



UCP of Greater Cleveland  
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# Embracing Children. Empowering Adults.



## TYRONE'S STORY

*The story below comes from Tyrone, who has been attending UCP's programs for over 20 years. Tyrone might look familiar because 1) he hasn't changed much in the last two decades (we're working on getting his anti-aging secret; stay tuned for the next newsletter!) and 2) we have used his picture on numerous posters, newsletters and blogs throughout the years because of his infectious smile that perfectly captures his positive personality. Read Tyrone's story below.*

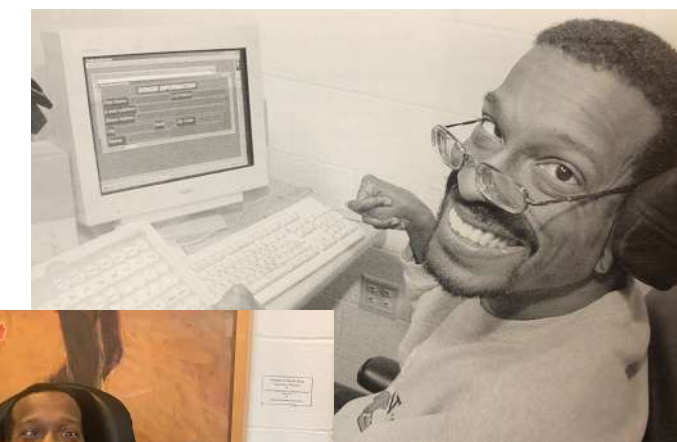
I have been coming to UCP since 1999 when the Wolstein building opened. After visiting for the first time, I knew it was going to be a good fit. The people were so nice. When I first started, I worked on the work floor packaging diapers with a special machine and doing data entry in the computer room. But since then, I have found my true passion: art.

captioning for the videos. I want to continue to expand my business and make as much money as I can with my art.

In addition to my art business, two of my biggest accomplishments were winning the UCP Boots Fisher Award in 2004 and getting married last year. I actually met my beautiful wife, AnnMarie, here at UCP. We had some struggles trying to get married because we were told we could lose our benefits, but so far, so good! There were even more hurdles with trying to live together, but I'm proud to say that as of March, the two of us are now living under the same roof!

In addition to my wife, I have made some lifelong friends at UCP. I am able to have deep conversations with them and also work on projects. Right now, my friend Tim and I are writing a mystery dinner theatre play that we hope to debut here at UCP. My other friend Leon and I do a weekly podcast together called L&T Sports, where we talk about—you guessed it—sports! I'm so proud of everything that we have accomplished. Without UCP, I probably would not have met these wonderful people and, for that, I am forever grateful.

I've been drawing for as long as I can remember, but I officially started my art business in 2012 in order to create commissioned pieces. I have a business website and I recently started a YouTube channel that shows my art process. The UCP staff help film and do the closed



Tyrone shown above in 2004 and to the left in 2020.

SET UP A FACEBOOK FUNDRAISER AND/OR  
FIND UCP OF GREATER CLEVELAND AT:



WWW.UCPCLEVELAND.ORG | 216.791.8363

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



For information on UCP's 2020 Events, please visit: [ucpcleveland.org/news-and-events/events](http://ucpcleveland.org/news-and-events/events)

Matching gifts are a great way to increase the impact of your gift! Contact your Human Resources Department to see if your company has a matching gifts program and how you can participate.

## Embracing Children. Empowering Adults.

### GIVE TODAY TO CELEBRATE 70 YEARS AT UCP!

UCP of Greater Cleveland has served the Northeast Ohio community since 1950, and we are proud to share parts of our history with you—including stories which highlight individuals we have served over time, like Tyrone and Julia!

To help us celebrate 70 years of extraordinary achievements, please make a gift today. Your donation has a lasting impact on over 1,500 local children and adults with disabilities receiving therapy, job training, meaningful community experiences, and much more.

Visit [www.ucpcleveland.org/donate](http://www.ucpcleveland.org/donate) or use the enclosed envelope to contribute to our mission. We are grateful for supporters like YOU!



# UCP of Greater Cleveland and COVID-19

When the current COVID-19 situation began, UCP of Greater Cleveland's leadership team, in partnership with the Board of Directors, started working around-the-clock to make decisions and implement strategies in the best interest of employees and those we serve. We would like to share some details with you, our loyal constituents:

- **We continue to provide services and support.** Although current social distancing mandates are not allowing us to offer the full extent of our programming, we continue to offer much-needed services! These include: 24/7 residential care at our group homes; virtual job development and job placement; and teletherapy sessions (physical, occupational, and speech therapies) for children. In line with our mission, case managers are reaching out via email and phone to assess our families' and individuals' needs during this critical time as well as to offer the reminder that we are still here for them.
- **We are bridging the social/communication gap and staying in touch with our valued employees.** Our goal is to support, engage, and retain our expert, dedicated employees, so everyone can pick back up where we left off once all programs and services resume.

