; Linda Cable, Vice-President; Edward Karpovich, Treasurer; and Marilyn Vitali, Secretary. Outgoing President Robert Schwartz was presented with a plaque in recognition of his term of service.

The congregation of Trinity Lutheran Church in Clarks Summit was honored for the many ways they have supported the agency over the years. Members of the church sponsor numerous children in the agency’s Angel Tree project each Holiday season and they also support a number of activities of the Lekotek program. The Church’s Youth Group also volunteers at UCP’s annual Holiday Gift Wrap.

The Staff Appreciation Dinner was held in conjunction with the Annual Meeting. Staff members recognized for their years of service were: Ann Pusateri for 30 years; Becky Gryczko for 25 years; Kathryn Fountain and Sally McCullon, both for 20 years; Ruta Labutis and Kathleen Quinn, for 15 years; Karen Kane for 10 years; and Christa Donati and Oscar Sierra, both for 5 years.

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**Executive Director’s Message**

Hello Everyone,

For many of us volunteering is a way to “give back” to our community. The individuals who attend our Adult Day Program feel the same. Over the past year the consumers, their families and our staff have embraced the idea of “giving back”. They collected and delivered food to Schaeffer’s Retreat in Carbondale. They designed, purchased the materials and made lap blankets for the residents of the Gino Merli Veterans’ Center. For weeks they collected items including cleaning supplies, cat and dog food, bird treats, blankets and newspapers for the animals at the Genesis Wildlife Sanctuary at Nay Aug. The Humane Society of Lackawanna County was a beneficiary of the kindness of the consumers of our Adult Day Program when they received the homemade dog biscuits made especially for the animals waiting to be adopted.

UCP is grateful to be one of the organizations that have benefited from the generosity and creativity of everyone involved in the Adult Day Program. The picnic and home spa baskets donated by the Adult Day Program for our spring basket raffle fundraiser were two of the most popular baskets!

As the members of our Adult Day Program have demonstrated, giving back to your community really makes a difference. I’d like to take this opportunity to thank you for supporting UCP of NE PA and the individuals and family we serve. On behalf of everyone here at UCP we hope you have a Happy Thanksgiving and a wonderful holiday season.

Best Wishes

Sarah A. Drob
Golf Tournament at Stone Hedge
The summer humidity didn't dampen the spirits of the 88 golfers who participated in the 3rd annual UCP Benefit Golf Tournament held at Stone Hedge Golf Course in Tunkhannock on Friday, July 18th. No one was able to claim the hole-in-one prize of a two-year lease on a Toyota Camry offered by Toyota/Scion of Scranton. The winning foursome of Jerry Gallagher, Jim Gallagher, Dave DeCantis and Kevin Rossi received commemorative glasses engraved and donated by Ross Jewelers. We also thank the other major sponsors of the tournament; Durabilt Fence Company, Jay's Lounge, MACO Enterprises, Mattress Man Sleep Centers, Art McHale Heating & Air Conditioning, and Price Chopper Supermarkets. Special thanks to volunteers Bridget Wheeler, Dorothy Nichols, Linda McHugh, Shane Drapak, Steven Warner and UCP Executive Director Sarah Drob who helped UCP's Director of Operations Tim McHugh organize the event.

Bonanza of Baskets Raffle
UCP's spring fund-raiser, Bonanza of Baskets, was a success with 52 baskets being raffled. With the help of staff, board and consumers, we sold tickets at Boscov's in the Mall at Steamtown the weekend of Mother's Day. We appreciate Boscov's help and the support of the many individuals and businesses who put together and donated baskets. The many donors are listed below and a complete list of baskets, donors and winners appears on our website, www.ucpnepa.com.

Scranton YMCA
Allied Services
Altier Jewelers
NE Occupational Medicine Staff
Comfort Inn & Suites
HarperCollins Publishers
Penn State University
Scranton/Wilkes-Barre Yankees
Penn Security Bank
Secret Garden Designs
Marriott Hotel
Dorney Park/Wildwater Kingdom
Camel Beach
Sno Mountain
Mohegan Sun
Woodloch Pines
The Stourbridge Line
AAA of NEPA
Bednash Petroleum
Candy Bouquet
The Advocacy Alliance
Cooper's Seafood House
Hazzouri Dental
Scranton St. School for the Deaf
St. Joseph's Center
Friendship House
WNEP-TV
Texas Roadhouse
Gertrude Hawk Chocolates
South Side Floral
Cinemark
Applebee's Neighborhood Grill
Stirn's Restaurant & Bar
Mendicino's Family Restaurant
Perkins Family Restaurants
Pietro's Restaurant
Price Chopper
Windsor Inn
Nolan & Rogers
Norton Books
Tony Cardell
UCP Adult Program
Bonnie Maciak
Louise Krafjack
Nancie Frick
Ann Harrington
Mary Ann Balko
Sharon McArdle
Tara Becchetti
The Drob Family
The Abington Lions
The Himchak Family
Tim & Linda McHugh
Tess & Carl Bauer
Bridget and Erin Irwin
New Assistive Technology Lending Program Helps College Students with Disabilities

