Honoring the Past & Building for the Future

60th 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 28th. 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.

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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.

Executive Director’s Message

Dear Friends of UCP of NE PA:

We are celebrating!!! 2013 marks UCP of NE PA’s 60th 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 60th anniversary.

Milestones, such as our 60th 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 60th 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 3rd 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.

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**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 5th after a weekend of ticket sales there and at the Viewmont Mall on April 20th and 21st. 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 Kraffjack Family  
The Leo Family  
Linda, Lorraine & Connie  
Sharon McArdle  
Sally McCullon  
Tim and Linda McHugh  
Tracy Meredick  
Deirdre Spelman

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

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

*Board members Tony Cardell and Louise Kraffjack helping out at the Bonanza of Baskets Raffle drawing.*
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 Klen, Trinity’s Director of Church Ministries, and Jake Horeis.
Annual Holiday Party for Lekotek

Our Annual Lekotek Holiday Party was held on Saturday, December 1st, 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
Knely 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

To see more party pictures go to our website: 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.

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**United Cerebral Palsy of Northeastern Pennsylvania**

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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, 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.

In Memory of Lucille Ruggeri
Doris Lindsley
In Memory of Margaret Thomas Ferri
The LaSorsa Family
In Memory of Lucille S. Kessle Plotkin
The Ronald Krafjack Family
In Memory of Natalie Qudi Vitali
The Ronald Krafjack Family
In Memory of Mary Savage
Francis, Nancy & Regina Savage and Family
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In Honor of Deidre 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

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Designated for Lekotek
FRIEND
Wesel Foundation
PATRON
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
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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 Lackawanna - Susquehanna Behavioral Health-Intellectual Disabilities-Early Intervention Program
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.