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Embracing Children. Empowering Adults.



CAMP LEAFBRIDGE

This summer, UCP of Greater Cleveland introduced Camp LeafBridge, an activities-based summer camp for children and young adults with physical and cognitive disabilities that addressed extended school year (ESY) goals. Examples of ESY goals include: transition skills, communication skills, social skills, activities of daily living and increased mobility. The camp reinforced each camper's Individual Education Program (IEP) while in a group setting in order to promote improved function and increased independence within a social environment.

This highly structured day camp is run by a LeafBridge occupational therapist, a physical therapist and a speech-language pathologist and is supported by licensed social workers and therapy aides. LeafBridge staff are well-versed in the IEP process and the regulations set forth in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). The team of therapists met prior to the camp sessions to review each child's IEP and collaborated on how to best address their individual ESY goals.

The therapists determined a theme for each week of camp,

such as superheroes, the great outdoors and the farm. They developed activities within each theme to target gross motor skills, fine motor skills and communication/speech-language skills. This multi-disciplinary approach encouraged active participation from the campers because the therapists worked in tandem to accomplish specific goals. For example, when the campers went "fishing" using magnetic fish in a kiddie pool, the occupational therapist helped them grasp the pole (fine motor) while the physical therapist helped them sit or stand up tall by using their core muscles (gross motor) and the speech-language pathologist asked what color the fish were (communication skills).

Camp activities also included adaptive swimming, yoga, arts and crafts, singing, playing on the playground, water balloons, a bounce house and mini community field trips to the Cleveland Clinic Rooftop Pavilion, Fluffy Duck Café and local fire station. It's fair to say that the trip to the fire station was the favorite activity amongst the campers!

LeafBridge staff, the campers, their families and the school districts were all very pleased with Camp LeafBridge, and staff are already brainstorming how to make next year's camp even better!

UCP of Greater Cleveland's Centers of Excellence



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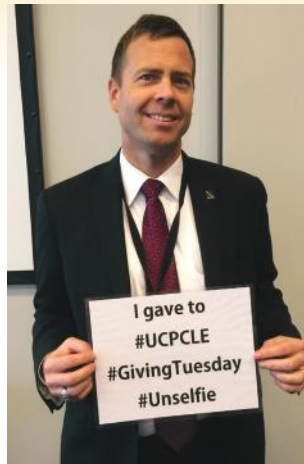
Tom, a client in our OakLeaf Job Training Program, jams on the bass guitar. Tom is part of the Music Explorers group, which recently started meeting every Wednesday at The Music Settlement. This group explores technology to construct musical pieces, learns about different musical instruments and writes original songs that are often performed at UCP events. ▶



BAC Member Testimony

Matthew Kress was introduced to UCP of Greater Cleveland eight years ago when he worked at the Oatey Company. He is currently Vice President of Employee Relations at New York Community Bank and a member of UCP's Cuyahoga County Business Advisory Committee (BAC). Below, Matt shares why he gives his time, talent and treasures to UCP of Greater Cleveland.

My involvement with UCP of Greater Cleveland began at my prior employer, Oatey Company, and their supported employment worksite partnership with UCP's OakLeaf Partners Employment Program. Oatey's enduring commitment to this partnership provides meaningful work opportunities while benefiting the company with devoted and productive employees.



My connection with the agency's Supported Employment Program provided me the privilege of getting to know an extremely charismatic and earnest OakLeaf Partners client employed at Oatey. After we had developed a friendship, he shared the personal challenges and also the diagnosis that led him to seek UCP's services. I was profoundly affected by this information as my son, Alex, had only recently been similarly diagnosed. This remarkable young man provided hope and inspiration as I struggled with the anxieties of

what Alex's future might hold. This client's success has touched me in a very personal way and he is a shining example of OakLeaf Partners' profound impact.

Getting to know and work with the clients in the supported employment group provided insight into the mission and vision of UCP. The dedication of Program Coordinator Greg Zaryk was very inspiring, and when Greg was kind enough to invite me to a Business Advisory Committee (BAC) meeting, I was honored to attend. I've been a BAC member ever since.

