



**UCP of Greater Cleveland**  
10011 Euclid Ave  
Cleveland, OH 44106

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# Embracing Children. Empowering Adults.



## AUBRI'S STORY

"My sister's name is Emersyn," can be heard coming from an assistive technology device. It is clear that Aubri is very excited about becoming a big sister and she tells everyone the BIG news. Her ability to share her excitement about her new baby sister wouldn't have been possible just a few months ago. Aubri is a bright and engaging five year old with an extremely happy and determined attitude. She was born 16 weeks premature and is described by doctors as having cerebral palsy with generalized muscle weakness and developmental disabilities that impact her motor function. When she first came to LeafBridge Therapy Services at the age of two, she had limited motor control and was unable to crawl or walk. She was nonverbal and relied on gestures to communicate with her family. LeafBridge therapists quickly determined based upon Aubri's behavior and reactions that she was aware of her surroundings and had a

strong understanding of what was being asked of her. She started receiving physical and occupational therapy right away, working on strengthening and building motor control of her core and upper body so that she could participate in play.

She also started speech-language therapy to help her learn to communicate and to work on respiratory support so that she could use her voice and swallow safely. Three years later, Aubri is now able to sit independently and can stand for short periods of time. Because Aubri is not able to walk independently, her occupational therapist, Miss Katie, investigated power mobility. A power chair was loaned to Aubri for use at home, and she excelled! Aubri's mom expressed her delight in watching her daughter be free and able to drive in whichever direction she chose! Aubri can also now take steps when her body weight is supported. She uses a walker for mobility, but this takes a great deal of her energy and time. Power mobility truly gives her freedom to explore.

Miss Meghan, her speech-language therapist, helped Aubri trial different communication devices and found the one that worked best for her. Now she and Aubri are learning how to use her new NOVA Chat 10, and Aubri is quickly learning how to navigate the screens and pictures to form sentences. It is evident that she is a bright and funny young lady and is eager to share her thoughts and joy. Last week during physical therapy, Aubri told her physical therapist she wanted to go to see Miss Meghan. She first selected "people," then "UCP," then "Miss Meghan" and was so excited to use her talker to state her wish!

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**UCP of Greater Cleveland's Two Centers of Excellence,  
LeafBridge for children and OakLeaf for adults:**



**FIND UCP OF GREATER CLEVELAND AT:**



[WWW.UCPCLEVELAND.ORG](http://WWW.UCPCLEVELAND.ORG) | 216.791.8363

Scan to register for the Race to Empower 5k & One Mile Fun Run



### Notable Upcoming Dates

#### Race to Empower 5K & One Mile Fun Run

Sunday, May 7, 2017  
7:00 am Packet Pick-up & 9:00 am Start  
Start & Finish: 10011 Euclid Ave, Cleveland  
To register visit [hermesleveland.com/roadracing/events/empower.asp](http://hermesleveland.com/roadracing/events/empower.asp) or scan the QR code

#### UCP of Greater Cleveland Annual Meeting

Tuesday, June 13, 2017  
5:30 to 8:30 pm  
Holiday Inn Independence

#### Team UCP at the Cleveland Triathlon

Sunday, July 23, 2017  
6:00 am to 12:00 pm  
North Coast Harbor in Downtown Cleveland

#### ADA Day at Wow! Wade Oval Wednesday

Wednesday, July 26, 2017  
4:00 to 6:00 pm ADA Activities, 6:00 pm Music  
Wade Oval, University Circle

#### Puttin' on the Ritz Gala

A Celebration of Old Hollywood  
Saturday, October 14, 2017  
6:00 to 11:00 pm  
InterContinental Hotel Cleveland

For more information on any of these events, please call **216-791-8363 ext. 1232** or visit: [ucpcleveland.org/news-and-events/events/](http://ucpcleveland.org/news-and-events/events/)

# Embracing Children. Empowering Adults.

We are proud to introduce you to UCP of Greater Cleveland's newest version of our newsletter! As we continue to respond to new challenges and opportunities during a time of exciting growth and change, we hope our newsletter will serve as a new method of communication to keep you apprised of our diverse organizational and fund raising activities. Donors are a key partner in our work, and we simply cannot do what we do without your generous support. This year, we are placing the spotlight on our agency's founding program – LeafBridge, A Center of Excellence for Children. It remains the heart of our mission and is the focus of our Annual Fund campaign this year.

