

Building Brighter Futures

WINTER/SPRING 2010 NEWSLETTER

The mission of United Cerebral Palsy of Greater Cleveland is to empower children and adults with disabilities to advance their independence, productivity and inclusion in the community.

UCP – the First Decade:

- 1950** Agency Founded
American Home Tour is First Fundraiser – Raises \$2,000
- 1953** Overlook Mansion Purchased, Offering Services for 12 Children
First UCP Telethon Raises \$38,000
Mother's Club Formed
- 1955** Purchases First Vehicle
- 1956** Silk Screening Work Completed by Adult Clients
- 1958** Member of United Appeal



UCP - as We Know it Today:

- Agency Housed in Iris S. & Bert L. Wolstein Center, in Westlake and at various Residential and Vocational Sites throughout Greater Cleveland
- Service to Over 1,000 Children and Adults Each Year
- Golf Outing and Triathlon Raise Over \$225,000 Combined Annually
- Steps to Independence Intensive Therapy Program Sees Remarkable Results
- 13 Vehicles to Transport Clients
- 225 Employees
- Partner of Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Disabilities

UCP at 60: Advancing the Mission

It started with a group of parents and community members seeking support for children and adults with disabilities. And while the programming is more widespread, the budget is bigger and the client count is exponentially higher, United Cerebral Palsy of Greater Cleveland (UCP) continues today with these same groups as its very core. A mother's club began some of the first program and fundraising initiatives in the early 1950's – and for the past two years, it has been a group of parents who led the community and raised over \$250,000 and immeasurable awareness through the Cleveland Triathlon. It is with the support of parents, guardians and community members that UCP remains focused on client care, individual rights and agency governance. The structure may have changed, but the heart of the agency remains the same.

This year, the agency is proud to celebrate 60 years of service to the community and started 2010 with a renewed focus, sense of purpose and re-affirmation of the guiding principles and values. After a year-long strategic planning process, the Board of Directors and key stakeholders have re-stated its mission for the future: **to empower children and adults with disabilities to advance their independence, productivity and inclusion in the community.** Through focused and responsive programming, all levels of the agency will operate under the guidance of five core values: client-centered, collaborative, compassion, excellence and integrity. These were the backbone of the agency in its origins and UCP continues to hold itself to the highest standard and go above and beyond in all facets of operations.



It is the agency history that is shaping its future, and United Cerebral Palsy is proud to carry on the tradition and the legacy of those who set the stage for success. Throughout this anniversary year, UCP will celebrate the history, focus on learning from the past and as always, work hard to build a brighter future for those we serve.



FROM THE PRESIDENT & CEO

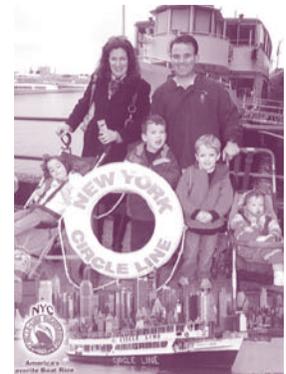
PATRICIA S. OTTER

Dear Friends,

On behalf of everyone here at United Cerebral Palsy of Greater Cleveland, welcome to 2010! When sitting down to write this message early in the New Year, I started to think - is this year termed “two thousand ten” or “twenty ten” or possibly just “ten?” Regardless of the semantics, we are hoping for a great year! The beginning of this new decade is also UCP’s 60th anniversary. We will certainly celebrate this milestone.

As I prepared my 2010 calendar, I considered just how much of my time is ruled by that calendar. I thought about how the holidays offered an opportunity to put our calendars away for just a few days and live in the moment. I hope you had that chance to spend time with family and friends and to decompress, and that you were rejuvenated to go back to “living by your calendar.” I also contemplated the reality that while many of us have full schedules, we at UCP are aware that some of those we serve may have calendars that are emptier than they would like. We consider it part of our jobs to help to fill their time with effective therapy, job training, work, daily living tasks and, of course fun and recreation. I feel very fortunate to have such a busy schedule.

