



Rae-minders

If you want to get involved, donate, volunteer, have questions or ideas, her door is always open. Please reach out to Rae D. Baldino, Director of Communications and Development, at (570)347-3357, ext.33 or (570) 589-7414 or r.baldino@ucpnepa.org.

CHOOSE UCP OF NEPA FOR



We will be participating in NEPA GIVES on **Friday, June 4, 2021**. Please make donations through the NEPA Gives online platform. These donations will be enhanced with bonus funds provided by NEPA Gives sponsors—making dollars stretch further.

➔ Nepagives.org/organizations/ucpnepa

UCP GOLF TOURNAMENT

We are planning our 14th Annual UCP of NEPA Golf Tournament at Stone Hedge Golf Course in Tunkhannock. Keep your eyes out for additional information on our website and social media channels as well as in our next newsletter. All proceeds benefit our Children's Services programming.



425 Wyoming Ave
Scranton, PA 18503

phone: 570.347.3357
fax: 570.341.5308
website: www.ucpnepa.org



UPDATE

AT LENDING LIBRARY EXTENDS LOAN TIMES

All loans through the Assistive Technology Lending Library (ATLL) are now for 9 week loan periods. We also have increased the inventory of iPads, Chromebooks, and wifi hot spots to loan out. The lending library is available for all Pennsylvanians to access; not only for people with disabilities but also people who have family or friends with disabilities, and professionals who work with individuals with disabilities. Check out the inventory at ucpnepa.org/atrc.



Want your newsletter emailed to you instead?
Just let us know by emailing us at info@ucpnepa.org!



facebook.com/ucpnepa



instagram.com/ucpnepa



twitter.com/ucpnepa



linkedin.com/company/ucpnepa



youtube.com

UCP OF NEPA

Limitless

Life without limits for people with disabilities

WINTER 2020/ SPRING 2021
NEWSLETTER



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MARILYN A. VITALI
President

ROBERT JONES, JR.
Vice President

EDWARD KARPOVICH
Treasurer

LINDA GABLE
Secretary

BARBARA PARTYKA
Immediate Past President

MARK BENNETT

ANTHONY CARDELL

MARY BETH D'ANDREA

DANIEL GINSBERG, PhD

B. LYNN HUTCHINGS, PhD

LOUISE KRAJACK

BARBARA D. NOTO

MANAGEMENT TEAM

SARAH A. DROB
Chief Executive Officer

TIMOTHY McHUGH
Chief Operating Officer

RAE D. BALDINO
Director of Communications & Development

CHERYL A. BURGER
Director of Children's Services

KAREN A. HIMCHAK
Director of Residential Services

LANIA R. ISMAIL
Director of Finance

SARA PETRINI
Director of Adult Day Program



GO GREEN ON MARCH 25

March is both National Cerebral Palsy and Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month with Cerebral Palsy Awareness Day being observed on March 25 and we're raising awareness!

CP Awareness Day was started back in 2006 by a cerebral palsy advocacy group to create more awareness about CP and improve conditions moving forward. The color green was selected to symbolize new growth and hope for advancements in treatment. CP Awareness Day took off across the nation thereafter with growing participation that even included buildings lighting up green to show their support.

This is the third year the Lackawanna County Commissioners' declared March 25 Go Green Day to increase awareness of those individuals with Cerebral Palsy and developmental disabilities. There is no cost to participate for this event, so it is a perfect opportunity for families, friends, schools, teams, businesses, and organizations to show support by wearing green.

Participating in GO GREEN is three simple steps:

1. Dress in green.
2. Take a photo of you and others in green.
3. Post to any of UCP of NEPA's social media channels with the hashtag #GOGREEN.

For 2021, long-time UCP of NEPA supporter and board of directors member Barbara Partyka was selected to help spearhead GO GREEN efforts.

We hope the entire local community will GO GREEN with us and show their support.



Pictured above with Lackawanna County Commissioners' Go Green day proclamation are UCP board of directors members Barbara J. Partyka (left) and Marilyn A. Vitali (middle) with UCP of NEPA's Sarah A. Drob (right). Ms. Partyka is also the ambassador for Go Green 2021.



GRANT AWARDED TO UCP OF NEPA FOR CRITICAL NEEDS

We are grateful to the Scranton Area Community Foundation for awarding the COVID-19 Critical Needs Grant Sponsored by the Robert H. Spitz Foundation in the amount of \$3,000 to UCP of NEPA. As a result of the pandemic we were unable to hold two of our major fundraising events, our Golf Tournament and Holiday Gift Wrap. This grant is being used to offset the loss of income from these events.



The
Robert H. Spitz
Foundation

SPECIAL EVENTS



BOSCOV'S FRIENDS HELPING FRIENDS DAY was held at Boscov's both in-store and online on October 14 and 15 with five percent of all sales being donated back to nonprofits. Thank you to everyone who participated in this event and chose UCP of NEPA as their charity of choice at checkout. We were able to raise \$100 through this event.



PURPLE PEPPER DELI FUNDRAISER was a success! It was the place to grab lunch or dinner to go on Thursday, November 5, with 15 percent of all sales being donated to UCP of NEPA. Purple Pepper Deli had their busiest fundraiser yet and donated \$283.00 to UCP of NEPA. We are very grateful to owner Trevor Brown and the entire Purple Pepper Deli team for their generosity during the pandemic.



