

2006 ANNUAL REPORT



From the Desk of Stephen Bennett, President & CEO, United Cerebral Palsy



The past year was filled with big promises—promises of a renewed commitment to expanding services for people with disabilities and promises of passing legislation that promotes our mission to promote the independence, productivity and full citizenship of the more than 54 million Americans with disabilities.

In 2006, United Cerebral Palsy (UCP) focused on two key issues: empowering children with disabilities and securing better wages for direct support professionals.

In addition, work began on a new project, spearheaded by UCP, which will revolutionize the future for people with disabilities.

As you will read in the following pages, our Isabelle’s Kids program and WhoWillCare.net initiative were the focal points of our message to Congress and to the public: everyone deserves to have the opportunity to live life without limits.

Thank you for your continued commitment to advancing a life without limits for people with all disabilities.

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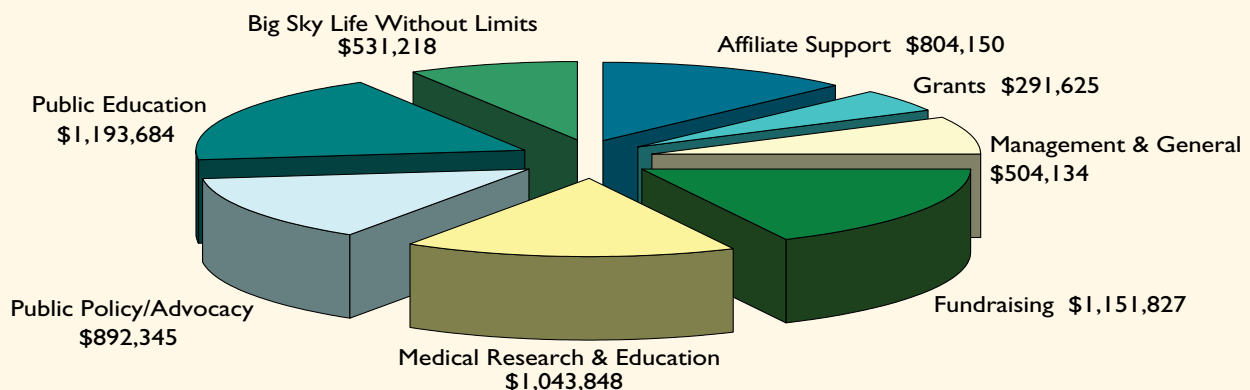
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FINANCIALS, Fiscal Year 2006



United Cerebral Palsy (UCP) National Initiatives

ISABELLE'S KIDS: A NATIONAL INITIATIVE OF UNITED CEREBRAL PALSY

It's hard to be a kid. Just ask one. But for more than 5.2 million children and youth living with disabilities in the United States today, life can be far harder than it has to be. Often unable to effectively advocate for themselves, children and youth with disabilities may be isolated in their communities, schools and families, severely limiting their opportunities to reach their full potential. Learning may be many times more difficult for a child with a disability, making school an even more critical component to healthy growth. Children's physical, social and personal development may also be affected by their disabilities, and they nearly always face profound challenges in transitioning to adult life.



A National Initiative of United Cerebral Palsy

Launched in June 2006, Isabelle's Kids is a national initiative of United Cerebral Palsy that endeavors to empower children and youth with disabilities to live without limits. Named in honor of UCP co-founder and mother, Isabelle Goldenson, Isabelle's Kids addresses the countless challenges faced by children and youth with disabilities, including school, friends, play and growing up with self-confidence.

Through Isabelle's Kids, United Cerebral Palsy and its national network of affiliates, is encouraging, supporting and mentoring a new generation of leaders with disabilities to achieve their dreams and contribute to their communities.

Accomplishments

- In collaboration with Children's Rights, a New York-based nonprofit organization advocating for the rights of children in child welfare systems, Isabelle's Kids released *Forgotten Children, A Case for Action for Children and Youth with Disabilities in Foster Care* in June 2006. Reviewed exclusively by National Public Radio's *All Things Considered*, this first-of-its-kind report found that at least one-third of all children in foster care are likely to have disabilities.
- An Isabelle's Kids summer poster contest, promoted through media and partnerships, inspired the participation of children with disabilities from across the nation. Selected in the fall of 2006, the winning poster represented the image of Isabelle's Kids in a print advertisement published in *ABILITY Magazine*, the nation's leading publication for people with disabilities.

