



Building Brighter Futures

WINTER 2009 NEWSLETTER

Team UCP Returns in 2009!



Building on the success of the inaugural year, United Cerebral Palsy of Greater Cleveland is proud to announce the return of Team UCP at the 23rd Annual Cleveland Triathlon August 2, 2009! In 2008 65 individuals joined Team UCP. Ten families raced for or with their children, pulling them in bike trailers during the cycle leg and pushing them in jogging strollers or wheelchairs during the run portion! Our goal is to double the number of total team participants in 2009!



As the official charity of the Cleveland Triathlon, Team UCP is our agency's largest fundraising event, and raises funds through corporate sponsorship, individual donations for the miles run, biked and swam by members and, new in 2009, through the number of volunteers we bring to the race! Held at North Coast Harbor in downtown Cleveland, the Cleveland Triathlon attracts close to 800 individuals every year. Executive Director Trish Otter notes, "For each of these athletes, the race is about accomplishing a personal goal and striving to achieve their greatest potential through hard work and perseverance, just as our clients do every day. There continues to be a natural, mutually beneficial partnership for UCP and the Cleveland Triathlon."



Veteran triathlete and Cleveland sports anchor John Telich of Fox 8 Cleveland will act as Honorary Chair of Team UCP in 2009. He will once again participate in the race as a member of Team Dawud, one of the families tackling the event as a relay with their son. United Cerebral Palsy of Greater Cleveland is proud to have John on our team, and hope that many others follow his lead!

For more information about the Cleveland Triathlon, visit www.pacificsportsllc.com/cleveland/athlete.html. If you would like details about sponsorship, race participation, volunteering or general information, contact Beth Lucas at (216) 791-8363, ext. 227 or blucas@ucpcleveland.org.

To visit our online Team UCP donations site, visit www.active.com/donate/teamucp09.



BOARD NEWS

United Cerebral Palsy of Greater Cleveland is pleased to announce the following new Board of Directors members:

Cynthia Blain,
SS&G Financial Services

Beth Eaton,
KeyBank

Shenandoah Robinson, M.D.,
UH Rainbow Babies and
Children's Hospital

John Willse,
Franchise Management &
Development, Inc.

Who is the Board?

United Cerebral Palsy of Greater Cleveland is currently governed by a 20-member Board of Directors with a 3-member Executive Committee.

Members bring not only personal connections and financial resources, but also a wealth of knowledge and expertise from a cross-section of industries including banking and finance, legal, medical, marketing and sales. The Board of Directors represents a strong commitment to the mission and goals of United Cerebral Palsy, providing oversight and advising agency leadership on critical matters. UCP maintains an active Board of Directors and members remain the organization's key representatives in the community. A full list of the members is available on the back cover of this newsletter, and all members can be contacted at UCP's headquarters. Members must be nominated and voted onto the Board of Directors. If you have questions or concerns, or would like to be considered for nomination, please contact Trish Otter.

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

PATRICIA S. OTTER

Dear Friends and Staff,

This month, United Cerebral Palsy of Greater Cleveland will undergo an extensive accreditation review with CARF, the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities. Every three years we must prove to this nationally recognized authority that we meet their standards so that we may continue to offer cutting edge services to the community. It reminds me of how, throughout our lives, we all must continually prove ourselves to others who hold some form of authority over us – children to parents, students to teachers, employees to supervisors, and yes... non-profit agencies to its donors. Understandably, donors want measurable proof of our results before deciding to contribute their hard earned dollars and we strive to show them the impact of their support.

Some dread or begrudge this lifelong phenomenon while I welcome it. When I know my staff and I are doing our very best, admitted to and corrected our shortfalls, and have operated in an honest and ethical manner, I know we've done all we can to accomplish our mission. We must also, on a daily basis, prove to our clients that our focus is their well-being and we will do whatever it takes to help advance their independence, productivity and full citizenship.

Then I consider how often our clients must prove themselves to others. They must consistently work to allow others to see past their disabilities – their parents, their caregivers, their teachers, their employers. This is something that I've not experienced and I don't know how I would handle it. Our clients have no choice.

While I never want anyone to feel sorry for those with disabilities... the next time you are required to prove your value to others, please consider individuals with disabilities who must do so every day of their lives. And the next time you talk with or meet an individual with an obvious disability, look past it – we all have less obvious traits that we hope others will look past in us.

We are facing tough economic times at the agency this year and we will make the necessary adjustments to overcome any obstacles we encounter. We are up for the challenge of our accreditation review and will maintain our focus of success and our spirit of accomplishment. Our clients have taught us well.



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Patricia S. Otter". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Patricia S. Otter

United Cerebral Palsy Celebrates the Holidays!

