For children who have, or are at risk for, a developmental delay, early intervention helps them to reach developmental milestones. For the family of a child with special needs, the services may be more nuanced, but just as vital. Early intervention services provided by UCP of Northeastern Pennsylvania for children with special needs may involve age appropriate educational activities, sensory motor activities, physical, speech and/or occupational therapy. These services are community based, that is, provided in the child’s day care or preschool if they attend one, or at home if they do not. This gives the parents an opportunity for increased interaction with the staff and involvement in their child’s developmental plan.

For Jorja and John Stugus, parents of four children, the two youngest of whom were born premature, participation in UCP of Northeastern Pennsylvania’s Early Intervention and Lekotek programs has already reaped benefits. Low birth weight is a common factor in the occurrence of a developmental delay. The couple’s youngest, Olivia, was born at 26 weeks gestation and weighed just 1 lb. 13 oz. Son Aiden was born at 31 weeks weighing 3 lbs. 13 oz. Both children were hospitalized for several months at birth and each was referred for early intervention services at about six months of age.

Olivia has been receiving physical therapy and special needs instruction from UCP staff. Now at just over one year old, she is beginning to walk, imitates actions and sounds, and loves to give kisses and perform “so big” for family and friends. Aiden is now 2 1/2 and loves tractors, being outside and building with blocks. He continues to receive special needs instruction as well as speech and occupational therapy. The fact that early intervention staff come to the house not only makes sessions more comfortable for the children and allows for their therapy and educational activities to be incorporated into their daily routines, but also enables Jorja, John, and their other children McKenna, 5, and Taylor, 14, to participate if they choose.

Olivia and Aiden are also involved in UCP’s Lekotek program, attending a session at the Clarks Summit Children’s Center once a month. Lekotek is a family resource center that uses play strategies with typical and specially adapted toys to work on each child’s developmental goals. Play is a natural way for children to learn and families to interact and since McKenna enjoys going to the Lekotek as well, Jorja makes sure to get a morning appointment since McKenna attends afternoon kindergarten.

Aiden (left) and Olivia Stugus play at a recent Lekotek session.
United Cerebral Palsy of Northeastern Pennsylvania held its 58th Annual Meeting on Thursday, June 23rd at the Melting Pot in Scranton. Board officers for the coming year are: Dan Ginsberg, Ph.D., President; Ed Karpovich, Treasurer; and Marilyn Vitali, Secretary.
Linda Gable was recognized for her service as president for the past two years.
Mark Bennett was elected as a new board member, and Marilyn Vitali was installed as a Life Member. Barbara Wagner was recognized for her service as an outgoing member. Agency bylaws stipulate that non-life members must rotate off the board for at least one year after serving three 3-year terms.
As has been the practice, the Annual Meeting was combined with the Staff Appreciation Dinner. Recognitions were given to the following staff members: Tom Brunton for five years; Marian Goldstein-Beckhorn, Janet Burton, Theresa Butler, Executive Director Sarah Drob, Ken Keib, Jennifer Malak, and Tony Rosario, all for ten years; Ray Labutis, Tom Lord and Mike McAndrew, for 15 years; and Cheryl A. Burger, for 25 years.

See more photos from the dinner at United Cerebral Palsy of NEPA on Facebook!

Come Visit Our New Website!!

UCP of NEPA has a new website. Still at the same address, www.ucpnepa.com, the new site has a whole new look and a number of new features and capabilities. The first thing you may notice is that there are a lot more pictures. The header on each page features photos from our own programs and the site also has the ability to run slide shows and videos. There is also a special page dedicated to the Children’s Center Capital Campaign. We’ll keep you up to date on the progress of the campaign and, once construction gets underway, you’ll be able to see the new center take shape.
We invite you to log on and take a look around. And while you’re there, click on the links to our Facebook and Causes pages and join us on those, too!
Assistive Technology Programs Struggle with Funding Cuts

Each of the programs at UCP of Northeastern Pennsylvania depends on a variety of funding sources to provide services. A portion of the funding for the Assistive Technology Resource Center at UCP is provided by PIAT, Pennsylvania’s Initiative on Assistive Technology. PIAT provides funding and other support for several services provided by the ATRC:

- Demonstrations - “hands on” opportunities to learn about different devices so individuals can make an informed decision about what will work best for them.
- Device loans – individuals can borrow devices from the commonwealth’s AT Lending Library so they can make sure the device works for them in the course of their daily routine before they make a purchase.
- Information & Awareness Activities – information and referral to educate consumers about their choices of AT devices and services as well as exhibits and presentations at various community-based events to educate the public at large.
- Training events – outreach to service providers to increase their knowledge of assistive technology so they can better support the individuals they serve.

PIAT is striving to maintain these services despite decreasing funding in order to fulfill their mission “to enhance the lives of all Pennsylvanians with disabilities, older Pennsylvanians and their families, through access to and acquisition of assistive technology devices and services, which allow for choice, control and independence at home, work, school, play, and in their neighborhoods.”

