



progress

FALL 2008

Turning Dreams into Realities, One Person at a Time.

UCP Delrey School Opens Larger, State-of-the-Art Facility in Lansdowne

17,000 sq. ft. Space Consolidates Delrey's Services into One Center

UNITED CEREBRAL PALSY OF CENTRAL MARYLAND (UCP-CM), RECENTLY CONSOLIDATED ITS THREE DELREY SCHOOL CAMPUSES INTO ONE ALL-ENCOMPASSING CENTER, EXPANDING SERVICES, STREAMLINING RESOURCES AND INCREASING PROGRAM EFFICIENCY TO BETTER SERVE THE 37 CHILDREN ENROLLED IN THE SCHOOL.



A Math Class



Therapeutic Feeding Program

The UCP Delrey School is a non-public school that provides comprehensive services to children, ages 3-21, with cerebral palsy and other disabilities. The school offers an academic program based on the Maryland Voluntary State Curriculum and specializes in daily therapeutic services, such as physical, occupational, speech and feeding therapies, as well as augmentative communication strategies and assistive technology. Nursing and social work services are also provided on site.

The new center, leased through Merritt Properties, is located at 3610 Commerce Dr. in Lansdowne's Beltway Business Community. The school opened in late August in time for the fall 2008 school year. When the new school opened, UCP closed its Delrey campuses in Catonsville, Arbutus and Parkville, MD. Delrey teachers, therapists and staff employed through UCP, who previously rotated among the three campuses, now report solely to the new Lansdowne location.

"UCP's Delrey School is the cornerstone of our children's program, so consolidating into one facility that's not only state-of-the-art, but also more accommodating for our students and staff has been a paramount undertaking," said UCP President and CEO Diane Coughlin.

You are Invited

to attend the dedication of the new Delrey School on Thursday, October 30, 2008, from 5-7 p.m. (ribbon cutting at 6 p.m.)

3610 Commerce Drive/Suites 804-807
Beltway Business Community/Lansdowne

The public is invited to attend. Please RSVP to 410-484-4540, ext. 4086 by October 24th.

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Message from the President

UNITED CEREBRAL PALSY OF CENTRAL MARYLAND IS ON THE MOVE!

THIS IS TRUE BOTH FIGURATIVELY AND LITERALLY. WE'RE CONSOLIDATING OUR CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS, OPENING NEW HOMES FOR ADULTS AND CHANGING THE OPERATION OF TRANSPORTATION SERVICES.



Diane K. Coughlin

August 25th was an exciting day for all of us as the Delrey students arrived at their new school in Lansdowne. After closing the building on Delrey Avenue in Catonsville and vacating the Arbutus and Harford Development Centers, all of our students are now under one roof in a newly renovated, state-of-the-art facility. This modern school also houses our daycare program and will allow us to expand our wheelchair clinic, provide sensory integration therapy, therapeutic feeding and a wide range of services to benefit our students.

To commemorate this special event in our history, I'd like to invite you to join us for a ribbon cutting ceremony and open house on Thursday, October 30, 2008, from 5-7 p.m. We are honored to name our new building the Stephen & Julia Snyder Family Building in recognition of their generous lead gift to this project. Our heartfelt thanks goes to the Snyder family for their continuing

support of UCP. Without the contributions of the Snyders and other donors we would have been unable to renovate, construct, and equip this beautiful facility. A special thanks also goes to our broker, Rob Freedman, and many fine people at Merritt Properties who worked with us tirelessly and conscientiously to make sure the building was exactly what we wanted and ready for the first day of school. And, kudos to Delrey Principal, Mimi Wang, and her dedicated staff for all of their hard work, patience, and perseverance before, during, and after the move.

In Hagerstown, the creative thinking and vision of our staff resulted in the conversion of our former day center on Salem Avenue into a beautiful residential duplex for people with disabilities. The homes are fully accessible and the first three individuals moved in over the summer. In addition to being "home" for the individuals now living at Salem Avenue, each apartment also has the capacity to serve as a respite home for one

individual. This is a much needed service because there are very few agencies in the area offering respite care to individuals who use wheelchairs. We are delighted to be able to address this need.