Generous contributions to our Annual Fund provide the essential financial resources that have allowed our experienced LeafBridge occupational, physical and speech therapists to provide life changing therapeutic interventions for the more than 600 young clients we serve annually. Our exceptional treatment and wrap-around family support services provided by our Case Management staff assist our clients in achieving new milestones each and every day. This is a particularly critical time in our agency's history as the gap between the true cost of therapies and insurance and/or Medicaid reimbursements continues to grow. It is central to our mission to retain our long-standing commitment to treat any child in need and meet related family needs regardless of the family's ability to pay for services.

While our focus for the Annual Fund campaign this year is LeafBridge Services, we will also strive to keep you informed of the significant shifts that are occurring in the ways in which we serve our adult clients. Today, through OakLeaf, a Center of Excellence for Adults, we serve approximately 550 adults every year. Current policy mandates at the federal, state and local levels are causing a paradigm shift in how adults with disabilities are served. These changes fit well with our agency's long-standing philosophy, mission and programming—individuals should be supported to be as independent, productive and integrated into the community as possible.

We urge you to give generously to support UCP of Greater Cleveland's LeafBridge Services for Children this year. We have set an aggressive Annual Fund goal of \$250,000 and will be sending you updates throughout the year on the life changing and lifesaving work in which we are engaged. On behalf of our Board and Staff, thank you for your consideration and shared belief that children with disabilities deserve and have the right to all of the opportunities in life that we are afforded. You can make your gift online at [www.ucpcleveland.org/donate](http://www.ucpcleveland.org/donate) or mail your gift to **UCP of Greater Cleveland, 10011 Euclid Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44106.**

Best regards,



*Patricia S. Otter*  
**Patricia Otter,**  
President & CEO



*Brian Padden*  
**Brian Padden,**  
Chair, Board of Directors

## UCP FAST FACTS

### UCP OF GREATER CLEVELAND:

has an annual budget of more than **\$10 MILLION**

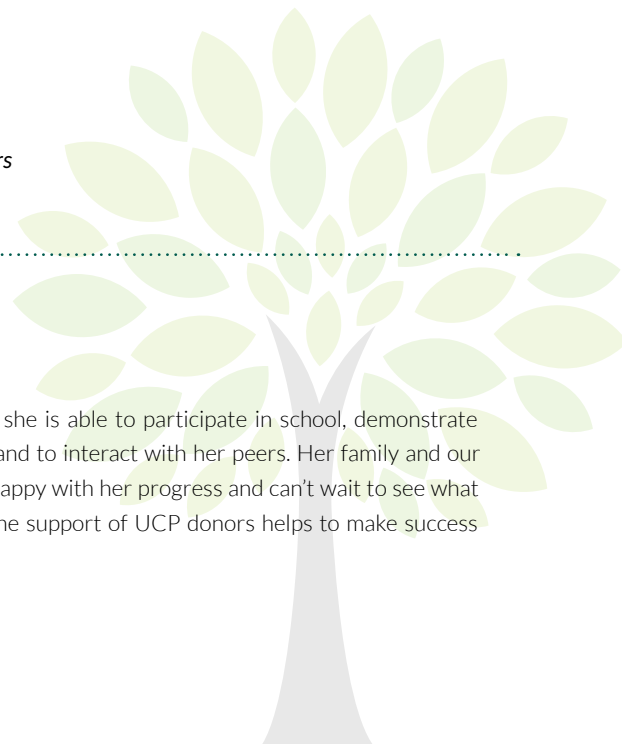
has a dedicated staff comprised of **195 EMPLOYEES**

annually serves more than **1,100 CLIENTS**

Only 25% of clients served by UCP of Greater Cleveland have a cerebral palsy diagnosis. **The other 75% have significant and diverse intellectual and developmental disabilities.**

Some of our clients are the only known people with their specific type of disability.

