



United
Cerebral
Palsy of Northeastern Pennsylvania

NEWS

Life without limits for people with disabilities

Fall/Winter 2014

UCP Welcomes New Staff Members

Two new staff members have joined UCP of NEPA's two oldest services -- Susan Leo Kopko is Coordinator of Adult Services and Kathleen Hart has joined the Home Services program.



Susan is pictured with Ryan Brittain.

Susan has a strong background in Business Management, Finance and Investments. She also has her certification in Early Childhood Development and was last employed by St. Joseph's Center where she earned her certification as a counselor specializing in working with women and children. She previously worked at Scranton Counseling Center and Family Care for Children & Youth and has volunteered at the Women's Resource Center and Catherine McCauley Center. Susan resides in Newton Ransom Twp. with her husband David, their children Samuel, Joshua and Gianna and dog Pepper.

As Adult Services Coordinator, Susan oversees the Day Training Program, Community Options and Assistive

Technology Resource Center, supervising the staff and managing budgets for each area.

For the Day Training Program she is responsible for developing program activities based on the goals and interests of the individuals taking part. The program provides education and skills training, opportunities to learn vocational skills through work contracts and volunteer activities, and a variety of recreational and social activities.

Kathy has over 36 years experience as a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) and has worked in home health in the Harrisburg and Philadelphia areas. She most recently worked at St. Mary's Villa as charge nurse in the dementia unit. She was born and raised in Scranton and currently lives in Carbondale. She has three daughters and five grandchildren.

As a Home Services Nurse, Kathy works with both children and adults with disabilities and their families, providing information about and referral to area services that may be of help to them as well as advocacy in obtaining the services to which they are legally entitled. Her territory encompasses southeastern Lackawanna, northern Monroe, Pike and southeastern Wayne counties. Janet Burton, also a Home Services Nurse serves northwestern Lackawanna and Wayne counties along with Sullivan, Susquehanna and Wyoming Counties.

UCP of NEPA has partnered with the Pennsylvania State Elks Association since 1965 in providing the Elks Home Services Program. The program has since 1992 also received funding through the United Way of Lackawanna & Wayne Counties. Originally conceived as a way to help people who did not qualify for or were not being served in established agencies, the program provides assistance with a wide range of issues and problems including education, employment, financial assistance, housing and medical needs.



*New Home Services Nurse
Kathy Hart.*

Annual Meeting & Staff Appreciation Dinner

UCP's 61st Annual Meeting was held on Tuesday, June 24th at the Melting Pot in Scranton. Officers of the Board of Directors for FY 2014/15 installed are: Mark Bennett, President; B. Lynn Hutchings, Ph.D., Vice-President; Edward Karpovich, Treasurer; and Marilyn A. Vitali, Secretary. New member Robert Jones, Jr. was welcomed and outgoing member David L. Walline was thanked for his years of service. Barbara Partyka has also joined the Board, however she joined after the Annual Meeting was held.

As has been the practice for a number of years, the Staff Appreciation Dinner was held along with the Annual Meeting. Staff honored for years of service were: Residential Services Coordinator Karen Himchak and Director of Operations Tim McHugh, both for 35 years of service; Bob Cucura and Barb Siarkiewicz, both for 25 years; Tessie Bauer and Kathy Sloneker for 20 years; and Betty Dalton for 10 years.

Welcome to our new Board Members

Barbara Partyka

Barbara is a Purchasing Agent for the Commonwealth of PA, State Workers' Insurance Fund where she has spent her entire professional career. She was born and raised in Scranton and attended Lackawanna College. She is a member of Scranton Business & Professional Women, the Society of Irish Women and the PA Association of Purchasing Professionals. Her other volunteer activities include the American Cancer Society, Meals on Wheels of NEPA, the Shamrock Foundation, the Steamtown Marathon and St. Joseph's Center. She lives in Scranton with her husband Jack and daughters Katie and Victoria. She became involved with UCP through her aunt, Board Member Barbara D. Noto.

Robert Jones, Jr.

Bob is a general contractor who owns his own business in Scranton. He became involved with UCP of NEPA helping his late father, Robert Jones, Sr., who was also a member of the Board of Directors, organize golf tournaments benefitting the agency.

