



GIVING TUESDAY 2022

Please consider a year-end gift to UCP of Greater Cleveland on #GivingTuesday. This annual day of giving is held the Tuesday after Thanksgiving (November 29 this year) to encourage philanthropy and to celebrate generosity worldwide. We invite you to make a gift using the enclosed envelope or online at www.ucpcleveland.org/donate to help empower children and adults with disabilities to advance their independence and inclusion in the community.



GIVING
TUESDAY

Together
we give.

SAVE THE DATE

November 29, 2022

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UCP 2022 FALL NEWSLETTER

\$5 MILLION GIFT PLEDGED TO THE LEAFBRIDGE ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION PROGRAM

UCP's LeafBridge Alternative Education Program began in 2013 to serve one student with complex disabilities; the growth and results of that one student illustrated the effectiveness of this unique approach. While demand has increased exponentially over the years, expansion has been limited due to resource constraints. On August 31, UCP of Greater Cleveland announced that \$5 million in charitable funding has been pledged to support the program thanks to a partnership with Soar High Together, a local nonprofit serving vulnerable communities.

"We know there are hundreds of students in the region who have the potential to benefit from our program, yet we have not had the capacity to expand," said Beth Lucas, President & CEO of UCP of Greater Cleveland. "Now, with this unprecedented funding, we are able to proactively engage with the right people to ensure each student has full access to a curriculum that best serves them."

The Executive Director of Soar High Together, Lodi Main, has a granddaughter who receives therapy through LeafBridge and is also enrolled as a student in the Alternative Education Program. After touring the facility and seeing the life-changing results of our services, Lodi knew she wanted to make an impact on this much-needed program.

LeafBridge's best-in-class transdisciplinary approach involves highly-specialized therapists and intervention specialists planning instruction together to ensure each student's curriculum is customized to their needs. Today, the program has 15 students enrolled in the 2022-2023 school year and recently moved into a 19,615 square foot facility, which is centrally located in Brooklyn Heights. This transformational funding, along with enrollment growth projections, have the program well-positioned to serve as a cornerstone of sustainable UCP services for many years to come.

"While we're immensely proud of the charitable funding generated to date, we realize there's much more to be done to adequately support education services for students with disabilities," said Lodi. "It's our hope that the success of our initial fundraising will inspire others to contribute, where they are able."

To learn more about LeafBridge Education Services and the Alternative Education Program, visit www.leafbridge.org.





A LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT & CEO

Hi Everyone,

The first ten months as President and CEO have been the most challenging and exhilarating of my life. I mean that in the best possible way. Each day I walk through those doors, I know that I am in the right place and I am here to make a difference. I am fortunate to have an excellent team to work alongside and partner with to make sure we are best in class. We keep the spirit of UCP alive and will not change the things we already do well. Keeping this in mind, we also want to be a stronger organization - I know you want that, too.

The community of individuals affected by disability is not getting smaller. It grows year after year. It is our responsibility at UCP to empower and to help each person we serve find their unique path to independence and inclusion. We have embarked on a strategic planning process and the team is ADAMANT in making it a compass for the future. A committed group of stakeholders throughout the Agency and community (with feedback gathered from many others) developed four distinct strategies: diversification of funding, stakeholder engagement, building relationships, and modernization of the Agency with focus on results, revenue, reach, and reputation. I am beyond excited to have a blueprint for the future - one that I hope will help us make an impact for decades to come.

Strategic planning is not a binder to be put on a bookshelf to collect dust - it is a plan of action that will change and shift throughout the years alongside the state of world affairs. We have put this together for every member of the UCP community and that includes YOU. We hope that all we do gives YOU the opportunity to make the change in the community YOU want. Our goal is to be your partner and trust me when I say that we live our mission and core values each day. We know - I know - that we must do everything we can to make a difference in the lives of PEOPLE.

I dream of a future where every person can live a life of their choosing. I am grateful for your support, your generosity, and your spirit of giving. Thank you for being a part of UCP of Greater Cleveland.

Be Well,

Beth A. Lucas

2022 EVENT SNAPSHOT

Tee Up for UCP Golf Outing
Presented by Cleveland Construction, Inc.

- Raised \$154,000
- 128 golfers
- 7 committee members

Ultimate Christmas in July Challenge
Presented by Medical Mutual

- Raised \$34,000
- 205 participants
- 42 volunteers

The Magic of UCP Gala
Presented by KeyBanc Capital Markets

- Raised \$242,000
- 232 attendees
- 8 volunteers and 5 committee members

MAX'S STORY

Max, 6, has received therapy at LeafBridge since June 2019 due to developmental delays from a rare genetic disorder. In hopes to improve his overall independence, Max had selective dorsal rhizotomy surgery in April 2022 with a goal to have more control over his muscles. Following his surgery, Max completed two rounds of UCP's Steps to Independence® intensive therapy to strengthen his arms and legs for day-to-day movements, including getting up off the floor and walking. Max excelled in these sessions and was soon able to walk further and with less assistance in his gait trainer.

Through regular therapy sessions once a week, Max works on balancing while being seated, getting into his reverse walker, and taking steps with less and less help. Max has become much stronger, allowing him to complete activities more independently!

In speech therapy, Max has greatly benefited from the use of augmentative and alternative communication devices. He is currently using a device that is activated through eye gaze technology, essentially turning his eyes into a computer mouse. Max loves using the speech device to have conversations with others and share information about himself, such as his name, age, birthday, and favorite foods! He also does an excellent job using the technology to share his needs, wants, and feelings.

Max has made incredible improvements and we are proud of his accomplishments. His LeafBridge team looks forward to seeing his continued progress!



CELESTE ISOM NAMED CFO

After three years as Director of Finance & Administration, Celeste Isom has been promoted to the position of Chief Financial Officer. Since joining UCP of Greater Cleveland in July 2019, Celeste led UCP's efforts to secure millions of dollars in relief funding while overseeing all financial matters for the Agency.

"Celeste is qualified for this position not only due to her experience in finance but also for her commitment to people with developmental disabilities and the community," said Beth Lucas. "She has the full support of all leadership and the Board of Directors, and we are fortunate to have her on the team!"

Leading up to UCP, Celeste spent more than 20 years as an accountant and auditor. Celeste also enjoys spending time with her three children and reading.