College students with disabilities who attend Pennsylvania’s post-secondary schools can now borrow assistive technology including vision aids, assistive listening devices, note taking devices, “speech to text” software, and “talking” scientific calculators. The Higher Education Assistive Technology Lending Program (HEAT), a program of the Institute on Disabilities at Temple University, is an enhancement to Pennsylvania’s Assistive Technology Lending Library, a short term AT device loan program that enables Pennsylvanians with disabilities the chance to “try before you buy.”

The HEAT program, funded by a grant from the PA Department of Education, enables students in post-secondary programs – colleges, universities and vocational training schools – to borrow the equipment they need for up to one semester (16 weeks). Any part-time or full-time student who attends a post-secondary program in Pennsylvania and has a disability that requires AT to meet academic demands is eligible for the program. The student must be enrolled with the office that serves students with disabilities at their school and that office is responsible for providing continued access to the device should the student need it for more than one semester.

A complete list of devices can be viewed on the program’s web page: http://disabilities.temple.edu/atlend.

United Cerebral Palsy of Northeastern Pennsylvania

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General & Membership Contributions

Received February 1 - August 31, 2008. If we have omitted or misspelled your name, or if you would prefer not to be listed, please contact us at 347-3357. Any corrections will be made in the next issue.

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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**Memorial Contributions**  
*Received February 1, - August 31, 2008*

- In Memory of Michael J. Bryant  
  Jay & Emily Montgomery  
  Kent L. Brown, Jr.  
  R. Zachary & Katherine Bryant

- In Memory of Eugene P. Zambor  
  The Ronald Krafjack Family

- In Memory of Victor F. Gust  
  The Ronald Krafjack Family

- In Memory of Vito Gust  
  Mario Genovese

- In Memory of Merial V. Simoncelli  
  The Ronald Krafjack Family

- In Memory of Merial V. Simoncelli  
  Bill & Doris Lindsley

- In Memory of Michael J. Bryant  
  Kelly Price

- In Memory of Michael J. Bryant  
  Mo Sacco

- In Memory of Clara, Emmett, John and Joseph Caterina  
  Thomas & Nancy Rocereto

- In Memory of Frank DeSanto  
  Doris Lindsley

- In Memory of Evelyn A. Lindow  
  Stanley K. Lindow

- In Memory of Gerald Carney  
  Nancy Savage & Family

- In Memory of Kathryn Gilhooley  
  Frank, Francis, Nancy & Regina Savage

- In Memory of Mary Hayden  
  Nancy Savage

- In Memory of Robert Rickover  
  The Ronald Krafjack Family

- In Honor of her wedding  
  Melissa Kzenovitz

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The following have made contributions in memory of Bill Lindsley. Our thanks to Bill’s wife Doris for designating UCP a recipient of donations in his memory.

- Peggy & Linda Bittenbender  
  Larry & Rita Davis  
  Irene Dickinson  
  Mr. & Mrs. Carmen Gigliotti  
  Barbara Green  
  Mark & Michele McDade  
  Joe & Lynn Otto-Nardelli  
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  Bill & June Mohan  
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- Newton-Ransom School Staff

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  John & Barbara Pittman  
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  Carmella M. Guzzi  
  Chester & Carolyn Harhut  
  M. Lucille Lindsley

- Jack & Roseann Shaughnessy  
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  Joanne Arcangelo  
  Joe & Maria Greenspan  
  Jeff & Tina Greenspan  
  Leo & Ann Moskowitz  
  John & Nancy Nyce

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**Contributions to the Susan D. Keller Memorial Fund**

*From William and Diane Keller*

*From Ralph W. & Frieda K. Robertson*

*In Memory of:*

- Eleanor Melisky  
  William Fregmon

- Leonard Lavelle  
  Marge Jones

- Adaline Pilger  
  Anna Schumacher

- David Samuel  
  Anthony Wolfe

*From Ralph W. & Frieda K. Robertson*

*In Honor of the 60th Wedding Anniversary of Mr. & Mrs. Paul L. Schroeder*

*From the D.L. Club*

*In Memory of Lois Shorten Davies*
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 the agency,
Barbara Stankiewicz, 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.

John M. Darcy, President
Sarah A. Droh, 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

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the United Way of Lackawanna County • the United Way of Wayne County
the Pennsylvania Elks State Association • Pennsylvania’s Initiative on Assistive Technology (FIAT)

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, 1-800-732-9999. Registration does not imply endorsement.