Activities in Development

- In late 2007, Isabelle's Kids will release the first-ever state-by-state report card evaluating foster care services for children and youth with disabilities. This far-reaching endeavor aims to improve the lives of hundreds of thousands of children with disabilities, whose transition to adulthood may be compromised by inadequate healthcare, infrequent placements with permanent families, and community experiences defined by isolation and repeated relocation.
- In the next two years, Isabelle's Kids will develop a national mentoring program and social networking site, JustLife.org, for children and youth with disabilities that utilizes cutting-edge technology to create an inclusive community for children and approved adult mentors. This site could also benefit parents, siblings, relatives, and friends of people with disabilities. Accessibility being considered at every step of its creation, the final product will be a functional virtual "hang out" where people can seek advice, socialize, make friends, private message each other, share photos and videos, participate in forums, publish information, and advocate for relevant issues.

THE BIG SKY/LIFE WITHOUT LIMITS PROJECT

The Big Sky/Life Without Limits Project is a national effort to create a new vision of the future for people with disabilities. The project is designed to raise public awareness about the serious challenges that remain for people with disabilities and develop strategies, initiatives, programs, and public policy to address them.

The project was conceived in April 2004 in response to the realization that goals set many years ago that led to both the deinstitutionalization of many individuals with disabilities and the passing of the ADA have not been fully realized. The fact that there is a long way to go before individuals with disabilities are fully integrated into all aspects of society motivated UCP to jump start a far-reaching dialogue about how people with disabilities can become fully integrated in society and live life without limits.

Accomplishments

- Distribution of a DVD "focus group in a box" to UCP affiliates and other organizations to conduct their own focus groups to encourage discussions around the opportunities and obstacles facing people with disabilities; and
- Creation of a custom forecast map designed by the Institute for the Future (ITF) that identifies future forces that are likely to have major impact on individuals with disabilities over the next decade.

WHOWILLCARE.NET—ADDRESSING THE WORKFORCE CRISIS

WhoWillCare.net, a partnership with ANCOR (American Network of Community Options and Resources) to raise awareness about the direct support workforce crisis and build support for federal legislation on the issue, continues to yield significant returns. The campaign has generated more than 50,000 letters to Congress in support of the *Direct Support Professionals Fairness and Security Act* and helped secure 86 co-sponsors in the 109th legislative session of the United States House of Representatives.



The bill's lead sponsors, Lois Capps (D-CA) and Lee Terry (R-NE), recently reintroduced the *Direct Support Professionals Fairness and Security Act of 2007* (H.R. 1279) into the 110th Congress and a refreshed www.WhoWillCare.net campaign has been launched to support the legislation. With more than 80 of the 86 co-sponsors from the 109th Congress back for the 110th Congress and efforts to introduce a companion bill in the Senate gaining momentum, the issue has a strong foundation of support that puts meaningful achievements within reach.

Since its inception, WhoWillCare.net has used a variety of techniques both online and on-the-ground to generate awareness and support about the workforce crisis. Efforts in 2006 included the release of *American Worker*, a popular animated parody of *American Idol* and participation in a Capitol Hill briefing in collaboration with national partners ANCOR, The Arc and Lutheran Services in America. Moving into 2007, WhoWillCare.net is releasing a series of videos, with support from UCP affiliates, that tell personal stories about how critical the direct support workforce is to people with disabilities living lives without limits.

Fiscal Year 2006 Accomplishments

ADVOCACY AND PUBLIC POLICY

- In conjunction with ANCOR, UCP launched **www.whowillcare.net** in celebration of national family caregivers month, and in an attempt to help stop the caregiver crisis. WhoWillCare.net allows the public to send letters to their respective Representative, urging him or her to support the legislation.
- HR 1264, **The Direct Support Professional Fairness and Security Act**, a bill which would help increase wages for direct support workers, gained 86 co-sponsors by the end of fiscal year 2006, with help from UCP's advocacy campaign Who Will Care.
- In May, UCP launched Isabelle's Kids, a national initiative which addresses the challenges faced by children and youth with disabilities, including school, friendships, play, and growing up with self-confidence. Additionally that month, UCP and Children's Rights released a ground-breaking report, revealing that at least one-third of the more than 500,000 youth in American foster care systems may have disabilities. The report, titled **Forgotten Children**, also asserted that state foster care systems have largely failed to address the unique needs of children with disabilities and the families who care for them.



