



United
Cerebral
Palsy of Northeastern Pennsylvania

NEWS

Life without limits for people with disabilities

Fall/Winter 2008

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 Exchanged 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

November is Assistive Technology Awareness Month

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 Gable, 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.



Staff members and independent contractors honored for their years of service at UCP's Annual Meeting & Staff Appreciation Dinner included: (standing) Sally McCullon and Kathryn Fountain, both recognized for 20 years; along with Executive Director Sarah Drob, Board President John Darcy and Vice-President Linda Gable.

Seated: Ann Pusateri, 30 years; Becky Gryczko, 25 years; and Ruta Labutis and Kathleen Quinn, both for 15 years.

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.



Members of Trinity Lutheran Church along with representatives of UCP gather at the agency's Annual Meeting.

Standing: Outgoing UCP Board President Robert Schwartz, and Trinity Congregation members Suzanne Bolig, Heather and Robert Kline, Billy and Joey Hamersly.

Seated: Trinity members Larry A. and Betty Wood, UCP Executive Director Sarah Drob, Carole Hamersly and newly installed UCP Board President John M. Darcy.

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



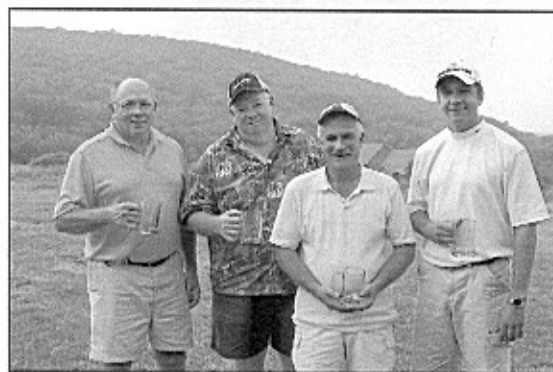
Scott Kaminski helps deliver supplies to Genesis Wildlife Center, just one of several volunteer projects the Adult Program has done recently.

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.



The winning foursome at UCP's Golf Tournament, from left; Jerry Gallagher, Jim Gallagher, Dave DeCantis and Kevin Rossi.

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
Stirna's Restaurant & Bar
Mendicino's Family Restaurant
Perkins Family Restaurants
Pietro's Restaurant
Price Chopper
Windsor Inn

UCP's Gift Wrap

is coming to

the Viewmont Mall

Friday, November 28th

thru Christmas Eve



To volunteer,

contact us

at 347-3357

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

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AT Recycling Programs

(continued from page 1)

place to learn about Pennsylvania vendors of new AT. For those who don't have internet access, PIAT's Assistive Technology Resource Centers, one of which is here at UCP of Northeastern Pennsylvania, can help post and search the listings. The ATRC at UCP also has its own inventory of previously owned assistive technology, Pass AT On, which accepts donations of items no longer needed by individuals and provides them to those who need them. The ATRC at UCP can also help individuals access other PIAT programs as well as other assistive technology services.

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

Board of Directors

Officers

John M. Darcy, *President*
Linda B. Gable, *Vice-President*
Edward Karpovich, *Treasurer*
Marilyn Vitali, *Secretary*
Robert Schwartz,
Immediate Past President

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Ralph Heller
Paul A. Kelly, Jr., Esq.
Louise Krafjack
Mary Jean Lynett
Barbara D. Noto
Barbara Wagner

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

Patrons

Mrs. Annabelle T. Rogers
Ms. Marilyn A. Vitali-Flynn

Donors

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Mr. Michael DeVergilius
Mr. Edward J. Jones
Mr. & Mrs. William A. Lees
Mr. Saul M. Levy

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Ms. Anna Staruch
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Mr. & Mrs. Michael Ricciardi
Mrs. Marian Gallagher

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. Guast
The Ronald Krafjack Family

In Memory of Vito Guast
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 Sacoer

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

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
Marilyn Garbarino
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Mr. & Mrs. Mark D. Lindsley
Dale & Mary Ann Malecki
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Nichols
& Family
Mark & Karen Slater
Wayne & Marianne Williams
Tom & Sharon McArdle
Garbarino Associates, Inc.
Elvin & Esther LaCoe
Jerry Lombardi
Michael & Phyllis Weinberg
Mr. & Mrs. Stephen K. Fellows
Joanne Arcangelo
Joe & Maria Greenspan
Jeff & Tina Greenspan
Leo & Ann Moskovitz
John & Nancy Nyce

Contributions to the Susan D. Keller Memorial Fund

From William and Diane Keller

From Ralph W. & Frieda K. Robertson

In Memory of:

Eleanor Melisky
Leonard Lavelle
Adaline Pilger
David Samuel

William Pregmon
Marge Jones
Anna Schumacher
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

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

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

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

Website: www.ucpnepa.com

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

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

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

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Organization
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Scranton, PA