



United
Cerebral
Palsy of Northeastern Pennsylvania

NEWS

Life without limits for people with disabilities

Winter/Spring 2012

Home Services Program Provides Information, Referral, Advocacy & More

As anyone who has ever tried to obtain services for themselves or another person who has a disability knows, getting what you need can be as challenging as the reason you need it. The Home Services Program provided by UCP of Northeastern Pennsylvania and sponsored by the Pennsylvania Elks State Association, provides information, referral and advocacy, helping individuals and families find their way thru the maze of available services as well as any specific eligibility requirements that may be involved.

The program was begun in 1963 as the Pennsylvania Elks Cerebral Palsy Nurses Program. This agency, which was then known as UCP of Lackawanna County, began providing the service in 1965 and had a complete "unit" consisting of a nurse who made the visits and a vehicle in which to make them, by 1969.

Just as UCP of NEPA evolved into providing services for people with disabilities other than cerebral palsy, the Elks, seeing a greater need for the Home Services Program, expanded their efforts to

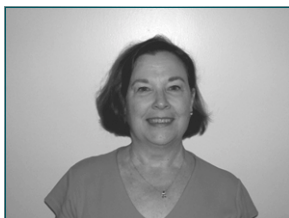
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Two Fond Farewells & A Warm Welcome

UCP Home Services nurse Ann Pusateri retired at the end of March and Family Services Coordinator Kathy Fountain retired in April. Ann worked at UCP of NEPA for more than 30 years, first as a Case Manager and Agency Nurse. She provided nursing services to both children and adults in the agency's center-based programs. Her case management duties included acting as liaison between the agency and consumers and she also made referrals for additional services. In 1990, she became a Home Services nurse with the Elks program. She managed a caseload of 170 children and adults in a multi-county area. She earned an Associates degree from Keystone College in 1996, and continued her studies part time at the University of Scranton, where she earned her BS in Human Services in 2002. Naomi Zablotsky is the new Home Services nurse at UCP of NEPA. Taking over Ann's caseload, she will serve consumers in Pike, southeastern Lackawanna and Wayne, and northern Monroe counties. She joins Janet Burton who covers Sullivan, Susquehanna, and Wyoming along with northwestern Lackawanna and Wayne Counties.



Retired Home Services nurse Ann Pusateri (center) with Naomi Zablotsky and Janet Burton.



Kathy Fountain

As Family Services Coordinator for our Early Intervention program, Kathy met with parents as their children were enrolled in the program, serving as a link to the program staff as well as helping connect them with additional community services. When their children would transition into the school system, she would still be available to assist with any issues that arose.

Kathy had been with UCP of NEPA for 25 years, having previously worked as an Administrator at Children's Learning Workshop, Day Care Director for United Neighborhood Centers, and a teacher at Head Start.

All of us at UCP of NEPA wish Ann and Kathy well in their retirements and welcome Naomi to the UCP family.

Upcoming Events

UCP Golf Tournament

Friday, July 13th -- 1pm

Stone Hedge Golf Course -- Tunkhannock, Pa

Captain & Crew Format

Shotgun Start

\$95.00 per golfer includes:

Golf with cart

Hot dog/hamburger at turn

Steak Dinner after golf

Contact Tim McHugh at UCP for more information

Proceeds will benefit UCP's Early Intervention Services

Bonanza of Baskets Raffle

Ticket Sales

Tickets are also available now thru May 11th at UCP's Scranton and Clarks Summit facilities

Viewmont Mall

Saturday, May 5th - 10am - 9pm

&

Sunday, May 6th - 11am - 6pm

Boscov's

Friday, May 11th - 10am - 9pm

&

Saturday, May 12th - 10am - 5pm

The drawing will be held at Boscov's on Saturday, May 12th starting at 5pm

Proceeds will benefit the Lekotek program



FitStock for a Cause Sponsored by NEPA Fit Club benefitting UCP of NEPA

***Saturday, June 2nd
Memorial Field, Jessup***

FitStock is a one-hour "fitness bootcamp"
set to live music by the Jonny Tsunami band

New this year.....