Many Individuals Still Unaware of TDDP

The Telecommunication Device Distribution Program provides adapted telephones and related equipment to people who have disabilities that impact their ability to access telephone services independently. The program has added a few new devices recently. For information visit www.disabilities.temple.edu/tddp or contact the ATRC at UCP.

Executive Director’s Message

Friends of UCP

Happy Holidays! It is hard to believe that another year has passed and the holiday season is here again. As always, we are celebrating the holidays in style! Our annual wreath sale is underway and of course we will be Gift Wrapping. Christmas without UCP’s Gift Wrap Booth at the Viewmont Mall is inconceivable! UCP of NE PA is also proud to be the recipient of the proceeds from Andy Gavin’s “Flat and Fast” Green Ridge Mile Race. Each year on the Saturday after Thanksgiving Andy Gavin’s Pub & Eatery hosts the race. It is a wonderful community race that brings together family, friends and runners to support UCP of NE PA. We are so grateful for all of the support we receive from you and our community.

As Thanksgiving draws near it provides us with the opportunity to reflect on our continued blessings. The staff and members of the Board of Directors of UCP are grateful for your continued support. We are most thankful for the opportunity to serve the consumers and families of our community. We are thankful for your trust and your continued commitment to ensuring that all members of our community are safe, happy, healthy and active!

On behalf of the consumers, staff and members of the Board of Directors of UCP of NE PA we wish you a happy, healthy and joyous holiday season. We wish you all the best in the New Year.

Enjoy!

Sarah A. Drob
Bonanza of Baskets

The 2011 Bonanza of Baskets Raffle drawing took place on Sunday, May 22nd at the Viewmont Mall after weekend ticket sales there and at Boscov’s over Mother’s Day weekend. A total of 48 baskets were raffled, donated by numerous individuals and businesses in the area. Funds raised are being designated to the Lekotek program which serves children with special needs and their families thru programs at the Clarks Summit and Wayne County Children’s Centers. We thank Boscov’s and the Viewmont Mall and everyone who supported the raffle by purchasing tickets and donating baskets.

Basket & Prize Donors

AAA of North Penn
Boys & Girls Club of NEPA
Caesars Pocono Resorts
Catalano Importing
Comfort Suites at Montage
Deutsch Institute
Dick’s Sporting Goods
Elk Mountain Ski Resort
Gerrity’s Supermarkets
Giant Food Stores
HarperCollins Publishers
Hazzouri Dental
Jewish Community Center
Jewish Family Services of Lackawanna County
Kay’s Italian Restaurant
Medieval Times Dinner & Tournament
Mohegan Sun at Pocono Downs
Nichols Village Hotel & Spa
North Pocono Garden Center
Patsel’s
Penn Security Bank & Trust
Price Chopper
Scranton/Wilkes-Barre Yankees
Sisters of IHM
Split Rock Resort
St. Joseph’s Center
Stirnas Restaurant
Texas Roadhouse
UCP Early Intervention Staff
Wegman’s
Woodloch Pines

Monetary Contributions:

Beichler’s Greenhouse
Earl Beichler
Karen Kane
Ron Rider
John and Mary Ann Balko
Tony Cardell
The Drob Family
Nanci Frick
Linda Gable
Lisa Golden
Karen Himchak
The Krafjack Family
Melissa Krafjack
Bonnie Maciak
Thomas and Sharon McArdle
Tim & Linda McHugh
Carol Miller

John Cavill sells tickets to a customer at the Bonanza of Baskets raffle at Boscov’s.

Michael and Louise Krafjack work the raffle booth at the Viewmont Mall.
2011 Golf Tournament

For the first time in three years, the players at UCP’s benefit Golf Tournament didn’t have to dodge raindrops as they tried to hit drives, avoid the rough, and sink putts. The annual Golf Tournament benefiting UCP was held under warm sunny skies at Stone Hedge Country Club in Tunkhannock on Friday, July 15th.

Proceeds from the tournament are designated this year for the Lekotek/Compuplay program which serves children and teens with special needs and their families.

We want to extend our sincere appreciation to our tournament sponsors:

- Durabilt Fence
  *Paul & Dorothy Nichols*
- First Liberty Bank
- McHale Heating and Air Conditioning
  *Art McHale*
- G.R. Noto Electrical

We also thank the volunteers who helped in a variety of ways during the day; Sarah Drob, Shane Drapek, Linda McHugh, Bridget Wheeler, Ellen Coyne and Paul May.

Thanks also to Board members Bob Schwartz and Ed Karpovich for their support.

**Want to see more photos from the tournament? Visit our website or Facebook page!**

“Fitstock for a Cause” Benefits UCP

The NEPA Fit Club conducted their second annual “Fitstock for a Cause” on Saturday, June 4th at Veterans Memorial Field in Jessup. This year, Fit Club owner Mike Marcinek donated proceeds from the event to United Cerebral Palsy of NEPA in honor of his brother Matt, who has cerebral palsy.

Fitstock is a half-hour workout “boot camp” consisting of a high energy total body workout blending strength training, cardio and flexibility routines. The boot camps, set to music, are the hallmark of NEPA Fit Club’s classes. At Fitstock, live music was provided by the Jonny D band to help keep the participants moving and the spectators entertained.