He lives in Scranton with his wife Barbara. They have a daughter, Nicole Przywara and a son Mike.

Bob is also a member of the Victor Alfieri Club.



Board members present at the Annual Meeting; standing l-r; Robert Jones Jr., Marilyn Vitali, Deirdre Spelman, Linda Gable and Lynn Hutchings. Seated; Louise Krafjack, Mark Bennett, Dan Ginsberg and Barbara D. Noto.



Staff members honored for years of service; standing l-r; Karen Himchak, Kathy Sloneker, Executive Director Sarah Drob, and Tim McHugh. Seated; Betty Dalton, Tessie Bauer and Barb Siarkiewicz.

United Cerebral Palsy of NEPA Board of Directors

Officers

Mark Bennett, *President*

B. Lynn Hutchings, Ph.D. *Vice-President*

Edward Karpovich, *Treasurer*

Marilyn Vitali, *Secretary*

Members

Anthony Cardell

John M. Darcy

Linda B. Gable

Dr. Daniel Ginsberg

Robert Jones, Jr.

Louise Krafjack

Mary Jean Lynett

Barbara D. Noto

Barbara Partyka

Deirdre Spelman, MSW

Help in Finding the Right Device

Are you confused about all the different assistive technology (AT) products available? Are you having trouble finding one that works for you?

Choosing the device that works best before you buy it can be difficult - there are so many options available! Hands on experience with AT products gives you important information to make the right choice.

The Assistive Technology Resource Center (ATRC) can help you in several ways. We can provide you with an opportunity to have a hands on experience through a Device Demonstration at our location or yours, facilitate a short term loan of equipment through PA's AT Lending Library, research options for you, and provide information about vendors.



For example, suppose you are wondering if a portable electronic magnification device such as the one pictured would meet your needs. Request a demonstration where you could try several different devices and if you find one you want to use within your daily routine, you can borrow it for a few weeks.

These services are available through our subcontract with PIAT -Pennsylvania's Initiative on Assistive Technology, the Commonwealth's AT Act Program at the Institute on Disabilities at Temple University funded through the US

Department of Education. We also help individuals acquire AT by locating funders if available, connection to programs like the Telecommunication Device Distribution Program or locating equipment in a reuse program such as our own "Pass AT On" program. As part of our PIAT supported activities, we also participate in Public Awareness Activities and provide Technical Assistance and Training. If you have any questions please call Linda or Marianne at the main office.



Executive Director's Message

Happy Holidays!

On behalf of the consumers, staff and Board of Directors of UCP of NE PA, I'd like to take this opportunity to wish you and your family all the best this holiday season.

We are gearing up for the holiday season with our ever-popular Holiday Gift Wrapping at the Viewmont Mall. But as we plan for the busy holiday season, both professionally and personally, we are also taking this time to reflect and give thanks for the great year that we have had.

You, as friends, supporters and champions of UCP of Northeastern Pennsylvania, are really what we are most grateful for. Please know that everyone involved with UCP appreciates your time, commitment and financial support.

From our family to yours we wish you a joyous and wonderful holiday and all the best in the New Year.

Enjoy!

Sarah A. Drob

Fitstock Surpasses Goal!
Thank You, NEPA Fit Club!!



Members of the planning committee of Fit Stock for a Cause, which for the 3rd year benefitted UCP of NEPA present a check for \$8,207, three thousand dollars more than their original goal!

Fitstock is a half hour high energy workout set to live music, held this year in the Blakely Borough Recreational Complex on Saturday, May 31st. In addition to the entrance fee, the group raised funds with a basket raffle held along with a pre-registration party at NEPA Fit Club the evening prior to the workout event. An after party at Caverna in Jessup was also included in the festivities. Pictured front row: Nadine Hementosky, Renee Marcinek and Matt Marcinek.

Back row Jon Dressler, Leanne Symuleski, Wendy Yankelitis, Danielle Alu, NEPA Fit Club owner Mike Marcinek, UCP Executive Director Sarah Drob, Jenn Loftus and Lynn Kriasiak.