We are also pleased to note that transportation services in our central region are no longer contracted out to a vendor. In July, we began once again to manage this service "in-house" and operate it with our own drivers. We firmly believe that this will enhance the transportation services for the individuals who attend our day programs as well as those who live in our homes.

As the need for our services continues to grow, funding becomes an ever-present issue, and I am extremely pleased to note several very generous grants UCP has received over the past few months. You will read about the generosity of several area foundations in this newsletter, and we want each of these organizations to know how much their grants have meant to the adults and children with disabilities supported by UCP of Central Maryland.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Diane K. Coughlin". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Diane K. Coughlin
President and CEO

Our Mission:

To advance the independence, productivity, and full citizenship of people with cerebral palsy and other disabilities.

UCP Delrey School Opens

continued from front cover

The 17,540-square-foot center, which also includes 2,334 square feet of new construction, includes classrooms, special areas for occupational, speech, and physical therapies, a sensory integration room, computer lab, and wheelchair clinic. An accessible playground is being built on the campus as well, and there is a day care center for up to 10 children with or without disabilities.

The facility has been named the Stephen & Julia Snyder Family Building to commemorate the generous lead contribution of local attorney Stephen L. Snyder and his family to UCP for the renovation, construction and equipping of the building to house the new Delrey School.



Day Care Center



Physical Therapy

“We couldn’t be more pleased with this move to a more effective and efficient learning and teaching environment.”

Verizon Maryland Funded ERICA System for Delrey School



THANKS TO THE GENEROSITY OF VERIZON CUSTOMERS WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE COMPANY’S CHECK INTO LITERACY PROGRAM, THE VERIZON FOUNDATION HAS FUNDED THE PURCHASE OF AN ERICA (EYE-GAZE RESPONSE INTERFACE COMPUTER AID) SYSTEM FOR UCP’S DELREY SCHOOL.

At Delrey, it is difficult for teachers to measure comprehension and learning in students with severe disabilities. The ERICA system gives these students the ability to communicate in life-like voices and have control over a fully functional computer using just their eyes. So, students can communicate more effectively and build upon their reading skills to achieve a greater level of literacy.

The ERICA system is today’s most powerful eye-gaze system, and Delrey is one of only three facilities on the East Coast to have this advanced

technology. Completely noninvasive and portable, a quick 15-second calibration process is all it takes to begin using it. The system then translates the eye movement into cursor movement, moving the computer’s cursor to exactly where the student is looking.

“UCP’s Delrey School is extremely grateful for Verizon’s generous support and its efforts to improve literacy across Maryland,” said Diane Coughlin, president and CEO of UCP-CM. “Verizon’s donation to our school will have an impact on students that will last them a lifetime.”

UCPs **No Boundaries** Assistive Technology Center also will use the ERICA system as an assessment tool for adults.

David Soden Honored with “Can Do” Award at First Independence Society Reception

DAVID SODEN, A YOUNG MAN WITH CEREBRAL PALSY, WAS DETERMINED TO FIND A JOB DESPITE THE CHALLENGES OF HIS DISABILITY.

Soden searched daily until he found a volunteer position at St. Agnes Hospital in Baltimore where he distributed mail from the tray on his electric wheelchair. Finally after three years of volunteering, Soden asked for a paycheck and was offered a part-time position with the hospital in January.

On March 26, at UCP’s inaugural gathering of the Independence Society at Linwoods Restaurant in Owings Mills, Soden received the United Cerebral Palsy Samuel A. Tucker Memorial “Can Do” Award for persevering to achieve his goals despite his cerebral palsy.

“Other people with disabilities can be inspired by David’s personal commitment,” UCP President Diane Coughlin said. “His optimism and disability-defying resolve pushed him to find a job and earn a paycheck. He feels proud of his work, and his story is testament that others can experience the same satisfaction in achieving their personal goals.”