Someone whose calendar will certainly be full this year is that of our new Board of Directors Chair, Mr. Michael McMahon, Vice President and Director of Mergers & Acquisitions with KeyBanc Capital Markets. The agency is fortunate to have Mike in this role for a number of reasons, including his solid commitment and dedication to all facets of our agency. Mike and his wife Megan (pictured here with their family) have four wonderful children, two of whom visit UCP for therapy services. Twins Kevin and Anna Mary are seven years old and have been coming to UCP for over four years, which has drawn Mike very close to our staff and our programming. It has been some time since our Board of Directors has been led by a consumer of our services and I believe Mike’s perspective will be extremely valuable.



As we experience a slow upswing in the economy, we look forward to another year of service to the community, and are proud to announce our new mission statement: “To empower children and adults with disabilities to advance their independence, productivity, and inclusion in the community.” We will do so with respect, compassion, and integrity. We will vigorously pursue excellence, financial sustainability, and mission related growth. We will be collaborative and, as always, client centered in all that we do. We are able to do so with your continued support.



Sincerely,

Patricia S. Otter

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

New Officers and Board Members!

United Cerebral Palsy of Greater Cleveland is proud to announce the following appointments:

Michael S. McMahon
to Chair

Matthew R. Cox
to Vice Chair

The agency is also pleased to welcome new members:

Michael G. Caputo
McDonald Hopkins LLC

Timothy G. McFadden
Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland

Charisse A. Sayles
Time Warner Cable

Sean D. Wenger
Johnson Controls

Congratulations to the Following Employees for Perfect Attendance in 2009!

Anthony Gonzalez

Donna Leader

Colleen McKenna

Ardys Worship

Jill Wozniak

FROM THE GOLF CHAIR Ron Barber



As the seasons change and we all look forward to the coming spring, the *Tee Up for UCP* Golf Committee is hard at work preparing for our 24th Annual Golf Outing, Monday, June 14th at Canterbury Golf Club. I would like to take this

opportunity to thank all of our past sponsors and participants for your continued presence and support. Our growth over the course of the years would not have been possible without your dedication, and it is because of each of you that the event has provided much-needed funding for programs that impact over 1,000 children and adults with disabilities each year.

For those of you who have been a part of *Tee Up for UCP*, you know that it is a wonderful day with great food, spectacular golf and prizes, and the chance to connect with other corporate, community and philanthropic partners. But you also know that it is more than that. It is an opportunity to make an impact and to be a part of an organization that provides the tools and resources for individuals with disabilities to become more independent and engaged members of our community. It is a chance to ensure that United Cerebral Palsy has the ability to continue offering services to all individuals, regardless of their ability to pay. It is an opportunity to enjoy a day of golf on a world renowned course with friends or business associates, while at the same time being a part of something greater.

On behalf of the entire committee, we are looking forward to another successful event and invite you to be involved. Foursomes and sponsorships are available. For more information, please contact Beth Lucas at (216) 791-8363, ext. 227 or blucas@ucpcleveland.org.

Thank you!

24th Annual Tee Up for UCP



Monday, June 14, 2010
Canterbury Golf Club
12:30 Shotgun Start
Lunch, Dinner,
Skill Contests, Prizes



Team UCP 'Kicks Off' 2010 with Motivational Event

Over 200 people gathered on Thursday, January 28th to build team spirit and get ready for Team UCP 2010! For the third consecutive year, United Cerebral Palsy of Greater Cleveland is the Official Charity of the Cleveland Triathlon, and Team UCP is resolved to have more racers, volunteers and spectators than ever before - to make sure everyone is ready for race day!

Guests spent the first hour visiting informational booths to learn more about how to be involved, how to train and where to access the most up-to-date resources. Vendors including the Cleveland Triathlon Club, Ohio Swim Masters and Euphoria Health and Fitness were on hand to discuss training and upcoming events – and as the *Official Training Partner of Team UCP*, Euphoria offered information on discount memberships, group classes and training.

The real inspiration of the evening, however, was hearing the testimonials of the families, participants and volunteers who were involved in the race, as well as the debut of the Team UCP 2010 video. Along with other videos displaying the amazing accomplishments of UCP families, the video can be found on the agency's YouTube Channel at: www.youtube.com/user/ucpcleveland.

