



United
Cerebral
Palsy of Northeastern Pennsylvania

NEWS

Life without limits for people with disabilities

Spring Summer 2014

Lekotek Supports Children & Families, Receives Support

The Lekotek program provided by UCP of NEPA, and funded in part by the United Way of Lackawanna and Wayne Counties, uses play activities and specially adapted toys to further a child's developmental goals. Sometimes, however, the immediate goal is to simply help the child to be *able* to play.

This was the case for 6½ year-old Brody Park, who initially came to the program about five years ago. He was referred to Lekotek by a therapist in UCP's Early Intervention Program, in which he participated as an infant and toddler. Brody has Lesch Nyhan syndrome, a genetic disorder which inhibits his ability to walk, crawl and even to sit in a position from which he can play. The condition also causes spasticity in his hands and uncontrolled movement in his arms so holding and playing with many types of toys is difficult.

One of the first toys Lekotek leader Sally McCullon tried with Brody was an O-ball, which has holes so that a child who has dexterity problems can hold and toss it. Prior to coming to Lekotek, Brody never really played with anything, according to his mom, Rebecca. Now, she says, he likes to try everything, a sentiment echoed by Sally, who says Brody has shown great determination in mastering everything she has tried with him.



Brody is now in kindergarten in the Western Wayne School District and attends Compuplay, the computer-based component of the Lekotek program. Like most six year olds, he enjoys computer games. Again, positioning to be able to access the computer was an issue as well as finding a way for

him to use a computer. His tomato seat enables him to be positioned so he can see the screen and access the wheel in the 3D Cruiser in the photo.

Play is a natural way for children to learn and develop skills and for families to interact, so siblings and parents are encouraged to participate in Lekotek sessions. Toys can also be borrowed so that they can continue the activity at home.

The abilities that children with or without disabilities develop thru play form the building blocks for future achievements. Even more so than typical play,

the toys and activities chosen for each child in Lekotek work on the specific needs his or her disability creates.

UCP is proud to provide the Lekotek program and grateful for the support the program has received, both the response for the fundraisers we have conducted for it (like the Flapjack Fundraiser detailed inside) and those that community groups like those pictured below have sponsored.

Scranton's Shamrock Run for Charity Benefits Lekotek



Barry Nicholas,
General Manager of
Kildare's Irish Pub;
Sarah Drob, UCP
Executive Director;
Rob Ahrens, Manager,
National Running
Center; and James S.
Drob, Race Director,
Scranton Shamrock
Run.

Details on these donations are on page 7.

Keystone Chapter, UNICO National Supports Lekotek



Mark E. McDade,
Keystone Chapter
UNICO Board Chairman;
Mary DePalma,
UNICO President;
Carol Scrimalli, Pig
Roast Chairwoman;
Sarah A. Drob, UCP
Executive Director,
and Marilyn Vitali,
UNICO Secretary/Pig
Roast Co-chairwoman,
and UCP Board
Secretary.

Special Events - Previews & Reviews

For updates on these events:

Visit our website

www.ucpnepa.org

“Like” us on Facebook

or

Call us at 570-347-3357

Fitstock 2014

*Pre Registration Party- Friday, May 30th, 6:30 pm
NEPA Fit Club, Rte 6, Blakely*

*Bootcamp - Saturday, May 31st, Registration 11am
Workout - noon – Blakely Memorial Field*

After party - May 31, 6:30 pm at Caverna in Jessup

*\$15.00 Workout or \$15.00 After Party / \$30.00 Both
Pre Registration Party included either way*

For more info: 570-840-2586

UCP Golf Tournament

***Friday, July 11th
Stone Hedge Golf Course
Shotgun Start at 1 pm***

***\$95.00 per golfer includes
golf with cart, refreshments at the turn
steak dinner at conclusion***

***For more info or to register:
570-347-3357***

"Bonanza of Baskets" Raffle

***Peoples Security Bank & Trust
Parking Lot***

Labor Day Weekend

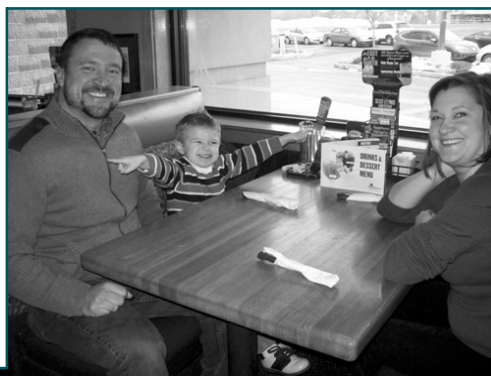
During La Festa Italiana!!