UCP clients, families and staff members enjoyed the holiday season in 2008 with parties throughout the month of December! With the generosity of the community, everyone enjoyed great food, gifts, activities and games.



Karen enjoyed a visit from Santa at the UCP Westlake Holiday Party.

Snowflake Ball

The Third Annual Snowflake Ball was held at UCP's Wolstein Center, Friday evening, December 19. Ninety-eight clients and staff members from the Residential Services Program gathered together to enjoy great food, door prizes, raffles and a gift for everyone in attendance. After homemade punch, a chicken, pasta and salad buffet and an array of cookies and cakes, guests spent the night dancing to the music of DJ Herbert Stokes, UCP's own environmental services team leader! A great time was had by all!



St. Peter Chanel Holiday Party

Students from St. Peter Chanel High School in Bedford once again planned and hosted a holiday party for children with disabilities on Sunday, December 7th. Dozens of families served by United Cerebral Palsy attended the party, where each child and their siblings were assigned a high school 'buddy' who helped them with crafts, brought them lunch and even watched a magic show together! The day would not be complete without a visit from Santa, and no child went home empty handed. All logistics and expenses are paid for through fundraising efforts of St. Peter Chanel High School students. United Cerebral Palsy and the families we serve are grateful for their efforts.



Antwan Peek Hosts Agency Party



For the second year in a row, Cleveland Browns Linebacker Antwan Peek graciously hosted a holiday party for Children's Services and Vocational Services clients. The day included karaoke, crafts, games and gift giving.

Clients, family members and staff enjoyed a lunch of pizza, chicken and cookies for all ~ and the chance to have a picture taken with Santa. Antwan took pictures and gave autographs to all in attendance. A party was also held at our Westlake center. United Cerebral Palsy is proud to continue our relationship with Antwan Peek and the Cleveland Browns, and we thank him for his genuine interest in our clients and their families.



Improving the Future for Children with Special Needs through Early Intervention

The stress of bringing home a newborn is life-changing. Compound the normal life pressures with issues such as medical complications or disabilities, and the stress on parents can become overwhelming. Daily family living may become compounded with anxiety over high medical bills, heightened behavioral issues, and the need to re-evaluate hopes for their child's future.

United Cerebral Palsy of Greater Cleveland is part of a network of service providers providing Early Intervention Services under the Ohio Help Me Grow Program. This state-wide program, which is funded through federal dollars and administered by the Ohio Department of Health, provides a community-based program which focuses on identification of children in need of early intervention, connection of families to community resources, and provision of much needed medical and social services for the child, complete with assessments of the child's physical, mental, and developmental well-being. UCP has been a service provider of Help

Me Grow Early Intervention Services for over five years and each year the program grows exponentially. In 2005 UCP had one Service Coordinator and was serving seven families; in 2008, five Service Coordinators supervised by a licensed social worker provided services to over 300 families.

The Early Intervention Service Coordination Program strives to meet the goal "make success by three" for all children in our community by providing intervention with timely and appropriate information and services during the earliest stages of a child's life in order to minimize the impact of the medical conditions, disabilities, and risk factors upon the young child. Children eligible for services include any child age birth to three who has a diagnosed medical issue, physical or developmental disability, or who is at-risk for developmental delay. Risk factors include items such as low birth-weight, premature birth, economically disadvantaged family, maternal prenatal substance abuse, being born to an adolescent mother, or physical/social isolation of the infant.

Program Manager Celia Chesnick is absolute in her belief that early intervention makes a difference for children with special needs. "Every child that participates in the Early Intervention Program is a success story, because their families become connected with resources that they were not aware of before."

The program impacts children like Sam, who had multiple medical problems and was at high risk for developmental delays; doctors warned he would most likely not survive. However, his adoptive parents were decisive in choosing to pursue early intervention to provide Sam with the best chance of survival possible. A staff member at United Cerebral Palsy worked with Sam's parents to connect them with UCP services and community resources. Sam is now three and is able to crawl, make some verbalizations, and communicates with his parents using sign language. His future holds many more possibilities because he received early intervention.

Identification of children in need of services is critical. Each of us has a responsibility to the children in our community to give them the best chance possible for a positive start in life. If you meet a parent who is struggling or if you have concerns about an infant or toddler's language, feeding, walking, handling of toys, seeing, hearing or playing alone or with others please encourage the parent to call United Cerebral Palsy at (216) 791-8363, Ext. 260 or (216) 736-4300 (Cuyahoga County). Services are free, and it could make a world of difference for that child and their family. For more information on the Ohio Help Me Grow Initiative, please visit their website at www.ohiohelpmefrow.org.

Save the Date!