THE 39th ANNUAL GREENRIDGE MILE was held virtually in November 2020 and raised \$3,000 for UCP. We would like to thank Andy Gavin's and owner, Don Surace, for their commitment to UCP during the pandemic, when it has been very difficult for restaurants. We would also like to thank Jim Moran, race coordinator, the Greenridge Mile Association, the entire committee, each sponsor and all participants of the Green Ridge Mile for their support navigating the Greenridge Miles's first virtual race.



THE 2020 HOLIDAY WREATH SALE was a success, raising over \$2,200 for UCP's Early Intervention Services. We would like to thank everyone for their continued support and helping us ensure everyone's safety during the pandemic with our curbside pickup. We would also like to congratulate our holiday wreath giveaway winner Robin Frances, pictured on left.



SHIRT OFF OUR BACKS T-SHIRT SALE was a success, raising almost \$100 for UCP of NEPA. We would like to thank Axelrad Screen Printing for their commitment to helping the community during these hard times and everyone who purchased a t-shirt for their support.

Introducing...

We would like to introduce you to Ralph DeRubertis who has been part of our residential program at UCP for many years and lives in a UCP group home in Lackawanna County.

Ralph is very social and enjoys talking to friends, family, fellow residents and staff and he never turns down sweets. He is always ready to have a conversation and pre-COVID could be found greeting everyone that came through the UCP doors, especially new visitors. Quite the UCP ambassador!

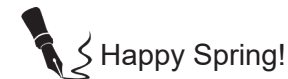
Ralph enjoys listening to music, especially the polkas. He is pictured below (right-most photo) with local Polka legend Stanky from Stanky and the Coal Miners, who made a surprise guest appearance at one of his birthday parties.

He also loves watching old western shows on TV and cheering on the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins.

Be sure to say hello to Ralph if you see him out and about or stop by UCP of NEPA!

"Introducing..." is a feature in our newsletter that will highlight one of our consumers or staff.

LETTER FROM THE CEO



Both literally and figuratively, the light is around the corner! Daylight saving time starts on March 14, 2021 bringing with it longer, brighter days. There is just something about the start of spring, the reemergence of the tress, plants, flowers and sunshine that generates hope. And this Spring, we all need as much hope as we can generate!

Adding to the feeling of hopefulness is the reduction in COVID-19 new cases and deaths and the long awaited availability of the COVID-19 vaccines. Although it has not been without its struggles, more and more people are able to be vaccinated. There is real hope that an end to this pandemic and the isolation and devastation it has caused is coming.

At UCP of NEPA, we are looking forward to reopening our day program, visits from family and friends and continuing our active involvement in our communities. Together we all make our communities better places to live and learn. We've learned a great deal about our own resiliency this past year. I think there is very little we can't create, improve, redesign or overcome!

As we move into spring and summer with the hope and joy these seasons bring, we hope you and your family and friends remain safe, healthy and hopeful!

All the Best,

Sarah A. Drob
Chief Executive Officer

MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

FROM JULY 2020 - DECEMBER 2020



In Memory of Robert Barnack
DORIS A. LINDSLEY

In Memory of Robert P. Collins
MELISSA CALLAHAN

In Memory of Lydia Anne Coulter
CALVIN & MARJORIE KING
LOUISE KRAFFACK
JIM & JEAN ROBERTSON

In Memory of John M. Darcy
DAVID & VERA WALLINE

In Memory of Ninette Gordon
DORIS A. LINDSLEY

In Memory of Martha Mastroianni
DORIS A. LINDSLEY

In Memory of Maureen O'Hara
ANNE PADELFORD

In Memory of David Phillips
DORIS A. LINDSLEY

In Memory of Francis Sladicka
DORIS A. LINDSLEY

OUR DONORS FROM JULY 2020 - DECEMBER 2020

UCP BUILDERS (\$2,500 - \$4,999)
Greenridge Mile Associates
Robert H. Spitz Foundation
Scranton Area Community Foundation

UCP BELIEVERS (\$1,000 - \$2,499)
Irving & Edythe Grossman
Irene Matto Trust

FRIENDS OF UCP (\$500 - \$999)
Paul & Anne Falzett Charitable Fund
Kiwanis Club of Scranton

PATRONS OF UCP (\$250 - \$499)
Ginader, Jones & Co., LLP
Network For Good Donations
Purple Pepper Deli & Farms
Marilyn Vitali

SUPPORTERS OF UCP (Up to \$249)
Axelrad Screen Printing
Boscov's
John T. Cognetti
Ruth & Bruce Davies
Suzanne Druffner
Dunmore Council Junior Order of United American Mechanics
Sharon Durkin
Howard & Judith Griggs
Alan Hughes
IBEW Local Union #81
Ruta Labutis
Janet Martin
Nancy Mecca & Mark Sciacca
Barbara Noto
Sarah Piccini
Sharon Purkin
Jim & Jean Robertson
Colleen Ross
Kris Salmon
Michele Srebro



We are deeply saddened by the loss of Thomas Davies, our head of maintenance. We extend our sincere sympathies to Tom's family and friends. He was truly the kindest man and will be missed by everyone.



Heather Barletta
Tianna Bicking
Melody DeFilippo
Denise Kimes
Marissa McGowan
James Vincent
Dave Woodall