UCP of Greater Cleveland is not a branch of a national organization; **we are an autonomous 501(c)3 organization with our own financial independence and Board of Directors.**



## AUBRI'S STORY CONT.

As Aubri becomes more independent, she is able to participate in school, demonstrate to her teachers what she has learned and to interact with her peers. Her family and our entire LeafBridge staff are extremely happy with her progress and can't wait to see what challenge Aubri will overcome next! The support of UCP donors helps to make success stories like Aubri's a reality.



## Client Success

Marquisha has been volunteering for over three months at Westlake Porter Public Library. Some of her volunteer duties include handing out tickets to children and their families for the popular children's program "Storytime Song and Dance," assisting the group leader with handing out instruments and helping the children with dance movements.

## DONOR SPOTLIGHT

Mrs. Thomasina "Tomie" Patton became involved with UCP of Greater Cleveland in the late 1990s after learning of our Community Employment program. After hiring a few clients, Mrs. Patton served as a member of our Board of Directors from 2003-2006. She is currently a member of UCP's Lorain County Business Advisory Committee (BAC). Below, Tomie shares why she gives her time, talent and treasures to UCP of Greater Cleveland.

"My interest in UCP started back in the '90s with employing UCP clients. I learned about the (Community Employment) program and saw that it was very well run. At first some of my employees were a little hesitant about working with someone with disabilities, but UCP staff helped with the transition. It was amazing to see the shift in the employees and how well they reacted to working with someone with disabilities. Since then, I have employed several UCP clients.

I continued my involvement with UCP after my board membership ended because I still felt very connected to the mission and the people. UCP serves a very vital function in the community. As a (founding) member of the Lorain County BAC, I help find jobs for people with disabilities, which is a growing segment in our society; they need jobs so that they can live fuller lives. We are helping to address a need that isn't thought about very much by the general public.



■ Tom and Tomie Patton at UCP of Greater Cleveland's inaugural "Puttin' on the Ritz" Gala

I would encourage others to donate to UCP of Greater Cleveland because it is such a well-run organization; the administration and staff are just outstanding. I see that my money is used as efficiently as possible and is going to be used properly for the mission rather than being eaten up in exorbitant administration costs. This organization helps people who truly need it."



MEDICAL MUTUAL®

## FEATURED AGENCY PARTNER

UCP of Greater Cleveland is proud to highlight Medical Mutual of Ohio as a Presenting Agency Partner. Our relationship with Medical Mutual extends well over 10 years and has provided \$278,600 in philanthropic support. In 2016 Medical Mutual became our 2016-2017 Presenting Agency Partner, pledging a total of \$150,000 to UCP programs over two years. This major partnership supports growth in both our OakLeaf Partners Employment Programs, as well as our children's LeafBridge Therapy Services.

OakLeaf Partners has experienced a dramatic increase in the number of adults referred to the agency for employment services and OakLeaf Job Placement Specialists will place over 100 adults with disabilities into jobs at community businesses during 2017! The number of referrals for this program is expected to grow each year. As a Presenting Agency Partner, Medical Mutual is supporting the expansion of our staff capacity to meet the growing need for experienced employment placement staff. At LeafBridge, we have also seen growth in our extended school year programming, which is transitioning into a summer camp model, Camp LeafBridge, this year. This program provides transitional programming over the summer to assist students with disabilities to continue their educational growth and work toward their personal Individual Education Program (IEP) goals during the summer months.

In return for this generous two-year support, UCP of Greater Cleveland is providing Medical Mutual with prominent brand exposure, which includes up to four million logo impressions through agency publications, social media and our four major fundraising events. Thank you Medical Mutual. Together, we are empowering children and adults with disabilities to advance their independence, productivity and inclusion in the community!