Parents Day Out:
April 17, 2009

Family
Information Fair:
May 15, 2009

Spotlight: Community Employment and Courtney Oatey

United Cerebral Palsy of Greater Cleveland is proud to partner with businesses throughout Northeast Ohio to provide employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities. The agency began working with Minute Men Human Resource System in 1998 when Job Developer Greg Zaryk approached company leadership about being involved in the agency's Business Advisory Committee (BAC). The BAC is a group of area corporate leaders who convene to provide guidance and help the agency increase the involvement and participation of local businesses in United Cerebral Palsy

vocational programming. Members of Minute Men's management team quickly agreed, and within two years they approached UCP about their need for an individual to do secure document shredding.

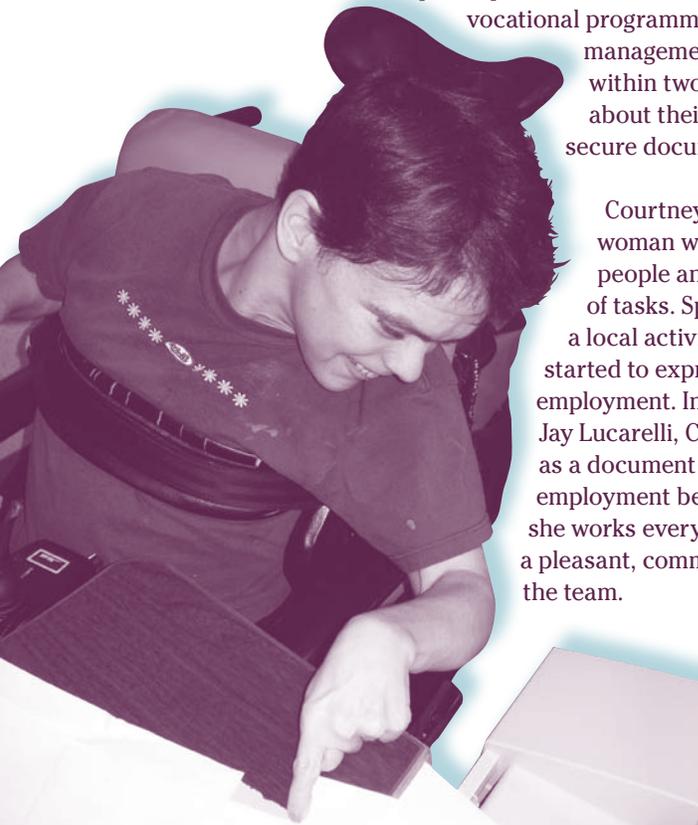
Courtney Oatey is a vibrant young woman who enjoys interacting with people and accomplishing a variety of tasks. Spending most of her time at a local activities center, Courtney had started to express an interest in finding employment. Impressing company President Jay Lucarelli, Courtney was hired on the spot as a document shredder at Minute Men. Her employment began on January 19, 2000, and she works every Tuesday. Courtney remains a pleasant, committed and focused member of the team.

According to Dan Wilkins, Director of Operations at Complete Personnel Logistics (a Minute Men Company), "it's not a stretch to say that Courtney

has been one of our most consistent performers for nearly a decade now. She fulfills a vital function at our corporate office and it's amazing to think back over the years and not come up with a single recollection that is not positive in regards to Courtney Oatey. As an HR management company, customers place their confidence in us to secure their sensitive employee data, so having Courtney on-site to shred confidential documents is essential. She comes in, greets her co-workers warmly, then puts her head down and focuses on the task at hand with a steadiness that others are hard-pressed to match."

United Cerebral Palsy of Greater Cleveland is proud to have Minute Men Human Resource System as a part of our Community Employment Program. Since the year 2000, they have hired three individuals from the program. Organizations like Minute Men allow UCP to provide meaningful work opportunities for motivated and determined individuals – like Courtney – throughout the community.

For more information about Vocational Services or starting a Community Employment site, contact (216) 791-8363, ext. 225.



Oatey SCS Team Wins Award

The team of workers at UCP's Supported Employment Site at Oatey Supply Chain Services received the You Made a Difference award January 6th for helping to pack a rush order effectively and efficiently. Oatey management recognized the team of Florence Catchings, Paul Helm, Paul Luszczewski, Kathleen Messmer, Serena Rodriguez, Kevin Schuster, Amy Smolko, Pam Wingfield and Site Supervisor Andrew Long (pictured here) for their hard work, flexibility and dedication during difficult economic times.



GRANTS AND AWARDS

\$50,000 Grant Received from Saint Luke's Foundation

United Cerebral Palsy of Greater Cleveland is pleased to announce the award of a \$50,000 grant from Saint Luke's Foundation, made in November of 2008 in support of our Steps to Independence® Program, an intensive therapy program for children with motor disorders. The primary focus of treatment in the Steps to Independence® Program is to enable each child to develop maximum functioning in order to lead as independent and productive a life as possible. Physical and occupational therapy is carefully targeted to make improvements in abilities in areas that will have the most impact on age-appropriate developmental tasks and interactions, with individualized goals that are set based on the each child's needs. Through the support of Saint Luke's Foundation and other philanthropic partners, UCP is able to offer this effective therapy to any child who would benefit, regardless of their family's financial situation.