- Along with the American Association of People with Disabilities and the Arc of the United States, convened the second **Disability Vote Summit** in Washington, D.C. to build a foundation for a national disability get-out-the vote effort. The historic event brought together local advocacy groups from 17 different states, as well as 10 national disability rights groups. Since the summit, attendees have established the **Disability Vote Alliance**.
- In 2006, UCP released its inaugural rankings, *The Case for Inclusion*, of how states are serving people with intellectual and developmental disabilities under Medicaid. The report provided data and analysis for advocates to utilize at the state level. The response to *The Case for Inclusion* was overwhelming positive, garnering more than 60,000 views at www.UCP.org/Medicaid and media coverage across the country.
- **DontBlockMyVote.org Campaign 2.0**—UCP received high praise for the 2006 iteration of DontBlockMyVote.org, its campaign encouraging greater disability community participation in the democratic process. The 2006 version of DontBlockMyVote.org provided online voter registration, information on state registration deadlines, disability voting tips and resources and the latest news on disability voting issues. The campaign also helped mobilize voters while capturing stories from people with disabilities about their experiences at the polls.

PUBLIC EDUCATION

- As part of the WhoWillCare.net campaign, UCP and the American Network of Community Options and Resources (ANCOR) released “**American Worker**,” an informative Flash cartoon that asks viewers, “Who deserves a raise?” In a parody of *American Idol*, Carrie Caregiver competes with Flip the Fry Guy, contrasting two totally different professions with unfortunately comparable compensation. Within two weeks of launching the cartoon, WhoWillCare.net had over 25,000 page views, and thousands of letters were sent to Congress.
- UCP and Medtronic joined with nine other non-profit groups to promote **Exploring Spasticity**, a program designed for people of all ages to share their personal experiences with spasticity.
- The UCP **Big Sky/Life Without Limits Project** retained the Institute for the Future (IFF) to help envision a future without limits for people with disabilities. With this knowledge, the Big Sky/Life Without Limits Project will develop and promote programs, initiatives and policies to remove barriers that keep people with disabilities from fully participating in society.
- UCP launched JoshBlueFans.com, a fan site for Josh Blue, an accomplished comic with cerebral palsy. At the time, Josh was competing on NBC’s *Last Comic Standing*. More than 1,000 fans e-mailed Josh Blue fan mail through the UCP fan site for the comedian, JoshBlueFans.com and Josh later went on to win the NBC hit television show.

INFORMATION AND REFERRAL



- Continued to update our internet resource center to help people with developmental disabilities transition from Medicaid to the Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage.
- By visiting the UCP Web site at www.ucp.org, individuals with disabilities and their families can now easily access contact information for organizations, nonprofit service providers, and state government offices in every state in the nation. People with disabilities, parents of young children with a new diagnosis, caregivers, and advocacy organizations can use these resources to locate information about early intervention, assistive technology, employment, housing, transportation, and many more topics.

AFFILIATE NETWORK SUPPORT PROGRAMS— EWING HOUSING LOAN PROGRAM

Established through a generous trust left to UCP, provided more than \$300,000 for its first round loans to UCP affiliates to help finance the purchase, construction, and/or rehabilitation of accessible rental or owner-occupied housing for people with disabilities. The United Cerebral Palsy (UCP) Ewing Trust Committee announced the first round recipients of the Ewing Housing Program loans:

UCP of South Carolina

Received a loan to defray bridge financing and assist with start-up expenses related to the rehabilitation of seven single-family four-bedroom homes for people with disabilities.

UCP of Greater Houston

Received a loan to pay predevelopment expenses related to the development of a 15-unit multifamily apartment complex for people with disabilities in Houston. Primary funding for this project is HUD Section 811 Supportive Housing for Persons with Disabilities program.

UCP of Hudson County

Received a loan to pay a 10% down payment required to receive a state grant for the development of and support for a six-bedroom home with twenty-four hour residential supportive services.

UCP of Pittsburgh

Received a loan to pay predevelopment expenses related to the development of a three-bedroom single-story home for people with disabilities.

OTHER NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS

- UCP partnered with MetDESK®, MetLife's **D**ivision of **E**state Planning for **S**pecial **K**ids, an organization dedicated to helping families secure both lifetime care and quality of life for their children or other dependents with special needs. The UCP affiliate network works closely with MetDESK specialists in their respective areas throughout the country to provide specific and tailored financial tools to secure peace of mind for the families that support the needs of special kids, as well as an excellent quality of life for those living with a disability.
- UCP celebrated its **25 year relationship with Circle K**, a national convenience store chain. To date, Circle K has raised more than \$38 million for UCP and its affiliates.
- Through the UCP- Elsie S. Bellows Fund, the National Office provided 90 UCP affiliates with nearly \$150,000 in funds to help purchase assistive technology equipment for individuals with disabilities.





As one of the largest health charities in America,
the United Cerebral Palsy mission is to
advance the independence, productivity and full citizenship
of people with disabilities through an affiliate network.

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