



United  
Cerebral  
Palsy of Northeastern Pennsylvania

## NEWS

*Life without limits for people with disabilities*

Winter/Spring 2011

### Volunteers Available!!

Community Options, a segment of UCP's Adult Day Program, was begun with the idea of enabling individuals who attend the program to take part in activities outside the center.

Community Options provides transportation and other assistance for participants to engage in activities of their choosing. Individuals and small groups have enjoyed a variety of recreational and social outings such as movies, shopping and sporting events.

Now, the consumers would like to get more involved in activities that benefit the community. Consumers and staff have over the past several years made and donated or taken up collections of items for local charities including the Griffin Pond Animal Shelter, the Gino Merli Veteran's Center and Shaeffer's Retreat. Occasionally, as part of Community Options activities, they delivered the collected items and got a firsthand look at the work these groups do. Several individuals have expressed an interest in doing more to directly help these or other organizations in fulfilling their missions.

So, the Community Options program is going to try to help our consumers to help others. The first step is to educate the consumers as to what

types of organizations are out there and find out what type of charity each individual would be interested in helping and then matching them with organizations that need help.

The program is currently looking for area organizations that are in need especially of on-site volunteers. On site activities are specifically being targeted to give the program participants the opportunity to interact with people other than caregivers, program staff and each other. It is also hoped that some activities can be arranged that might enhance work skills. UCP staff will work with community groups to find the right people to fit their needs and to work out scheduling. Through the variety of program activities in which they have participated, individual abilities, interests and talents have emerged. The individuals involved in the program have varying levels of ability but share the desire to give back to their community – to in effect transition from a consumer to a contributor.

If your organization needs volunteer assistance please contact us at 570-347-3357 or by email at [ucpnepa@epix.net](mailto:ucpnepa@epix.net).

### Bonanza of Baskets Raffle Ticket Sales

Steamtown Mall Boscov's 2nd Floor  
Friday, May 6th & Saturday, May 7th  
10 am to 9 pm

Viewmont Mall Tree Court  
Saturday, May 21 - 10 am to 9pm  
Sunday, May 22 - 11 am to 5pm  
Drawing starts at 5pm on Sunday

*Tickets also available at UCP's office*

### UCP Benefit Golf Tournament

Friday, July 15, 2011

Stone Hedge Country Club  
Tunkhannock, PA

Shotgun start - 1 pm

*Call 347-3357 for more information*

## Lekotek Annual Holiday Party

Our Annual Lekotek Holiday Party was held on Saturday December 6, 2010 at the Clarks Summit Methodist Church. It was attended by 150 people representing 34 families. We are again very grateful to the church, our caterer, Sue and John Klonoski of Countryside Catering and to the many families who gave of their time and resources to make this year's party a success. Our favorite DJ, Gerald Gryzcko set the mood with all of our Holiday favorite songs. Executive Director Sarah Drob and Coordinator of Children's Services Cheryl Burger were on hand to help with the many gifts and raffles that also contributed to the fun. We also thank the Abington Lions Club for their monetary contribution and Joe Skinner, who was again able to provide us with the Santa suit. Our Santa's helper this year was Colin Young who did a great job with all of the children, and the adults too!

Our student volunteers included Sarah Wagner, Jasmine Colon, Joey and Billy Hamersly, Zak, Bryce, Annika and Evan Kongvold, Natalie Horrocks and Anthony Papi. They did a great job of handling all of the raffles at 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 20 gifts that were raffled off for door prizes. Jen and Steve Cannizzaro also contributed to the excitement with the donation of many raffle prizes for our basket raffle.

This was our 19<sup>th</sup> party and we are still going strong! We always look forward to another year, another chance to bring food, fun and fellowship to the families that we so gratefully serve in our agency's Lekotek program.



*Santa's helper Colin Young presents a gift to Ryan Finnerty. At right is Ryan's mom, Kristen.*

## Capital Campaign Contributions

The following contributions were received between October 1, 2010 and March 31, 2011 and have been designated to the Children's Center Capital Campaign.

If you would like to contribute to this effort, please use the envelope included with this newsletter. For more information, contact us at 570-347-3357.

### ASSOCIATES

Mr. & Mrs. William A. Lees

### FRIENDS

Wesel Foundation

Stephen K. Fellows

### PATRONS

Rose Gesell

Dr. Richard Weinberger

Melodee Dixon

Mrs. Jean R. Hughes

Mr. Michael T. Kane

Lucinda Neubert

Van Fleet Drilling Co.