There are many ways to be a member of Team UCP, including sponsorship, tackling the entire race yourself, being a part of a relay team, volunteering or cheering on members on race day! The Cleveland Triathlon has expanded their support of the Team, and will contribute to UCP for every racer, relay and volunteer who participates on behalf of Team UCP. For more information on how to be involved, contact Sharon Zaidenras at (216) 791-8363, ext. 232 or teamucp@ucpcleveland.org.

Connect with UCP on the Internet!

In an effort to bring the community the most up-to-date information about the agency and issues that affect the constituency we serve, United Cerebral Palsy offers current events, news items and policy updates through various avenues on the Web. Please visit our website at www.ucpcleveland.org to access agency and program information; find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/ucpcleveland and consider subscribing to our YouTube Channel at www.youtube.com/user/ucpcleveland.

On-Site Workshop Provides Opportunities for Employment

Every weekday, over 40 individuals come to work at the on-site workshop at United Cerebral Palsy of Greater Cleveland. They come from different areas throughout Northeast Ohio; they have varying interests; they have diverse backgrounds and levels of education; some live with their families; others live independently. And they are all grateful for the opportunity to come to work and earn a wage. Designed to engage individuals with a wide range of disabilities to make strides toward financial independence, the *Organizational Employment Program* provides work opportunities in an integrative, supported setting. This is accomplished through the provision of piece-rate work where clients are paid based upon their productivity.

United Cerebral Palsy is proud to offer local businesses the opportunity to partner with members of the



Organizational Employment team through contract work within the workshop and/or computer lab. Clients complete secure document shredding, light assembly, packaging, collating, bulk mailing, data entry and a host of other jobs in a controlled environment. They display a high level of productivity, attention to detail and quality control, and current and past business partners report satisfaction with the process and final product.

The agency is currently completing work for *Cosmic Bobbins*, a manufacturer of hand-stitched purses and novelty items made from recycled paper materials. Clients sort materials based upon color, design and product schema prior to final production. This is a fun job where individuals are able to be creative and engage in the design of a unique and eco-friendly product!

Recently, workers have also been packing trash bags for point-of-purchase display for a local company, *North American Plastics (Noramco)*, completing document shredding for companies including *Ver-A-Fast* and *Todd Insurance*, compiling training packets for *Invacare Corporation*, as well as completing data entry jobs for businesses in the area including *Commerce Benefits Group*. A small fee is assessed to the company for administration, as well as a reasonable cost for the services provided. The *Organizational Employment Program* is a great way for local businesses to access a quality workforce, while at the same time illustrating their corporate citizenship in the community.

For more information about the *Organizational Employment Program* or ways to partner with United Cerebral Palsy to further your business initiatives, please contact vocational@ucpcleveland.org or (216) 791-8363, ext. 273.

Job Placement

United Cerebral Palsy also matches qualified candidates with jobs in the community. The following is a list of individuals seeking part-time employment. Employer incentives are available. For more information, contact Brad Doane at bdoane@ucpcleveland.org or (216) 791-8363, ext. 264 and indicate the initials of the candidate(s) you are interested in learning more about.

V.H.: Two years of current work experience in an active public contact position. Qualified for a position in customer service or stocking.

G.R.: Experienced in custodial work. Detail oriented. Self-starter.

V.G.: A stable work history of almost 30 years. Seeking customer service, food service or light custodial work that do not require long periods of standing or heavy lifting.

A.F.: Two years of successful customer contact in a retail environment. Qualified for factory or stock work.

B.D.: Would like an opportunity to work with animals.

E.D.: Qualified for entry-level clerical work including filing and answering phones.

R.S.: Seeking work in cooking. Completed a 4000 hour course in Culinary Arts.

J.A.: Qualified for an entry-level general office opening. Has good customer service skills.

Profile: The Spicuzza Family

It is clear that Tyler Spicuzza has a lot to say. He is a friendly, social and exuberant four-year-old boy who loves to stop and “chat” with just about anyone. Although Tyler may not be using his voice as his primary mode of communication, you can learn a lot about him in just a few minutes of meeting him.