Our role as BAC members is to utilize our expertise while leveraging business and community relationships to foster awareness and create employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities. This takes many forms, including participating in events, calling upon contacts to help UCP make inroads at targeted employers, or conducting mock interviews with UCP clients to better prepare them for integrated employment. My BAC membership has been a great way to support this important organization and its essential mission while connecting with other members from many professional walks of life throughout Cleveland.

In addition to the BAC, UCP does a fantastic job of providing a variety of other community support opportunities. For me, this has taken the form of participating in UCP's Race to Empower, supporting Team UCP at the Cleveland Triathlon, and taking advantage of other opportunities to contribute, such as Giving Tuesday and designating contributions to my employer's United Way campaign directly to UCP (check with your employer regarding how to do so). UCP of Greater Cleveland's efforts impact over a thousand children and adults every year. For me, supporting UCP provides the satisfaction of knowing my time, talent and treasure support the community as a whole.

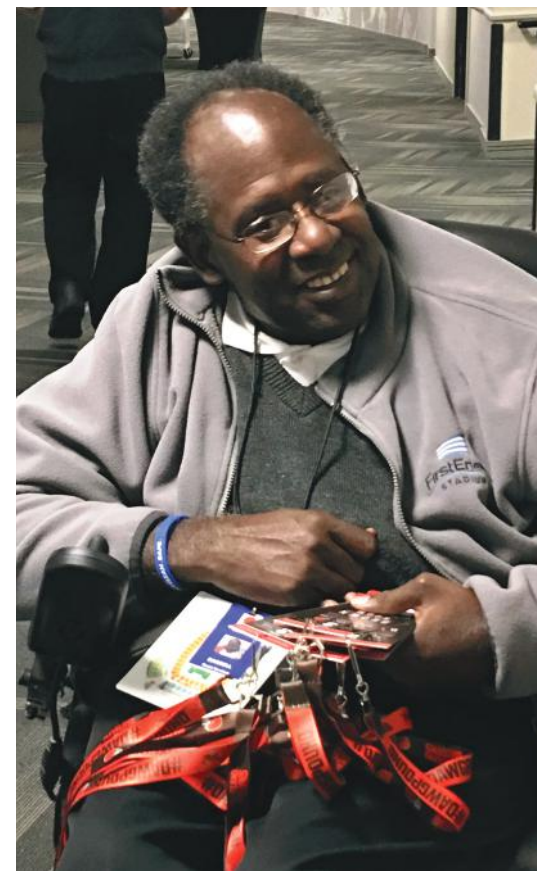
OAKLEAF PARTNERS SPOTLIGHT

OakLeaf Partners Community Employment Programs enhance the independence, productivity and inclusion of adults with disabilities experiencing significant barriers to employment.

We use a tiered approach to employment options, with a focus on placing individuals in the least restrictive work environment possible. Our program provides avenues to success for individuals at multiple skill levels, including an on-site job training center, supported community employment and competitive job placement. There is also a school-to-work transition component for high school seniors with disabilities. OakLeaf staff work with clients to identify interests, strengths and employment goals. Programs provide career exploration, workforce readiness training, job coaching and job placement services as well as work place assessments. Through these programs, participants are able to become a part of the workforce, contribute to their own financial support and enhance their dignity and self-worth.

OakLeaf Partners has more than 350 adults with disabilities participating in employment programs at businesses throughout Cuyahoga, Lake, Lorain and Medina Counties. The program has active Business Advisory Committees in Cuyahoga and Lorain Counties and is seeking committed business leaders interested in supporting employment for individuals with disabilities. Contact oakleaf@ucpcleveland.org or call 216-791-8363, ext. 1288 for more information.

Darrell, formerly a client in our Supported Employment Program, is now working at his dream job – passing out VIP passes for Cleveland Browns games. ▶



The New AT Mobility Clinic at LeafBridge



The Assistive Technology (AT) Mobility Clinic is a brand-new venture for UCP's LeafBridge Therapy Services. The clinic opened this year as a pilot program to help our young clients become mobile, communicate more effectively, see and hear better, and participate more fully in learning activities using assistive technology.