We would like to thank all of the participants and especially NEPA Fit Club owner Mike Marcinek and his family, for their support of UCP.

**Check out a video from Fitstock! There’s a link on our Facebook page.**
**Thank You’s**

♦ Emily Lane and Desiree Kyle who donated funds raised thru their senior project at Athens High School to UCP of Northeastern Pennsylvania. The girls conducted a Walk-a-Thon which was held at the school’s track on June 26th. They decided to do a Walk-a-Thon since they both plan to major in health studies and fitness and chose UCP because of a friend who has cerebral palsy. They shared responsibility for all aspects of the event including securing permission to use the school’s facilities, publicizing the event and obtaining sponsorships so they could purchase food and prizes for the event. Sponsors were; Tops Market, Wal-Mart, Country Lanes N’Rhodes, The Dandy, Howie’s, Trinidad Tan, Urban Connection Salon and Spa, Nocchi’s, Curves, Jeanine’s Beauty Shop and New Image Gym.

♦ Dr. Nichole Danova at the Veterinary Referral & Emergency Center, who donated tickets for Kids Day at PNC Field for families who receive services thru the Clarks Summit Children’s Center.

♦ The 11th District Pennsylvania American Legion, organizers of the Parade of Champions, which donated tickets for consumers in our Residential Program to attend.

**Donor Acknowledgments**

Received April 1 – September 30, 2011

**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. Linda Frangos  
Mr. & Mrs. William A. Lees  
Mrs. James Rogers  
Ms. Marilyn Vitali

**DONORS**

Mr. & Mrs. George A. Gumble  
Mrs. Barbara D. Noto  
Mrs. Richard Scott

**SUPPORTERS**

Dr. John P. Burlein  
Judge Lumber Company  
Ms. Toni McAndrew  
Mr. Benjamin Cole  
Ms. Linda L. Schuller  
Mr. Roland Borgacci  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert J. Malinowski  
Edward & Helen M. Derenick

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**Family (cont’d from page 1)**

After each monthly session, the family can borrow a few toys to use at home both for playtime and when early intervention staff comes to the house. Lekotek has also provided the opportunity for Jorja to see what toys the kids like to play with and what types of toys might help with their particular developmental needs. The involvement of parents and family in designing and implementing their child’s individualized plan is a cornerstone of UCP’s Children’s Services. Just as the different services work together to help children achieve their goals, so does the family partner with the staff, asking questions, sharing ideas and being active participants in the effort to help their child reach every milestone.

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**UCP Gift Wrap**

**November 25th thru Christmas Eve**

Like to wrap? Contact us to volunteer!  
Don’t like to wrap? Let us do it for you!!
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.

Francis Savage was the father of Regina Savage, who attends our Adult Program, and Craig Polansky was also a consumer in that program. Both families have been very supportive of UCP over the years and we extend our sympathies to them and thank them for designating memorial contributions to us.

In Memory of Francis L. Savage Sr.
- Mary Jane Darrow
- Carolyn Renter
- Charles & Anne Hayden
- Joan W. Savage
- Marsden & Sarah Ulmanec
- Carolyn Saykewicz
- James J. Gillotti
- Marie J. Savage Leach
- Virginia Savage
- Donald R. Hazen
- Elizabeth McCafferty
- Kathryn, Mary & John Moran

In Memory of Dolores DiRienzo
- Doris A. Lindsley

In Memory of Richard Steffan
- Doris A. Lindsley

In Memory of Jean Kania
- The Ronald Krafjack Family

In Memory of Jean Kania
- Jean LaSorsa

In Memory of Frank Gallo
- Doris Lindsley & Margaret Arcangelo

In Memory of Jean Noble Colombo
- Jean LaSorsa

In Memory of William J. Poepperling
- George W. Parrish

In Memory of Stella Holdofsky
- Dolores Rich

In Memory of Marjorie Thayer Foster
- Doris A. Lindsley

In Memory of William J. Poepperling
- Marguerite E. Futch

In Memory of Robert Craig Polansky
- Michael Krafjack
- Deacon Edward & Patti Kelly
- The Fairburn Family
- The Cabets Family
- The Waitulavich Family
- Nancy & Regina & The Savage Family
- The Vincent Family – Kevin, Mary & Kevin Jr.
- Joanne Wilson
- Joan R. Kupetsky
- Wendy Rosetti
- Jim & Mary Lou Scoblick
- CSSI Inc.

In Memory of Donald Coons
- Nancy L. Savage

In Memory of Gerald R. Howell
- Nancy L. Savage

In Memory of Frances Gillott
- Nancy L. Savage

In Memory of Floyd J. Yamialkowsi
- Nancy L. Savage

In Memory of Raymond Bonham
- Nancy L. Savage

In Memory of Mr. Rowland
- Nancy L. Savage

In Memory of Joseph Gwozdz
- Doris A. Lindsley

In Memory of Samuel Prisco
- Doris A. Lindsley

HONORARIIUM

In Honor of Cheryl A. Burger’s 25 Years of Service to UCP
- Marian Goldstein-Beckhorn