Flapjack Fundraiser for Lekotek

Our Flapjack Fundraiser at Applebee's on Sunday March 9th 2014 was a great success. We appreciate all of the support we received from families, staff, our Board of Directors and friends. Our 15 volunteers were awesome and the staff at Applebee's, especially Michelle the manager, were extremely helpful and totally organized!! We served 113 short stacks, and received great support for the Basket Raffle. We thank those who donated the baskets for the raffle, especially PepsiCo/Dawn Demm, who donated the grand prizes, Toni Christ, Dina Riehl, Barb Golob, Diane Dalton, Sally McCullon, Shirley Naniewicz, Vincenza Glynn, and Jasmin Colon. Congratulations to all of our winners!

Many monetary donations were also received, and we appreciate that support in addition to those who attended, both patrons and volunteers.

“Like” us on Facebook to see more pictures!!



*Enjoying the food, fun and friendship...
(both photos clockwise from left)*

Above: Joe, Joseph and Shannon Yusinski

*Left: Kevin, David, Shirley and Rich
Naniewicz*



Lekotek Holiday Party

Our 21st annual Lekotek Holiday Party was held at the Clarks Summit Methodist Church on Saturday December 7th 2013. Thirty two Lekotek families were in attendance, along with agency staff for a total of 125 guests. We again are very grateful to the many families who donated food and gave of their time, talents and resources to make this year's party a great success.

Our favorite DJ Gerald Gryzcko created an awesome arrangement of Holiday favorites bringing us all into the spirit of the season. Our agency staff and volunteers were on hand to help with our many gifts and raffles. As always, we thank the Abington Lions Club for their monetary contribution and Joe Skinner for providing us with our Santa suit worn by none other than our Colin Young, who has volunteered his services for the last three years! Our volunteer students, many of whom volunteer all year round; Sarah Wagner, Jasmin and JJ Colon, Natalie Khalife, Michael Christ, along with the Kongvold Family have done a great job for us. Dawn Demm, PepsiCo, New York again was able to come through with some awesome raffle gifts! Barb Golob and Kathy Platt continue to support our basket raffle. We were able to raffle off 25 baskets and three large prizes this year, along with 32 door prizes!!!!

We are looking forward to our 22nd annual holiday party in 2014 for another chance to bring our families together in a relaxed, fun atmosphere of food, fun, and friends☺. Keep on Playing!!!!



Checking out one of the raffle prizes are Matthew Lubinski and Micah Barkley.



One of Santa's littlest (and arguably cutest) helpers, Isaiah Lubinski.

Holiday Gift Wrap

UCP's annual Gift Wrap at the Viewmont Mall benefitted our Early Intervention Services.

As always, we are very grateful to the Viewmont Mall for donating the space for our booth, and to our many volunteers, individuals and groups, for their assistance.



Prudential employees (clockwise from top left) Bob Bohinski, Mark Sciacca, Nancy Mecca and Jean Bohinski, always get into the spirit of the season.

Gift wrap groups for 2013 were:

*Abington Heights National Honor Society * Alpha Iota Sorority
Bank of America Employees * Cadette Troop #50023
Fell Charter School Faculty * The Gilgallon Family
Girl Scout Troop #281 * Former Girl Scout Troop #50060
Hickory St. Presbyterian Church * Kiwanis Club of Scranton
Lackawanna College * Mid Valley High School Leo Club
Prudential Asset Management Staff * Retired Abington Teachers
Riverside High School German and Spanish Clubs
The Salmon Family * Scranton Prep National Honor Society
Scranton High School * Trinity Lutheran Church Youth Group
The Walline Family * Yusavage Chiropractic Clinic*

This was the first year for the Spanish Club and German Club from Riverside High School and we welcome them aboard! Meanwhile, a few of our long-standing groups had to cancel due to the weather, but we look forward to seeing them again this December.

60th Anniversary Event Raises Funds for Children's Center Capital Campaign

UCP thanks all of the businesses and individuals who supported our 60th Anniversary Celebration.

Contributions to the event and advertising revenue from the program booklet have been designated to the Capital Campaign for the Children's Center.

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Scranton Label Inc.

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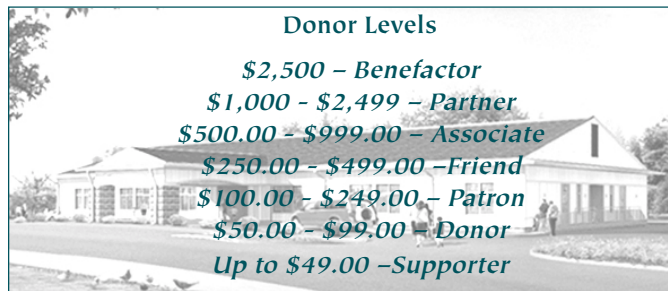
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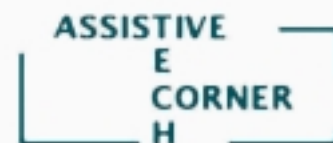
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New Phone options in TDDP!