Soden’s experience with UCP began at age three when he attended the UCP Delrey School. He graduated at age six in 1973. More than a decade later in 1987, Soden moved to a UCP-supported residence, and in 2006, he entered a work skills program at



David Soden receives Samuel A. Tucker Memorial “Can Do” Award at Independence Society event. Left to right: Mrs. Rebecca Tucker, wife of the late Samuel A. Tucker, David, Diane Coughlin, president & CEO of UCP, and Dr. Henry Miller, chair, UCP Board of Directors.

This premier recognition club, The Independence Society, is comprised of people who share the belief that individuals with disabilities deserve quality, comprehensive services that empower them to be as independent as possible.

The Community College of Baltimore County. Soden graduated from that program last year.

Soden’s award, the Samuel A. Tucker Memorial “Can Do” Award, recognizes a person with disabilities who exemplifies the drive and determination of Samuel Tucker. Tucker, a former UCP participant who had cerebral palsy, overcame the challenges of his disability and attended college, married and practiced law. Tucker and his wife were very involved with UCP, and his wife continues to support the organization.

The Independence Society was established to honor our benefactors who provide annual funding of \$1,000 or more.



David Soden is warmly welcomed to work by a fellow employee, St. Agnes Hospital mail room clerk Karen Wilson.

Workplace Gifts

Whether your workplace participates in the United Way campaign, another federated appeal or has an in-house program, you can designate your support for UCP through payroll deduction to United Cerebral Palsy of Central Maryland. We are a proud member of Community Health Charities. Agency numbers for UCP-CM are:

- United Way of Central Maryland - #024
- Combined Federal Campaign (Central Maryland) - #70735
- Combined Federal Campaign (Western Maryland) - #70735
- Maryland Combined Charities Campaign - #5022
- Frederick Private, Eastern Shore, Cecil County, Southern Maryland, and Allegany County - #53

A Proud Member of
Community Health Charities
Maryland
WORKING FOR A HEALTHY AMERICA

Program Director Brings More Than 20 Years of Experience in Human Services Management

UCP welcomes Rich Ottone, director of Day Programs and Transportation Services. As director, Rich oversees the daily operations at UCP's two day program centers in Baltimore County and supervises transportation services and supported employment programs for UCP's central region.

Previously, Rich served as deputy director of development for Southern Maryland Vocational Industries, which provides residen-

tial and vocational support to people with disabilities in Prince Georges County. Rich also has served as director of finance and executive director for Vocational Services, now named New Horizons Supported Services, which supports people with disabilities in Southern Maryland.

Rich has held positions at Ardmore Enterprises, where he supervised a day habilitation program for people with disabilities, and at Maryland's



Rich Ottone, director of Day Programs and Transportation Services

Developmental Disabilities Administration, where he was a coordinator of special programs.

Rich earned his bachelor's degree from the University of Maryland in management and consumer studies with a concentration in social service administration and special education. He lives in Sykesville, Md.

Transportation Moves In-House

YOU MAY HAVE MISSED THE SWITCH, BUT UCP BROUGHT ITS TRANSPORTATION SERVICE BACK IN-HOUSE JUNE 30.

THE NEW IN-HOUSE TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM, WHICH HAD BEEN OUTSOURCED FOR THE PAST 11 YEARS, IS ALREADY IMPROVING SERVICE FOR OUR CONSUMERS BY OFFERING GREATER FLEXIBILITY AND MORE ON TIME TRIPS. IN ADDITION, IT IS RESULTING IN SIGNIFICANT COST SAVINGS TO THE AGENCY.

In most cases, the new transportation department, which continues to serve UCP's day programs and residences across Central Maryland, kept the same bus routes and pickup times as before. "Our goal was to make the transition work so that people didn't even notice," said Rich Ottone, director of Day Programs and Transportation Services, who led the move. "After the first two or three weeks, we had almost all the kinks worked out."

UCP hired more than 20 drivers in three weeks, many who already drove UCP routes for the outsourced vendor. Likewise, UCP brought 26 buses previously leased to the vendor back under UCP management and plans to replace six buses in the fall.

"There's always something going on in the residential homes and bringing transportation in-house hopefully makes the staff's job a little bit easier and the service a little bit better."

In addition to managing the routes, the transportation department maintains and repairs the buses, Ford Econoline E450s. Three backup buses allow regular buses to be removed from circulation for service.

