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.

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**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*

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**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 19th 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.

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.

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<th>ASSOCIATES</th>
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<td>Mr. Robert Buraczewski</td>
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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

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.

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.
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
- Bank of America
- Fell Charter School Faculty
- Girl Scout Troop #281
- Grove Street Teachers (Retired)
- Hickory Street Presbyterian Church
- Lackawanna College Students & Faculty
- Mid-Valley High School Leo Club
- Our Lady of Snows CCD Class
- Scranton High School Students
- Trinity Lutheran Church Youth Group
- Western Wayne Middle School Student Gov’t
- Alpha Iota Sorority (Beta Sigma Phi)
- Carbondale Area High School Student Council
- The Gilgallon Family
- Girl Scout Troop #50060
- Harford First Congregation Church Youth Group
- Kiwanis Club of Scranton
- Lackawanna Medical Society Alliance
- North Pocono High School FBLA
- Prudential Asset Management Co.
- Scranton Prep National Honor Society
- Volunteers in Paupack
- 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, Maddle 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
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 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
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
United Cerebral Palsy of Northeastern Pennsylvania
425 Wyoming Avenue
Scranton, PA 18503-1227

Phone: 570-347-3357  TTY: 570-347-3117
Toll free: 1-877-UCP-TECH  Fax: 570-341-5308
Email: ucpnepa@epix.net  Website: www.ucpnepa.com