Up, Up & Away!!



Joe Maciejewski and John Cavill are ready to go on the helicopter ride at the Bloomsburg Fair.

Lekotek Volunteer Wins United Way Scholarship

Gary Drapek, CEO of United Way of Lackawanna & Wayne Counties presents the 3rd Annual Mike Munchak Community Service Scholarship to Sarah Wagner, a volunteer in UCP's Lekotek program.

The \$6,300 award was established by the United Way to assist high school students from Lackawanna or Wayne County who plan to continue their education in an accredited university, college, or trade school in a two or four year program.

Sarah, who is now a freshman at Marywood University, majoring in Musical Theatre, has worked with the Lekotek & Compuplay programs and helped with events like the Ice Cream Social, the Flapjack Fundraisers and Holiday Parties. She continues to be involved as her schedule allows. Congratulations Sarah!!



***UCP Holiday Gift Wrap
at the Viewmont Mall***

***Black Friday thru Christmas Eve
Opens Daily at Noon***

Golf Tournament Benefits Early Intervention Services

UCP's annual Golf Tournament was held on July 11th at Stone Hedge Golf Course in Tunkhannock. Eighty eight people participated in the tournament, which raised funds for our Early Intervention program.

Thanks to our Major Sponsors:

- *Durabilt Fence Co.*
- *Scranton Dodge*
- *Magnotta Construction*
- *Direct Auto*
- *G.R. Noto Electrical*
- *Michael Barbetti & Co.*
- *Community Bank*
- *Pine Hills Restaurant*

We also want to thank our volunteers Sarah Drob, Linda McHugh, Nancy Noone and Bridget Wheeler for their help.



Pictured are UCP Executive Director Sarah Drob, the winning foursome of the Golf Tournament; Mike Sokoloski, Paul May, Egan May and Art McHale, Jr., and UCP Director of Operations Tim McHugh, who organizes the tournament.

Bonanza of Baskets Raffle

We want to thank all the donors, volunteers and other supporters of our annual Bonanza of Baskets raffle which again this year raised funds for the Lekotek program.

<i>Mary Ann Balko</i>	<i>Cinemark</i>	<i>Paper Magic Group</i>
<i>The Bennett Family</i>	<i>Comfort Suites at Montage</i>	<i>PNC Bank</i>
<i>The Drob Family</i>	<i>Elk Mountain Ski Resort</i>	<i>Price Chopper</i>
<i>Nanci Frick</i>	<i>Gerrity's Supermarkets</i>	<i>Split Rock Resort</i>
<i>Linda, Lorraine & Connie</i>	<i>Grande Pizza</i>	<i>St. Joseph's Center</i>
<i>The Krafjack Family</i>	<i>HarperCollins Publishers</i>	<i>SWB Rail Riders</i>
<i>The Labutis Family</i>	<i>Jewish Community Center</i>	<i>Texas Roadhouse</i>
<i>Sharon McArdle</i>	<i>Jewish Family Services</i>	<i>Weis Markets</i>
<i>Sally McCullon & Vincenza Glynn</i>	<i>Kay's Family Restaurant</i>	<i>WNEP TV</i>
<i>Tim & Linda McHugh</i>	<i>La Cucina</i>	<i>Woodloch Springs & Tony Cardell</i>
<i>Terri Winowich</i>	<i>Lynn Sandy's Cakes</i>	<i>YMCA of Greater Carbondale</i>
<i>AAA of North Penn</i>	<i>Malcolm's Haircutters</i>	<i>YMCA of Greater Scranton</i>
<i>Arcaro & Genell's</i>	<i>Mama Mia's Pizza</i>	
<i>Brunetti's Pizza</i>	<i>Mohegan Sun at Pocono Downs</i>	

United Cerebral Palsy of Northeastern Pennsylvania

2014 Membership Campaign

Dear Friend:

For more than 60 years, United Cerebral Palsy of Northeastern Pennsylvania has been providing services for people with a variety of disabilities.