Saint Luke's Foundation is a community-based private foundation formed in 1997 when the charitable assets of the Saint Luke's Medical Center, then becoming part of a for-profit health care corporation, were used to establish the Foundation. The Foundation's mission is focused on improving the health and well-being of individuals, families, and communities. Since 1997, Saint Luke's Foundation has awarded more than \$64 million in grants to non-profit organizations throughout Greater Cleveland and Northeast Ohio. United Cerebral Palsy of Greater Cleveland is proud to partner with Saint Luke's Foundation. Additional information on Saint Luke's Foundation can be found on their website at www.saintlukesfoundation.org.

GRANTS AND AWARDS

Saint Luke's Foundation
The Lubrizol Foundation
Edwin D. Northrup II Fund
Richard J. Fasenmyer Foundation
The DBJ Foundation
The Richard Horvitz and Erica Hartman-Horvitz Foundation

United Cerebral Palsy of Greater Cleveland would like to congratulate:

Jeannette Stolle, Licensed Practical Nurse at the Edendale Group Home, for obtaining her Bachelor's Degree in Healthcare Administration

Esther Winn, Community Site Support Specialist, for obtaining her Associate's Degree in Business Administration

Sharon Meixner, Employment Services Manager, for obtaining her Certificate as a CARF Surveyor

IN MEMORIAM

The UCP community would like to express sincere condolences to the families and friends on the passing of the following clients this past year. They will all be deeply missed.

Tom Lorence
Steven Mervar
Ben Parks
Carolyn Reed
Glenn Scifueia

Jackie Stewart
Bill Suglio
Adolph Travis
Cheryl Wittal

We are also saddened by the loss of long-time employee,

Florence Phillips

Florence impacted countless individuals in her eight years of service here at United Cerebral Palsy.

STAFF SPOTLIGHT

INTESAR TAYE

When Intesar Taye joined United Cerebral Palsy as an Occupational Therapist in 1993, she was a part-time member of a six-person team serving seventeen children. Intesar will celebrate her sixteenth anniversary at UCP on June 18th, and as Director of Children's Services, she now manages a team of twenty-two employees who provide comprehensive care to over 500 children and family members each year. Intesar played a key roll in its transition from a small facet of the agency to a diverse, thriving combination of family-focused services including traditional and intensive therapy, case management, early intervention services and parent education.



Intesar knew when the agency moved from Overlook Road to the state-of-the-art Iris S. and Bert L. Wolstein Center nearly a decade ago that the sky was the limit for Children's Services Programming. This new center would make it possible to provide specialized services to a greater number of individuals and she sought out these techniques, and was the driving force behind the cutting edge Steps to Independence® intensive therapy program. She is respected by members of her staff, her colleagues and agency leadership; and she is well-regarded by all parents and family members who come into contact with her.

According to Executive Director Trish Otter, "Intesar is a true champion of every child who comes through our doors and is the founder of Children's Services holistic approach. She works tirelessly with the families, her staff and management – all with the goal of changing children's lives through therapy, compassion and support. She sees to it that her staff is highly trained, that every child fulfills their potential and that miracles are to be expected. Her passion and devotion have led this program to become one of the most highly respected in Northeast Ohio." These sentiments are echoed in everyone Intesar encounters, including her staff, who knows that she expects 100% of them, yet gives more herself, always with the best interest of the children and families at heart.

Intesar is proud to be a part of the important work of United Cerebral Palsy, and credits the continued support of administration, the Board of Directors and especially her dedicated, honest and hardworking staff for helping to make dreams a reality.

Intesar is married to husband Jamal and has three children, Ayah, Mustafa and Salahudean. She loves to read and listen to books on tape, as well as brain teaser puzzles, but her best times are those spent with her kids and family.

▼ donation form to return ▼

Yes! I/We would like to help
Build Brighter Futures

_____ name

_____ address

_____ phone

_____ email address

Donation:

Please charge my Visa / MasterCard (circle one)

_____ card number _____ expiration

For the amount of: _____

In Honor/In Memory of: _____

Comments: _____

I would like to receive information on the Planned Giving Program

Please mail to: Iris S. and Bert L. Wolstein Center
10011 Euclid Avenue
Cleveland, Ohio 44106
(216) 791-8363

Thank you for your generous support!



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Administration

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Director of Children's Services

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United Cerebral Palsy of Greater Cleveland

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