Ms. Marilyn Vitali

### DONORS

Dorothy, Edward & Cyndee Boyko

Mr. Robert Buraczewski

Bolus Freight Systems

Ms. Lucy Franko



### Donor Levels

\$2,500 and above - 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

### SUPPORTERS

Greg & Mary Gowat

Linda B. Gable

Mrs. James C. Rogers

Ms. Judith Goldman

John & Eileen Hartman

Mrs. Joanne L. Scott

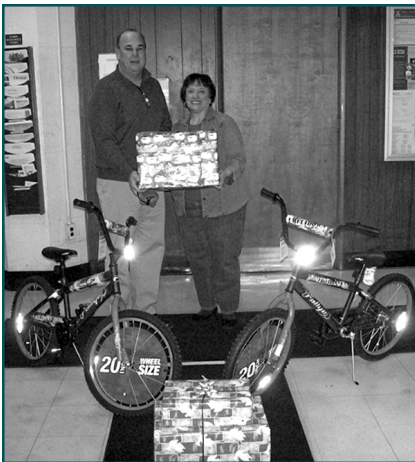
Carol Moore

Mrs. Janet Orlosky

Betty Rowlands

Rosalie Dziedzic

Shorten's Inc.



*Ann Atanasoff, from General Dynamics' Human Resources Department presents gifts, including two bikes, donated by employees, to UCP Operations Director Tim McHugh.*

## Angel Tree

Over 200 children who receive services thru UCP also received gifts this past Holiday Season from our Angel Tree project.

We thank the groups who make this possible:

- ★ Employees of General Dynamics - Operations & Tactical Systems, Scranton
- ★ Staff of Moses Taylor Hospital
- ★ Members of Trinity Lutheran Church



*Judy Lehnowsky, left, and Susan Glinsky present gifts donated by staff of Moses Taylor Hospital to Tim McHugh.*

## UPDATES ON ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY

### AT LENDING LIBRARY

As with most social service programs, the services provided by the Assistive Technology Resource Center at UCP have been adversely affected by the current economic climate even as the need for those services increases. Assistive technology programs also face level funding or possible cuts as the state and federal budget processes continue.

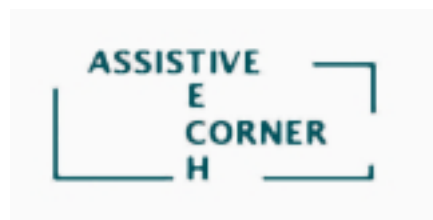
Consumers who need to borrow equipment from the Assistive Technology Lending Library system must now pick up and return some devices to their regional ATRC, and there are often longer waiting periods to borrow equipment. Funding problems are also leading to delays in repairing and replacing equipment in the library's inventory.

### PIAT

The number of trainings for individuals with disabilities has increased and consumers are showing a real interest in using iPad and iPod apps. Many of the new mainstream technologies show promise in being of assistance to those with disabilities. Funding will likely end up being an issue here as well.

### TDDP

The Telecommunications Device Distribution Program is looking for consumer's input. The program is seeking suggestions for equipment you would like to have made available as well as comments on equipment you've received through it.



## Special "Thank you's"

Andy Gavin's Pub & Eatery, which organized the Green Ridge Mile and contributed proceeds to UCP.

The Boombox Crew who held a benefit concert for UCP in Stroudsburg last fall.

Service Master by Griffing and owner Chris Griffing for all his help at the Children's Center this past rainy season.

## United Cerebral Palsy of Northeastern Pennsylvania

### Board of Directors

#### Officers

Linda B. Gable, *President*  
Edward Karpovich, *Treasurer*  
Marilyn Vitali, *Secretary*

#### Members

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

## 2010 Gift Wrap

The 2010 Gift Wrap, held at the Viewmont Mall from Black Friday thru Christmas Eve was once again a successful event. Funds raised will benefit UCP's Early Intervention Services.

The Gift Wrap is UCP's longest running special event, made possible by the support of the management and staff of the Viewmont Mall and our many volunteers, both individuals and members of the following groups:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 🎁 Abington Heights National Honor Society   | 🎁 Alpha Iota Sorority (Beta Sigma Phi)          |
| 🎁 Bank of America                           | 🎁 Carbondale Area High School Student Council   |
| 🎁 Fell Charter School Faculty               | 🎁 The Gilgallon Family                          |
| 🎁 Girl Scout Troop #281                     | 🎁 Girl Scout Troop #50060                       |
| 🎁 Grove Street Teachers (Retired)           | 🎁 Harford First Congregation Church Youth Group |
| 🎁 Hickory Street Presbyterian Church        | 🎁 Kiwanis Club of Scranton                      |
| 🎁 Lackawanna College Students & Faculty     | 🎁 Lackawanna Medical Society Alliance           |
| 🎁 Mid-Valley High School Leo Club           | 🎁 North Pocono High School FBLA                 |
| 🎁 Our Lady of Snows CCD Class               | 🎁 Prudential Asset Management Co.               |
| 🎁 Scranton High School Students             | 🎁 Scranton Prep National Honor Society          |
| 🎁 Trinity Lutheran Church Youth Group       | 🎁 Volunteers in Paupack                         |
| 🎁 Western Wayne Middle School Student Gov't | 🎁 Yusavage Chiropractic Center                  |



