



United
Cerebral
Palsy of Northeastern Pennsylvania

NEWS

Life without limits for people with disabilities

Spring 2009

How Can We Help You?

As is the case for many offices, when you call UCP of Northeastern PA, our standard greeting includes "can I help you?" UCP provides direct help to people with disabilities and their families. Our services for children include the early intervention program, in which agency staff provide therapy and educational activities designed to build upon the natural learning that occurs during the first few years of a child's life. The Lekotek and Compuplay programs utilize specially adapted toys and computer games and activities, respectively, to enhance the child's development. The center-based Adult Day program provides educational activities, skills training, and

vocational and recreational opportunities designed to help adults with developmental disabilities attain their goals. Work Connections, our supported employment program, helps them obtain and succeed at employment in the community workforce. Residential Services consist of seven Community Living Arrangements which provide full-time support for several adults living in each house, and the Supported Independent Living program which provides part-time assistance for those living in their own apartments. The Home Services program provides information, advocacy and referral services to children and adults with disabilities as well as their

families to help them address various issues and problems. The Assistive Technology Resource Center provides information, referral and assistance for children and adults with disabilities who need assistive devices in order to attend school, work, participate in the community or live independently. If any of our services can help you or someone you know, please don't hesitate to contact us.

There are other ways that this affiliate and our national office try to be of assistance to those with disabilities. In addition to information about our own services, our website at www.ucpnepa.com has a resource page with links to other organizations and government services that may help individuals and families deal with problems, find appropriate services, or advocate for themselves. Especially in the realm of advocacy, our national office's website located at www.ucp.org provides assistance for individuals with disabilities and those who work with them, as well as ways for the community to get involved in the discussion. Among the web-based

UCP's annual Golf Tournament



Friday, July 17th at
Stone Hedge Golf Course

1:00pm shotgun start -- \$95.00 per golfer

If you are interested in sponsoring a hole or need any other information, please contact Tim McHugh at 570-347-3357.

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Can We Help? *(cont'd)*

initiatives that offer help are DontBlockMyVote.org and MyChildWithoutLimits.org. Launched in 2004 to register new voters and raise awareness about polling place accessibility, Don't Block My Vote has expanded its role to include getting issues of importance to those with disabilities attention during political campaigns. The site includes an online voter registration tool, links to file complaints about accessibility and eligibility problems, and a blog to share experiences, ideas and information. My Child Without Limits is both a source of information and an online community forum for parents of children with special needs. The site includes a developmental milestones chart, information on various disabilities as well as treatments and therapies for specific conditions, and a national resource locator to help parents find service providers, community organizations and government agencies in their geographic area. The community platform on the site enables parents to share ideas and experiences, ask questions and offer support to others as peers. The national UCP has joined forces with the Arc of the United States to form the Disability Policy Collaboration (DPC). The DPC works with our national leaders on issues including the ADA, education, housing, and Social Security, making sure the needs and interests of persons with disabilities are part of the equation.

UCP is planning our spring raffle "BONANZA OF BASKETS"

We will be selling raffle tickets at

***Boscov's in the Steamtown Mall
Friday, May 8th and Saturday, May 9th***

***and in the Viewmont Mall
Saturday, May 16th and Sunday, May 17th***

We are seeking donations of baskets or items we can combine to create a basket. If you would like to help, please contact us at 347-3357 or ucpnepa@epix.net.

On the Public Policy page at www.ucp.org, there are links to help individuals get better informed and more involved in the process.

Can You Help Us?

You can help us, too. Your input on the blogs and forums and involvement advocating for the policy issues that will enhance the opportunity for people with disabilities to participate in the community will make a difference.

Our services help individuals with disabilities, the community including those with disabilities can help point our efforts in the right direction, and in the end society can benefit from the participation of *all* of its citizens.

United Cerebral Palsy of Northeastern Pennsylvania

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New Ways to Communicate!

Pennsylvania's Telecommunication Device Distribution Program (TDDP) provides specialized equipment, free, to eligible Pennsylvanians who have disabilities which impede 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.



Recently added to the TDDP inventory is the Clarity XL-50, a phone that amplifies up to 60 dB and has an adjustable ringer up to 95dB. Tone can be adjusted as needed, with four settings. Features: 11 memory buttons, a bright ring flasher. It is hearing aid compatible. Optional bed shaker and wireless lamp flasher are also available with this phone.

The Krown vTouch Braille TTY enables individuals who are Deaf/Blind to communicate on the phone. It has a 20 cell 8 dot refreshable Braille display. Users can choose between using the full QWERTY keyboard or using the home row keys and spacebar as a Braille keyboard. This may benefit individuals who are deaf and blind.



The DynaWrite is a keyboard-based text-to-speech communication device with synthesized speech. It has a variety of selection methods and scanning configurations. The PhoneIT accessory is required to connect the DynaWrite to a telephone line. This equipment may benefit individuals who may not be able to speak clearly using their voice or who have lost their voice.

The Assistive Technology Resource Center at UCP is the point of contact for the TDDP in Lackawanna, Susquehanna, Wayne, Wyoming, Pike and Bradford counties. The ATRC at UCP can provide information and assistance in applying for services and has some of the equipment on the TDDP list available for demonstration.

Executive Director's Message

Happy Spring! As I write this, it is 60 degrees outside. The sun is shining and the crocuses are blooming. I'm sure that while you are reading this we've had one of our famous "nor-easters" and there is snow everywhere! Whatever is happening with the weather where you are, I hope that you enjoy this edition of our newsletter. As always, there is a lot happening at UCP. Our basket raffle is coming up in May and June and we have received some fabulous donations. Planning is under-way for our annual golf tournament to be held in July.