In three or four years, UCP hopes to equip each residence with its own van, fueled and maintained by the transportation department. "We'd like to give control of residential transportation back to the people in the residential homes. Our residential staff has a tough job. There's always something going on and bringing transportation in-house hopefully makes their jobs a little bit easier and the service a little bit better," Ottone said. "The larger buses would continue to serve the day programs."

United Cerebral Palsy Grants Totaling \$220,000

UCP-CM RECENTLY RECEIVED SEVERAL GRANTS TOTALING MORE THAN \$220,000. THE GRANT DOLLARS WILL FUND EXPANSION OF THE SENSORY INTEGRATION THERAPY PROGRAM AT THE DELREY SCHOOL, STAFF TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION, AND CRITICAL UPGRADES TO THE ORGANIZATION'S DATABASE AND RECORDKEEPING SYSTEM, AS WELL AS OTHER PROGRAMMATIC NEEDS.

The Marion I. & Henry J. Knott Foundation awarded a \$75,000 grant to UCP to fund the salary of an occupational therapist for one year at the newly expanded Delrey School. The therapist is assigned to further develop and grow the school's sensory integration program (SI), which treats students with sensory processing disorders that prevent the brain from correctly perceiving sensory input, like touch and spatial positioning. SI therapy helps these children to interact with their environment in more successful and adaptive manners, thereby, helping them better engage in learning. UCP plans to expand the program to provide the therapy on an out-patient basis as well as to students enrolled at Delrey.

Earlier in the year, **The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation** awarded UCP a \$50,000 operational grant through their new Maryland Small Grants Program to fund staff training that includes professional certification in sensory integration therapy for three occupational therapists at the UCP Delrey School, as well as other continuing education classes for the organization's physical, speech and occupational therapists. The grant will also fund nutrition classes for direct care staff who support individuals with

disabilities that cause eating and swallowing disorders, as well as supervisory training for the agency's middle management staff.

The William J. and Dorothy K. O'Neill Foundation, an Ohio-based family foundation that provides support to nonprofit organizations operating in areas where O'Neill family members currently live, approved a grant in July for \$34,000 to fund the hardware needed by UCP to implement an electronic database application specifically developed for organizations that provide services to people with developmental disabilities. The system will allow rapid communication between staff and will provide real time information on individuals served, resulting in improved quality of care in UCP's 46 residential group homes and five day-program centers throughout the state.

UCP would also like to thank the Towson-based **Orokawa Foundation** for a generous grant in the amount of \$56,000 that will allow UCP to create sensory stimulation rooms for participants at each of our two Baltimore County day program centers, as well as purchase a lift equipped van for one of our homes. Sensory stimulation is used as a way to involve a person with severe

disabilities with their environment. Sensory stimulation and interaction with the environment is critical to maintain the highest level of awareness and connectedness with others, and often serves to calm and soothe an individual.

The lift-equipped van will allow UCP residents at the group home more flexibility in planning outings without having to schedule use of one of UCP's larger buses. The smaller vehicle is also less disruptive to the neighborhood.

Additional funds that have recently been given to UCP include a grant from the **Risk and Insurance Management Society**, Chesapeake Chapter, who donated \$4,155 of their golf tournament proceeds to help fund the set up and training for our new electronic database system.

The **Enterprise Rent A Car Foundation** gave a \$2,500 grant to purchase equipment for the new Delrey Sensory Integration Therapy Room.

And, the **Maryland Transit Authority (MTA)** is funding 80 percent of the costs for two new UCP buses.



Interior of kitchen/dining room of apartment

New Apartments in Hagerstown

Six Incoming Residents Make a New Home on Salem Avenue

UCP-CM OPENED TWO NEW CONNECTED APARTMENTS ON SALEM AVE. IN HAGERSTOWN, MD. EACH APARTMENT WILL HOUSE THREE RESIDENTS WITH DISABILITIES, WHO RECEIVE ONGOING SUPPORT FROM TWO UCP STAFF MEMBERS DURING THE DAY AND ONE OVERNIGHT.