We hope that our families and individuals, employees, donors, volunteers, and partners are well and staying healthy. We realize this situation is affecting communities across the globe, and that you may feel uneasy during this time. Together, with your help, we will continue to make an impact in the lives of individuals with disabilities in Northeast Ohio.

## TAX BREAKS FOR GIVERS THROUGH THE CORONAVIRUS AID, RELIEF, AND ECONOMIC SECURITY (CARES) ACT

	New Provision	Limitations
 <b>Individuals</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ability to deduct cash donations increased from 60% to 100% of income</li> <li>• Donors who use the standard deduction can deduct an additional \$300 for cash contributions to a public charity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cash gifts only</li> <li>• Eligible on gifts to public charities only</li> <li>• Not eligible on gifts to donor advised funds, supporting organizations and private foundations</li> </ul>
 <b>Corporations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ability to deduct charitable contributions increased from 10% to 25% of income</li> </ul>	

Source: H.R. 748, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, AB



Madelyne accepting a check from Elks Members

## Donor Spotlight - Elks

As a nonprofit organization, we greatly rely on the philanthropic support of many charitable individuals, foundations, corporations, and community groups. Among these valued contributors is the Ohio Elks Association, UCP of Greater Cleveland's longest-established and highest-level donor. The Elks are cornerstones of their communities; providing support, resources, and a helping hand wherever it is needed. For more than 30 years, the Ohio Elks Association has focused its financial support on services offered to individuals with cerebral palsy.

The combined state and district dollars granted directly to our organization from the Ohio Elks Association and their member lodges, mostly within the Northeast Ohio District, total more than \$800,000. This ongoing, generous giving on behalf of the Elks has funded our children's therapy services, state-of-the-art therapy equipment, camp, and even serial casting supplies. The Northeast District hosts a wonderful annual Elks Ball, and the Lakewood Lodge invites our children and families to use their bowling facility every year. Their adaptive bowling equipment allows children with disabilities the opportunity to enjoy a fun night out where they can bowl alongside their family and friends. Additionally, the Parma Lodge hosts an annual spaghetti dinner where they not only raise money, but also welcome a UCP family to tell their story.

In 2018, the heads of the national, state and local Elks came to Cleveland to tour LeafBridge, our pediatric clinic. Guests engaged with the parents of children receiving expert therapy services, which resulted in their reporting that among the many locations they visit across the nation, UCP of Greater Cleveland's was one of the most impressive and is certainly worthy of their donations.

The Ohio Elks Association has played a major role in improving the lives of thousands of children with cerebral palsy and other developmental disabilities and we thank them for their steadfast support!

## Julia's Story

The story below comes from Patty Sankovic, the mother of Julia who has been attending UCP's LeafBridge therapy program for 16 years. Julia receives traditional physical, occupational and speech-language therapies, as well as the intensive Steps to Independence® therapy.

Julia started coming to UCP in 2004 when she was just three years old. Julia has cerebral palsy and had been doing a home program as well as going to a local clinic, but she was not hitting any milestones. Someone from my church showed me a newspaper article about UCP, so we came in to visit. We immediately knew this was the right place for Julia, and she began therapy.

As Julia grew, she developed a crouched gait and has gone through various bracing and orthotics to help address that. Each change would be very uncomfortable, and it would take Julia months to get used to. She would inevitably lose the ability to walk while acclimating to her new bracing, but every time that happened, UCP would help her regain her walking ability with the Steps to Independence® intensive therapy program. It has not been easy, but Julia is an extremely hard worker and loves her time in therapy.

Julia is about to turn 20 and, with the help of surgery and post-operative therapy at UCP, she is walking better than ever. Doctors have said that usually when kids hit their late teens, they stop walking, but for Julia it is the total opposite. UCP also helped us find the appropriate walker for Julia, which has enabled her to walk long distances. I can confidently say that without UCP and the Steps program, Julia would not be walking like she is today.

As much as Julia loves UCP, I think I've benefited just as much. I've always felt extremely comfortable here like I have a second family. The UCP staff and network of families make me feel like I'm not alone; there's always someone I can talk to and ask questions of. UCP gives me the strength to advocate on behalf of Julia and know what's appropriate



Julia in 2020

to ask for. This has been especially critical with Julia's transition from high school to the world of work.

We have Julia's Individual Education Plan meeting coming up, and Julia's UCP therapist and a staff member from OakLeaf's employment services program will be present. We're hoping that Julia will transition to some type of employment program here at UCP, while continuing her therapy sessions.

Like many young women, Julia just wants to be as independent as possible. She has a lot of pride and confidence in her abilities, which UCP helps continue to foster. We're excited to see where the future takes her!



Julia and Patty in 2004