July 1, 2009 is an important date for all of the organizations that provide services to individuals with mental retardation and their families in Pennsylvania.

Historically, providers of service have been paid through the county MH/MR programs. Starting July 1, 2009 we will be billing and receiving payment for these services directly through the PA State Treasury. Although this new system may appear to sound simple, a tremendous amount of work has been done to ensure that we are ready for this change. I would like to take this oppor-

tunity to congratulate all of the staff of UCP who have worked on this project. The nuts and bolts background work is not always glamorous, but it is essential to the successful operation of UCP. I am grateful to all of our staff for the work they do to benefit the consumers and families that rely on UCP of Northeastern PA.

I hope that you enjoy this spring and summer. Remember to buy your basket raffle tickets! You don't want to miss your chance to win some great prizes!

Take care,
Sarah A. Drob

Holiday Happenings

2008 Gift Wrap

UCP's annual Gift Wrap benefit, held at the Viewmont Mall from Friday, November 28th through Christmas Eve, raised \$7,300 to help support our programs and services.

We wish to extend our thanks to the Viewmont Mall for hosting us each year and of course our many volunteers without whom this event would not be possible.

Community groups who were involved included:

Members of Alpha Iota Sorority

Carbondale Area High School Student Council

The Gilgallon Family

Girl Scout Troop #281

Immaculate Conception Church Confirmation Class

Students from Lackawanna College

North Pocono High School FBLA

Scranton Prep High School National Honor Society

Students from Scranton High School

United Presbyterian Church

Employees from Bank of America

Teachers from Fell Charter School

Girl Scout Troop #60

Hickory Street Presbyterian Church

Kiwanis Club of Scranton

Mid-Valley High School Leo Club

Employees of Prudential Retirement Service

Trinity Lutheran Church Youth Group

Staff and consumers from UCP

Volunteers in Paupack

Residential Program Holiday Party



Consumers from all of UCP's Community Living Arrangements and Supported Independent Living Program got together for a Holiday celebration this past December.

Among those in attendance were (clockwise from top) Janet Austin, Loretta Ubaldini, Donald Butler and Kathleen Beilman.

Enjoying the festivities are (from left) Sherry Hall, Ralph DeRubertis, Joe Maciejewski, Carrie Rafter and Sharon Fox.



Angel Tree Project

Our Angel Tree project, which assists families whose children are served by the programs of UCP, provided Holiday gifts to 230 children in 2008.

We are grateful to the groups who participate in this project, namely:

Employees of
General Dynamics Corp

*

Moses Taylor Hospital
Obstetrics Department

*

The Congregation of
Trinity Lutheran Church

*

Staff of UCP

If your company or organization would like to become a part of this effort, please contact us at 347-3357.

Special Contributions

Received September 1, 2008 - February 28, 2009

In Memory of Richard Crazier
Mrs. Anthony Cammarota

In Memory of Arthur Faraday, Jr.
The Ronald Krafjack Family

In Memory of William F. Lindsley
Carl and Barb Sampson

In Memory of Anna Savage
Frank, Francis, Nancy &
Regina Savage

In Memory of Tracy Geise
Friends of the Sabinsville
Fireman's Ambulance Assn.

In Memory of Anna Savage
Marie J. Savage Leach

In Memory of Anna Savage
Virginia E. Selfridge

In Memory of Mrs. Frances Slater
Doris Lindsley

In Memory of Mrs. Frances Slater
Sara Morris

In Memory of Bernard Malinowski
Robert Malinowski

In Memory of Mark Nichols
Doris Lindsley

In Memory of Gene Marmo
Doris Lindsley

In Memory of Nancy Gillott
Frank, Francis, Nancy &
Regina Savage

From Eleanor F. Perna
In honor of her grandson,
Brett March

Contributions to the Susan D. Keller Memorial Fund

From
Ralph W. & Frieda K Robertson
In Memory of
Mary Maier
Ruth Naylor Shaffer
Bess Rundle Heim
Ruth Weber Fetzer

From
Kenneth C. Dixon, Sr.

From
Melodee S. Dixon
In honor of the
60th Wedding Anniversary of
Ralph W. & Frieda K Robertson
and
In honor of the 1st Birthday of
Ashley M. Dixon

PepsiCo of Purchase, NY Makes Donations

Through the efforts of Dawn Demm, a relative of a child in our Lekotek program, PepsiCo Inc., located in Purchase, New York, has made several contributions to the Lekotek program. Last fall, the company donated a digital camcorder for the program's use. The company also donated other items which were given out as prizes at the program's annual Holiday Party. These included 2 Xbox 360's, an IJuke station for MP3 player, 10 remote control vehicles and 12 cranberry splash blankets. We appreciate Pepsi's generosity and Dawn's efforts.

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. 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

Associate
Wesel Foundation

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Prudential Financial
Mr. Stephen K. Fellows
Man, Levy & Nogi Insurance

Patrons
Mrs. Rose Marie Gesell
Frank & Jean Hughes
Mrs. Theo Lumia

Ms. Marilyn A. Vitali-Flynn
Dr. Richard L. Weinberger

Donors
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Eckersley & Ostrowski
Alex & Marie Romanski

Supporters
Ms. Rose M. Kennedy
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Mr. Andrew Maslar, Jr.
Ms. Joann Scott
Mr. Roland Borgacci
Ms. Judith Golden
Mr. James J. Davis
Ms. Janet M. Orlosky
Mrs. Betty Rowlands
Mrs. Rita M. Rosar
Ziman Funeral Home

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.



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.

United Cerebral Palsy of Northeastern Pennsylvania
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