Starting with a recreational program for young adults which grew into the *Adult Training Program*, then adding *Early Intervention Services* for children, advocacy and support services through the *Elks Home Services* program, opportunities to live and participate in the community through *Residential Services*, and finally services that take advantage of technology, namely the *Lekotek & Compuplay* and the *Assistive Technology Resource Center*, our services have grown and changed along with the changing needs and growing role of people with disabilities in our society.

Through the years and the many changes to our programs, one constant has been the community's support of UCP of NEPA. We are once again reaching out for that support for our annual Membership Campaign which raises funds for all of our services.

Since our ability to continue providing services depends on our ability to raise funds while keeping non program costs to a minimum, we have decided to try including the membership letter in our regular newsletter, thus saving the cost of an additional mailing.

As you plan your Holiday and end-of-the-year gift giving, we hope you will consider a donation to UCP of Northeastern Pennsylvania. A return envelope is included in this newsletter for your convenience.

Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,



Mark Bennett, President
Board of Directors

Memorial Contributions

Received April 1 – September 30, 2014

UCP gratefully accepts contributions of any amount made in honor of a special occasion or in memory of a loved one. For more information contact us at 570-347-3357 or ucpnepa@epix.net.

In Memory of Maureen Bonham
Carol A. Saykewicz

In Memory of Maureen Bonham
Nancy Savage

In Memory of Shirley Stolarik
Francis, Nancy & Regina Savage

In Memory of Florence Ilaria
Doris A. Lindsley

In Memory of Reverend Peter Vincent Herhenreader
Marie J. Savage Leach

In Memory of Reverend Peter Vincent Herhenreader
Francis, Nancy & Regina Savage

In Memory of Karen Halshe
Doris A. Lindsley

In Memory of Mary Taborne
Francis, Nancy & Regina Savage

In Memory of John W. Gaudenzi, Sr.
Nancy Savage

In Memory of Dorothy Cupp
Kim M. Murray

In Memory of Dorothy Cupp
Susan Lewis

In Memory of Dorothy Cupp
Sharon Payne

In Memory of Dorothy Cupp
Valerie Fillifini

In Memory of Alice Micone
Doris A. Lindsley

In Memory of Dorothy Cupp
Carol Frashfski

In Memory of Dorothy Frashfski Cupp
Bernardine A. Smith

In Memory of Morris Goldstein
The Ronald Krafjack Family

*A donation was made to
the Susan D. Keller Memorial Fund
by Elaine R. Fernandez*

In the last newsletter, a memorial was incorrect.

It should have read:

In Memory of Margaret A. "Peg" Savo
The Ronald Krafjack Family

General & Membership Contributions

Received April 1 - September 30, 2014

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

Mr. & Mrs. William A. Lees

Mrs. Annabelle T. Rogers

DONORS

Ms. Janet Dobson

Mr. & Mrs. George A. Gumble

Mrs. Jean LaSorsa

Mr. Saul Levy

Mrs. Filomena Matlick

SUPPORTERS

Mrs. Barbara D. Noto

Mrs. Richard Scott

South Abington Lions

Ms. Antonia Stefan

Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Fisch

Ms. Linda Schuller

Ms. Sheryl Gross

Mr. Anthony Pusateri

Ms. Rosalie Dziedzic

Mrs. Carolyn Lacoe

Ms. Betty Rowlands

James J. & Helen Mellon

United Cerebral Palsy of Northeastern Pennsylvania

425 Wyoming Avenue
Scranton, Pennsylvania 18503-1227

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Non Profit
Organization
PAID
Permit
No. 1092

A United Way Agency

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

Mailing address: 425 Wyoming Avenue Scranton, PA 18503-1227
Phone: 570-347-3357 TTY: 570-347-3117
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The United Cerebral Palsy Newsletter is published by:

**United Cerebral Palsy
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.



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

Mark Bennett, 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

Licensed by the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare

Primary program funding provided by: PA Dept. of Public Welfare - Office of Developmental Programs and Office of Child Development & Early Learning
the Lackawanna-Susquehanna Behavioral Health-Intellectual Disabilities-Early Intervention Program
the Wayne County Office of Behavioral & Developmental Programs and Early Intervention * 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) * the Scranton Area Foundation

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.