*Members of Girl Scout Troop #50060 at last season's Gift Wrap: Nina Gatto, Molly Mattes, Ashley Purdy, troop leader Deb Sweppenheiser, Anna Sweppenheiser, Maddie Giardina, and Rhiannon Gray.*



*Members of the Gilgallon Family have helped out at UCP's Gift Wrap since its very first year.*

## Executive Director's Message

Hello Everyone:

According to the calendar it's spring! I hope that when you are reading this edition of UCP of NE PA's newsletter the weather reflects the calendar. I think we all could use a good dose of spring sunshine, warmth and flowers. As has been my tradition in previous spring newsletters, I would like to take a few moments and discuss Pennsylvania's Budget process. When Governor Corbett released his proposed 2012-2013 budget we were very pleased to see that the financial resources needed to provide services to people with intellectual disabilities were not reduced. It is important that our senators and representatives know that we support Governor Corbett's proposed funding for people with intellectual disabilities. Please take a moment and call, write or e-mail your local legislator. Please call Barb or me at 347-3357 if you need contact information for your local legislator or any other assistance. On behalf of the people we serve, I'd like to thank you for your continued support of UCP of NE PA. Your advocacy on behalf of persons with disabilities does make a difference.

Have a great spring and summer!

Sarah A. Drob

## Special Contributions

Received October 1, 2010 – March 31, 2011

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](mailto:ucpnepa@epix.net).

In Memory of Joseph N. Mangieri

Doris A. Lindsley

In Memory of George L. Holden

Jean LaSorsa, Ann Kania,  
Sarah Maira, & Maggie Smicherko

In Memory of Michael Quinn

The Savage Family

In Memory of Eugene McCarthy

Frank, Francis, Nancy & Regina Savage

In Memory of Kathryn Kelly

Frank, Francis, Nancy & Regina Savage

In Memory of Beatrice Howlett

Marie Leach and Virginia Selfridge

In Memory of Eugene McCarthy

Marie Leach

In Memory of Eugene McCarthy

Virginia Selfridge

In Memory of George L. Holden

David & Kathleen Mulhern

In Memory of Pauline Gatti

Edward & Theresa Haefele

In Memory of George L. Holden

George & Mary Kohler

In Memory of Nettie Picchio

Doris A. Lindsley

In Memory of Donny Skinner

Sally Bell & Barb Golob

In Memory of George L. Holden

Barbara J. Machalowski

In Memory of George L. Holden

Keystone Sunshine Club

In Memory of Richard Gulakowski

Doris A. Lindsley

In Memory of Donald Lee Hosier

Doris A. Lindsley

In Memory of Nellie Burak Dawgert

The Ronald Krafjack Family

In Memory of Frank Butler Simms

The Ronald Krafjack Family

In Memory of Frank Butler Simms

Doris A. Lindsley

In Memory of Joseph Ceresko

Edward & Theresa Haefele & Family

In Memory of Helen Shumbres

The Ronald Krafjack Family

In Memory of Helen Shumbres

Jean LaSorsa

In Memory of Vito A. Raymond

Leber Electric, Inc.

Rebecca Jane Gryczko, OTR/L, an occupational therapist with our Children's Programs, passed away in December.

We express our sympathy to her family and we thank the following who have made contributions in Becky's memory:

The Ronald Krafjack Family

Kathryn C. Fountain

Rita C. Fenton

Drs. Henri & Marilyn Deutsch

Robert Rossi & Co., CPA's

Noelle & Steve Freeman

Harry Shumate

Leann Wash

Pat Jennings

Jim & Cindy Gilotti

New Iberia High School – Class of '60

### Honoraria

Jane Strobino made a donation  
as a Christmas gift to Jane Farr

Brenda Reeves made a donation  
as a Christmas gift to  
her mom Elizabeth Byron Kennedy

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.

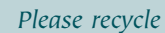
UCP respects each person, her/his choices, and her/his contributions.

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](http://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.



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.

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

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Scranton, PA