- ♦ Friday evening motivational seminar by the Disabled Grappler
- ♦ Saturday evening happy hour for all who participated.

Check UCP of NEPA's and NEPA Fit Club's websites and Facebook pages for updates.

United Cerebral Palsy of Northeastern Pennsylvania

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TDDP Helps People with Disabilities to Keep in Touch

Pennsylvania's Telecommunication Device Distribution Program (TDDP) continues to provide specialized equipment, free, to eligible Pennsylvanians who have disabilities which impede them from independent access to telephone services. This includes those who are deaf or hard of hearing, speech impaired, blind or have visual problems, have physical disabilities or intellectual disabilities. TDDP also continues to add new equipment to the approved list. In addition, if no device on the approved list meets the individual's needs, there is now an exceptions process that may allow them to get a device that has the features they need.

Created through PA Act 34-1995, the TDDP is implemented by Pennsylvania's Initiative on Assistive Technology (PIAT), 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.



Executive Director's Message

Hello Everyone:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Ann Pusateri, Elks Home Services Nurse, and Kathy Fountain, Early Intervention Family Coordinator, for their years of dedicated service to UCP. Ann Pusateri was employed with UCP of NE PA for almost 34 years. She has helped countless individuals and families obtain the supports and services they needed. Kathy Fountain was employed with UCP of NE PA for 25 years. She too, has helped numerous children and families in our Early Intervention Program.

Both of these remarkable women dedicated their careers to helping others. There are not enough words to describe the positive impact that they have had on the lives of the people they helped. Their time, effort, energy and commitment to the people we serve is inspiring. We are going to miss Ann and Kathy. We are truly grateful for all they have done for the people that UCP of NE PA is privileged to serve. We wish them continued success in all that they do and hope they are enjoying their retirement!

Take care,
Sarah A. Drob

Home Services *(continued from page 1)*

help people with all kinds of developmental disabilities. A developmental disability is defined as a mental and/or physical impairment that manifests before age 22, is likely to continue indefinitely, and impacts one or more major life activities.

The program was specifically designed to assist those who were not receiving services, for example, people who live in rural areas and could not easily get to center-based services, or those who are above the financial threshold for some programs.

Registered or Licensed Practical Nurses primarily staff the program so they can assist individuals and families with medical issues including in-home case management and instruction on home care needs. The nurses also have strong backgrounds in the social services arena, enabling them to provide assistance to parents of special-needs children in the public school system, adults who need home modifications to maintain their independence, individuals and families dealing with Social Security or other government services, and a host of other situations.

The Home Services Program is the major project of the PA Elks State Association. The statewide program has a budget of over \$1 million which includes the salary and vehicle for each of the 26 nurses. The Elks raise this money thru memberships and other contributions and numerous fundraisers they conduct throughout the year. Administrative expenses for the program are funded through a grant from the Elks National Foundation.

Additional funding for the program at UCP of NEPA is provided by the United Way of Lackawanna and Wayne Counties, and the Wyoming County United Way.

Holiday Events Recap

The Holiday Season is always a busy time at UCP of NEPA, and 2011 was no exception! We always order a few extra wreaths in case of last minute orders and this year for the first time we sold out! Proceeds from the Wreath Sale will benefit the Lekotek program.

We wrapped hundreds of holiday gifts for customers at the Viewmont Mall and distributed gifts provided by our Angel Tree partners to over 200 children and families who receive services through our various programs.

Thank you to our Angel Tree Donors:

- 🎁 Employees of General Dynamics
- 🎁 Staff of Moses Taylor Hospital
- 🎁 Members of Trinity Lutheran Church

Holiday Gift Wrap

The annual Gift Wrap benefit was held at the Viewmont Mall from Black Friday thru Christmas Eve. Proceeds from the Gift Wrap will benefit our Early Intervention Services this year.