When an individual needs an AT device, they must prove medical necessity to the insurer through a written recommendation by a physician or therapist. Mobility clinics allow time for therapists to complete an assessment of need, trial and fit equipment, prepare recommendations and medical necessity paperwork, and train the child and family on use of the mobility aid. The AT Mobility Clinic is currently staffed by an occupational therapist (OT) and physical therapist (PT) as well as a speech-language pathologist (SLP) when needed. These therapists work together with the client and family to identify barriers to communication and access to the world around them. The therapists complete an AT assessment to determine what type of device would benefit the client based on trials of demo equipment. Examples of equipment include wheelchairs, power chairs, communication equipment, seating devices, adaptive car seats, adaptive strollers, standers, alternative bed/sleep positioning and lift systems.

LeafBridge works with product vendors and community funders to make sure clients have access to equipment to trial to find the best fit to meet their needs. We are grateful to The Sherwin-Williams Foundation, which committed \$15,000 to meet equipment needs required to establish this clinic.

CORPORATE MATCHING GIFTS MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR DONATION

UCP of Greater Cleveland relies on the generosity of donors to ensure our quality programs remain available to the community we serve. More than 1,100 individuals with a wide variety of disabilities are supported in becoming more independent and productive each year. Our Annual Sustaining Fund donations provide essential unrestricted revenue to advance and sustain program operations, giving leadership the ability to make decisions for program growth based on the best interest of clients and our mission. This year, we have a very ambitious Annual Sustaining Fund goal of \$700,000 in gifts and grant revenue from continued and increased donations from individuals, corporations and foundation partners. Participation in your employer's corporate matching gift program is one way to maximize your individual donation and help us to reach our goal.

A corporate matching gift associated with an individual charitable donation is an employee benefit that often goes underutilized. National research confirms that only 9% of employees participate in their company's matching gift program. Most programs provide an equal match to any donation of more than \$25. Corporate matching donation programs vary and some programs even allow retirees to continue to request matching gifts. Your participation ensures that your favorite nonprofit organization will have the additional financial resources it needs to further its mission.

The employer gift matching process does require the effort of the individual donor. Generally, the employee must request a verification form or electronic receipt from Human Resources be submitted with their donation so that the nonprofit can verify the matching gift. Many companies are also now moving to an online system, which allows for a simple and efficient process.

To find out if your company has a matching gift program, or for assistance with your company's process, contact your Human Resources Department. We thank you for your consideration of UCP of Greater Cleveland as a recipient of your matching gift. Donations to the organization can be made easily online. Please visit www.ucpcleveland.org/donate.

FEATURED AGENCY PARTNER

This edition's Featured Agency Partner is **The Sherwin-Williams Foundation**, which serves as the philanthropic arm of **The Sherwin-Williams Company**. The company was founded in 1866 and is a global leader in the manufacture, development, distribution and sale of paints, coatings and related products. With global headquarters in Cleveland, Ohio, Sherwin-Williams® branded products are sold exclusively through a chain of more than 4,100 Company-operated stores and facilities, while the Company's other brands are sold through leading mass merchandisers, home centers, independent paint dealers, hardware stores, automotive retailers and industrial distributors.

The Foundation's mission is to provide a strategy for their employees and shareholders that is aligned with the Company's Culture of Excellence, business objectives and is supported by their Guiding Values. The Foundation also provides grants to nonprofits that are providing solutions in the areas of children's health and education, and education for economic self-sufficiency for at-risk populations, in addition to encouraging employees to give back to their communities through the Foundation's Matching Gifts program, Grants for Volunteers program, and nonprofit board membership.

The LeafBridge AT Mobility Clinic is the proud recipient of a recent \$15,000 grant from The Sherwin-Williams Foundation, which will provide funding for equipment needed to further establish the clinic as a permanent program at LeafBridge, A Center of Excellence for Children with Disabilities.

For more information, visit www.sherwin.com.