The recently remodeled facility, which served as UCP's Hagerstown Day Program Center before it moved last year to 118 E. Oak Ridge Dr., includes a kitchen, accessible bathroom, laundry room, living room, dining room, deck and four bedrooms per apartment. The fourth bedroom in each apartment will be used for short-term respite care of adults with disabilities allowing family members and caregivers time for rest and renewal or to attend to other family obligations.

"The incoming residents, some new to UCP, decorated their own bedrooms by choosing the paint colors, curtains and accessories," said Florence Talley, residential director for Hagerstown UCP. Talley

oversees nine, including the latest two, UCP residences in Hagerstown.

"The residents have been a part of this transition, so they're very excited," she said. "It's very rewarding to see the excitement on their faces and be a part of it."

The staff members in the apartments help the residents be as independent and productive as possible by assisting them with cleaning, washing clothes, preparing food and organizing accessible transportation for the residents, some who attend the day program at the Hagerstown Center. On the weekends, staff members help residents with recreational and social activities, such as attending church and visiting places like parks and museums.

"We support them in being active members of the community," Talley said.

Enjoying Summer Activities with UCP



Hagerstown clients soak up some rays on a lovely day on the boardwalk in Ocean City. Resident Maureen Mayhew, day program participant Beth Grimes (center) and resident Tescenna Evans.



Central Maryland residents Patricia Thomas (l.) and Tim Bennett get ready for some fun at the Maryland State Fair.



Staff member Tania O'Neal and UCP participant Judy Parker enjoy a ride at Hershey Park.

Meet our New Board Members

Melissa L. Berge (Missy) is a native of Baltimore and has played a major role in the Baltimore philanthropic community, giving of her talents to many not-for-profit organizations. Among her many charitable activities, she has served on the boards of Kennedy Krieger and Sheppard Pratt and chaired the board of The League for People with Disabilities.

UCP has always been close to her heart as her husband Edward's 37-year old daughter has cerebral palsy, and Berge marvels at how despite having severe disabilities, she manages to live independently. "I am pleased to be able to do what I can to help UCP, a truly worthwhile organization," says Berge.

Berge is a graduate of Sweetbriar College, and has two children, six grandchildren, three horses, two dogs and three cats and lives in Cockeysville.

Purcell Wylie is owner of The Purcell Wylie Company, a comprehensive business and financial management services organization serving nonprofits, government agencies and small businesses. In addition to running The Purcell Wylie Company, Wylie served as administrator for Coppin State University's HIV/AIDS prevention grant from 2003 through 2007.

He graduated from Antioch College in Yellow Springs, Ohio, in 1974 with an interdisciplinary major in Accounting, Business Administration, and Sociology.

In the community, Purcell has been a member of the Kiwanis Club of Baltimore City since 1986, serving as the club's president and president-elect. He lives in Baltimore with his wife Michelle, and they have four children and five grandchildren.



UCP Cumberland staff help us celebrate Hoodstock



Delrey graduate Selina Lee enjoys the event.

Hoodstock V Event Benefits UCP-CM

FOR THE FIFTH YEAR IN A ROW, UCP-CM board member Russ Causey, his wife, Jennifer, and their friends Gracie and Larry Musher coordinated another successful Hoodstock extravaganza. Hoodstock V, a '60s genre acoustic music festival, featured live music by the band 4 and 0 that included Causey and two other UCP board members.

NEARLY \$13,000 WAS RAISED AT THIS YEAR'S EVENT, WHICH WAS HELD AT OTTERBEIN SWIM CLUB AND PAVILION ON SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13. ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT UCP-CM.



Wanda Pence from UCP-CM Finance Department and UCP-CM board member and Hoodstock organizer, Russ Causey, show off new Hoodstock V tee shirts made especially for this event.

Let Your Wheels Help Turn Our Wheels

Help children and adults with cerebral palsy and other disabilities through our Vehicle Donation Program. Towing is free and your donation may be tax-deductible!

It's easy to donate your car.

Just call 1-800-4WHEELS (1-800-494-3357) and we'll do the rest. You can also donate online at www.ucp-cm.org and click on vehicle donation.



of Central Maryland

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Baltimore, MD 21208-1417
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