As always we are grateful to the Viewmont Mall for their continued tremendous support and to the many volunteers, individuals and groups, who make this event possible.

Volunteer Groups included:

- 🎁 Abington Heights HS National Honor Society
- 🎁 Alpha Iota Sorority
- 🎁 Bank of America Employees
- 🎁 Carbondale Area High School Students
- 🎁 Fell Charter School Faculty
- 🎁 Girl Scout Troop #291
- 🎁 Girl Scout Troop #50060
- 🎁 Harford First Congregation Church Youth Group
- 🎁 Hickory Street Presbyterian Church Members
- 🎁 Kiwanis Club of Scranton
- 🎁 Lackawanna College Students & Faculty
- 🎁 Lackawanna Medical Society Alliance
- 🎁 Marywood University Art Honor Society
- 🎁 Matthew Avenue CLA Consumers & Staff
- 🎁 Mid Valley High School Leo Club
- 🎁 Prudential Asset Management Employees
- 🎁 Scranton High School Students
- 🎁 Scranton Prep National Honor Society
- 🎁 Trinity Church Youth Group Members
- 🎁 Volunteers in Paupack
- 🎁 Western Wayne Middle School Student Gov't
- 🎁 Yusavage Chiropractic Clinic Staff

Wayne & Susquehanna County Groups Helped at Gift Wrap



Volunteers in Paupack at the Gift Wrap: Dominique Tarbell, Marie Mitschele, Allie Kabu and Chelsea Tarbell



Members of Harford First Congregation Church Youth Group. From left: Christopher Graf, Doug Higgins, Jack Allen, Rev. Will Hagenbach, Garrett Cameron, Karlee Weida, Kassandra Lamberson, Brandy Lindsey and Linda Lindsey.

Lekotek Holiday Party

Our Annual Lekotek Holiday Party was held on Saturday, December 10th at the Clarks Summit Methodist Church. 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 great success.

Our favorite DJ, Gerald Gryzcko brought the mood of the Holiday to our party with all of our Holiday favorites. Our 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. Our Early Intervention Speech Therapist, Kathy Sloneker and our Assistive Technology Specialist, Linda Mesavage were also there to lend a helping hand.

As always, we thank the Abington Lions Club for their tremendous support 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 volunteer students included Sarah Wagner, Jasmin Colon, Natalie Khalife, Joey and Billy Hamersly, Zak, Bryce, Annika and Evan Kongvold, Natalie Horrocks and Tawny Husosky. 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 2 XBOX 360s; 12 Scene It Games; a Surround Sound System; and a table Football set, all of which were raffled off. This was our 20th party and we are still going strong! We always look forward to another year and another chance to bring food, fun and fellowship to the families that we so gratefully serve in our agency's Lekotek program.

The following families and friends also made donations for the party. If we've forgotten anyone, please accept our sincere apologies and heartfelt thanks.

Abicca/Smestad Family

Butler Family

Frito Lay

Hamersly Family

Kids Quality

Kongvold Family

Magnotta Family

Moroski Family

Pepsi Co./Cannizzaro/Demm Family

Rinaldi Auto Sales/Rakauskas Family

Tim Wagner Sports Store

Walmart

W.S. Bonacci Plumbing & Heating

Abington Lions

DeLuccie Family

Glynn Family

Horrocks/Dalton Family

Klonoski Family

Lena Family

McDonald's Clarks Summit

Naniewicz Family

Platt Family

Sloneker Family

Wagner Family

Wegmans

Arthur Wells, Jr.

Bayada Nurses, Inc.

Finnerty Family

Haefele Family

Khalife Family

Knelly Family

Andrea & Edward May

Ann Moskovitz

Paolucci Masonry Inc.

Portonova Family

Stugus Family

Tim Walsh Family

Weis Markets

Young Family

Parents Loving Children Through Autism Foundation



The Peterson Family arriving at the party. Front row: Zachariah, Johanna, Samarah and Cathy. Back row: Noah and Benjamin.



Enjoying the festivities are: Cheryl Shimkosky with Connor and Catherine.