There are new options in Pennsylvania's TDDP (Telecommunications Device Distribution Program)! The Serene Innovations CL-60A cordless, amplified phone with answering machine pictured here is the newest! The TDDP provides 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 has an approved list of phones but 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. All the information and forms for the program are available online at <http://disabilities.temple.edu/programs/assistive/tddp/> or you can call the Assistive Technology resource center at UCP of NE PA (Linda or Beth) 570-347-3357 or email ucptech@yahoo.com. They would be happy to answer questions, provide demonstrations of the equipment, and help with the application process. 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:

Happy Spring! I hope that you have been enjoying the warm weather and the joy that spring brings.

Like many non-profit organizations, UCP relies on fundraising revenue to help us continue to provide supports and services to individuals with disabilities. We have had the great fortune to be the beneficiary of The Green Ridge Mile, hosted by Andy Gavin's Pub and Eatery, The Shamrock Run for Charity and The Keystone Chapter of UNICO's annual pig roast. Mike Marcinek of NE PA Fit Club is organizing Fit Stock 2014 to be held on May 31, 2014. Once again, UCP will be the beneficiary of this event.

We are thankful and honored that these individuals and organizations help to raise awareness of UCP of NE PA and the supports and services we offer as well as financial support. We are blessed to live in an area that values giving back to and supporting all the members of its community. On behalf of the consumers, staff and Board of Directors of UCP of NE PA, I would like to thank you for your continued support of UCP. Without your support, we wouldn't be able to make a difference in the lives of people we serve.

Sarah A. Drob

United Cerebral Palsy of Northeastern Pennsylvania

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Barbara Wagner
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General & Membership Contributions

Received October 1, 2013 - March 31, 2014

Contributions to the 2013 Membership Campaign were designated to the Children's Center Capital Campaign. If we have omitted or misspelled your name, or if you would prefer not to be listed, please contact us at 570-347-3357. Any corrections will be made in the next issue.

Donor Levels

\$2,500 - Benefactor

\$1,000 - 2,499 - Partner

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\$50.00 - \$99.00 - Donor

\$500.00 - \$999.00 - Associate

\$100.00 - \$249.00 - Patron

Up to \$49.00 - Supporter

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Special Contributions

Received October 1, 2013 – March 31, 2014

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 Margaret A. "Peg" Schmidt

The Ronald Krafjack Family

In Memory of Ann M. Bauer

Carl and Tess Bauer

In Memory of Diane Taylor

The Ronald Krafjack Family

In Memory of Dominic "Mickey" Panzara

Doris A. Lindsley

In Memory of Doris "Dora" Clark Walker

Georgia M. La Valle

In Memory of Doris "Dora" Clark Walker

Donald R. Simons

In Memory of Doris "Dora" Clark Walker

John, Lynn, Emily & Mary Janocha

In Memory of Doris "Dora" Clark Walker

St. Brigid Chapter of "The Daughters of the King"
at St. Paul's Episcopal Church

In Memory of Doris "Dora" Clark Walker

Jerry, Amber and Justin Green

In Memory of Doris "Dora" Clark Walker

Emily, Philip Paul and Anthony Traversi

In Memory of Ann Piazza

The Ronald Krafjack Family

In Memory of Elma E. Posdon

Nancy Savage

In Memory of Paul L. O'Neill

Carol Saykewicz

* * * * *

HONORARIA

*In Honor of the 30th Wedding Anniversary
of Dr. Joe and Cathy DelSarra*

Joe & Sally McCullon and Family

In Honor of John Gardocki

Marilyn Vitali-Flynn

Special Thanks to.....

- ◆ Don Surace and the Management and Staff of Andy Gavin's Pub & Eatery along with SOAR - Scranton Organized Area Runners for their efforts in making the 2013 Green Ridge Mile a great success.
- ◆ Our Angel Tree partners - Employees of General Dynamics Operations & Tactical Systems, Staff of Moses Taylor Hospital and Members of Trinity Lutheran Church for making the Holidays brighter for more than 200 of the children and families we serve.
- ◆ Prudential Retirement's Community Engagement Council for a monetary donation in support of the Lekotek Program.

- ◆ Major League Baseball Advanced Media for a donation of four Apple Computers for the Compuplay program. Bucky Heath, a parent of a child who attends the Lekotek program and MLB's Vice President of Corporate Communications Matthew Gould were instrumental in arranging this donation.
- ◆ The organizers of Scranton's Shamrock Run for Charity, a 5k race which took place over St. Patrick's weekend with proceeds benefitting the Lekotek/Compuplay Program.
- ◆ Keystone Chapter of UNICO National which sponsored a Pig Roast on April 5th at Fiorelli's benefitting the Lekotek & Compuplay programs.

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.



Please recycle

United Cerebral Palsy of Northeastern Pennsylvania
135 Williams Avenue