Diagnosed with cerebral palsy after suffering a stroke in utero and delivered three months prematurely, Tyler has received physical therapy, occupational therapy and speech-language therapy through United Cerebral Palsy of Greater Cleveland for over three years. Through the use of augmentative communication and technology, Tyler is becoming more independent every day. In order to communicate, he uses a combination of vocalizations, eye gaze and assistive technology. He is eager to use his voice to say “hi” and recently revealed that his favorite color is “orange.”

Tyler tries very hard to use his voice however, due to difficulty coordinating his muscles he needs assistance to share everything he knows. Just like any other preschooler, Tyler is working on learning his colors, shapes and animals yet instead of using his voice, he relies on his eyes to “look” toward the correct answer. Tyler enjoys reading books using an adapted switch he can push with his hand, allowing him to have a turn “reading” the pages. He also loves to tell the therapists jokes or pass out special treats to all his friends at United Cerebral Palsy while using an adapted switch to aid his communication.

Thanks to a dedicated family, school team, his therapists and most importantly the determination of a bright little boy, Tyler never stops amazing his parents and those around him. While he faces many challenges daily, including feeding, mobility and communication, he continues to show his contagious smile and resolve to reach his goals. Tyler’s next big step toward independence is learning to



Tyler and Cameron Work with Speech-Language Therapist Rebecca Fedak at UCP

drive a power wheelchair and to use a computerized eye gaze system to communicate. No one can wait to see where he goes or what he says next!

Tyler is not the only Spicuzza boy to show off his desire to communicate. His younger brother Cameron spent many afternoons patiently waiting in the lobby for Tyler to finish his therapy sessions. While Cameron was certainly not described as a quiet child, he was not yet using many words to communicate, rather relying on only a few simple words and gestures. Cameron was about to turn two and this was starting to concern his mother. The family was already here for Tyler’s therapy, so it only made sense to see what speech-language therapy could do for Cameron.

Cameron was more than ecstatic to finally get his turn to “play” in the big therapy rooms like his brother, and he soon began to take off. Cameron will be turning three in May and can now tell you more than you may ever want to know about Disney’s Cars, Thomas the

Train, or any other “cool” car or truck he can get his hands on. It was amazing to see his transformation. In less than a year, Cameron developed from using primarily gestures and sounds to now using complete sentences. His mom said just the other day, “I remember thinking, am I ever going to be able to have a conversation with my son?” Everyone is in agreement that day is here!

The entire Spicuzza family, including dad Chris, mom Janice, big sister Johanna and baby brother Derek, are a part of the United Cerebral Palsy family. Through their dedication and commitment to the therapeutic process, as well as their encouragement, motivation and all-around positive attitude – both Tyler and Cameron are thriving and meeting their respective goals.

United Cerebral Palsy of Greater Cleveland is proud to offer speech-language therapy, as well as physical and occupational therapy to children with a range of disabilities. For more information, contact childrens@ucpcleveland.org or (216) 791-8363, ext. 250.

A Day in the Life — a Tale of Eight Roommates

A home can be so many different things—a space to sleep, a room in which to keep your things, an area to socialize, a place to entertain friends. For the eight individuals that live at the Edendale Group Home in Cleveland Heights, it is an opportunity to be in charge of their own lives and to live in the least restrictive setting possible.

United Cerebral Palsy of Greater Cleveland operates two Intermediate Care Facilities, Edendale on the Eastside of Cleveland and Memphis House on the Westside which provide 24-hour care to individuals with a range of developmental disabilities. The agency specializes in serving individuals with significant medical challenges; helping them to live as independently as possible while incorporating the necessary supports to make that achievable. Anyone who stops by Edendale, will find that Marion, Denis, Dale, Eugene, Tonya, Gary, Michelle and Shari live together and engage in activities just like anyone else.