Ladies Auxiliary Donates to UCP



Officers of the Ladies Auxiliary present a check to representatives of UCP. Front row: Lita Brittain, Ryan Brittain and Maddox Poplawski. Back row: Paula Thompson, President of the Ladies Auxiliary; Jim Brittain, Sarah A. Drob, UCP Executive Director; Dr. Daniel Ginsberg, President of the Board of Directors of UCP of NEPA; Linda Poplawski, Senior Vice-President of the Ladies Auxiliary; and Kathy Schwartztrauber, Junior Vice-President of the Ladies Auxiliary.

Thank You.....

Ladies Auxiliary of the Abingtons Memorial Post 7069, who donated a portion of the proceeds from their annual Golf Tournament held last fall at the Emanon Country Club, to United Cerebral Palsy of Northeastern Pennsylvania.

Andy Gavin's Pub & Eatery, which again organized the Green Ridge Mile, a 1K race held Thanksgiving weekend, and donated the proceeds to UCP of NEPA.

The Actors' Circle / Snow White Players, who donated tickets to their performance of "Here Comes Snow White" for children in our Early Intervention & Lekotek programs.

General & Membership Contributions

Received October 1, 2011 – March 31, 2012

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Prudential Financial

FRIENDS

Sarah and James Drob & Family

Mr. Stephen Fellows

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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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Special Contributions

Received October 1, 2011 - March 31, 2012

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 Frieda and Ralph Robertson

Virginia Marcks

Designated to the Susan D. Keller Memorial Fund

In Memory of Martin Peter Judge

Nancy L. Savage

In Memory of Joseph Bonadio

Carl & Tess Bauer

In Memory of Cindy L. Epp LaRusso

Doris Dudick

In Memory of Cindy L. Epp LaRusso

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Doris Lindsley

In Memory of Cindy L. Epp LaRusso

Maryanne Albano

In Memory of Cindy L. Epp LaRusso

Christina Santiago

In Memory of Cindy L. Epp LaRusso

Parents Loving Children Through Autism Foundation

In Memory of Cindy L. Epp LaRusso

Phyllis M. Rupp

In Memory of William "Billy" Barkasy

Leon A. Faso

In Memory of William "Billy" Barkasy

John P. Quinn

In Memory of William "Billy" Barkasy

Paul and Laura Riger

In Memory of William "Billy" Barkasy

Terry and Bernadine Hannon

In Memory of Carolyn "Kitty" Hobbs

Doris Lindsley

In Memory of Dr. Henri Deutsch

Doris Lindsley

In Memory of William "Billy" Barkasy

Paul and Brenda Davis

In Memory of June A. Burke

John and Marie Flyte

In Memory of June A. Burke

Patricia McLain

In Memory of William "Billy" Barkasy

James Doyle

In Memory of William "Billy" Barkasy

John and Susan Klimek

In Memory of June A. Burke

Angela Fata

In Memory of June A. Burke

Barbara Singleman

In Memory of William "Billy" Barkasy

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Ronald and Barbara Poplawski

In Memory of William "Billy" Barkasy

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Thomas E. Lucas, Jr.

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The Ronald Krafjack Family

In Memory of Geraldine McNulty Rogers

Jean LaSorsa

In Memory of Geraldine McNulty Rogers

Doris Lindsley

In Memory of Frederick Corey

Doris Lindsley

HONORARIUM

In Honor of Dr. Jane Farr

Jane Strobino

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
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of Northeastern Pennsylvania
425 Wyoming Avenue
Scranton, PA 18503**

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.



Please recycle

United Cerebral Palsy of Northeastern Pennsylvania
a non-profit, voluntary health agency serving those with
cerebral palsy and other disabilities since 1953.

Daniel Ginsberg, Ph.D., *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**

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the Lackawanna - Susquehanna Behavioral Health-Intellectual Disabilities-Early Intervention Program
the Mental Health/Mental Retardation Program of Wayne County • 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)

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