For the eight individuals that live at the Edendale Group Home in Cleveland Heights, it is an opportunity to be in charge of their own lives

Weekdays for Edendale's residents start the same as it does for many of us. Everyone wakes up early, has breakfast and prepares to go out into the community. As soon as their transportation arrives, the group gets on the bus to go to work. The short commute is a time to chat, listen to music, or for some the chance to collect their thoughts—just as any other commuter group might interact. Once they arrive at UCP's main location, the group goes their separate ways and head off to tackle their work day. Some go to work in the organizational workshop, shredding

paper or packing materials; others with more complex needs head off to the Adult Day Support Program, where they participate in life skills and community activities.

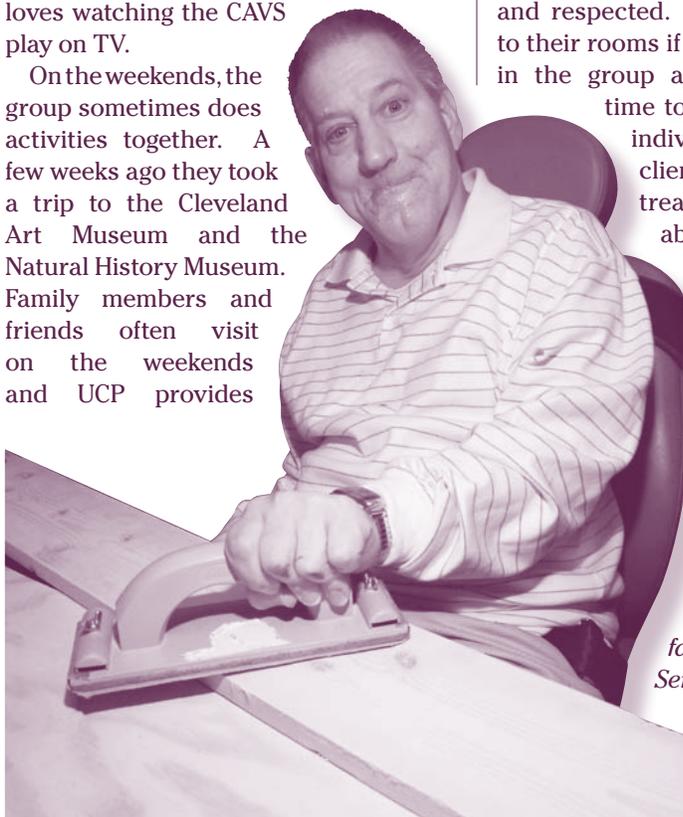
Arriving home from work is a busy time. Residents each go about their individual tasks and work on goals they have set for themselves or engage in activities they enjoy. They help UCP staff with meal preparation, setting the table, they watch the news and might work on projects or paperwork. Other members of the house have their own routines, but once it is time for dinner, the group convenes in the dining room for a group meal. After dinner, the group scatters around the house, each with their own set of evening rituals to complete. Sometimes they watch TV together, and everyone in the house loves watching the CAVS play on TV.

On the weekends, the group sometimes does activities together. A few weeks ago they took a trip to the Cleveland Art Museum and the Natural History Museum. Family members and friends often visit on the weekends and UCP provides

transportation on the weekends for house members to complete personal errands such as shopping, haircuts and social activities. Denis (pictured below) is a regular at Starbucks. Every weekend he heads down the street a few blocks in his wheelchair to meet up with friends, and on the days that he doesn't come in, the staff at Starbucks are disappointed and miss him. Michelle loves to host small dinner parties for her friends, and throws at least two big parties a year, complete with invites and a special menu. Each summer, many clients head to a weeklong camping experience to engage in outdoor fun, socialization and the chance to get away.

And while community is much appreciated in the house, there is also an emphasis on individual determination. Privacy and individuality are preserved and respected. Individuals can retire to their rooms if they are not interested in the group activity or need some time to themselves to pursue individual interests. Each client is given choices, is treated with respect and is able to interact with their surroundings and the world around them to their highest potential. Resident Michelle notes, "I love it there. The people are nice and take me places."

For more information about the Group Home Program or other facets of Residential Services, please contact residential@ucpcleveland.org or (216) 791-8363, ext. 278.





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of Greater Cleveland Inc.**

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