

UCPpeople

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

FALL-WINTER 2008

2009

CALENDAR

OF EVENTS:

- January 25th
3 Course Feast
- March 17th
UCP Riverkings
Night
- May (all month)
Casual May
- June 1st
"No Limits" Golf
Tournament
- July
CampLiviUp
- August 15th
Elvis 5K Run, Walk &
Roll

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UCP Responds to Community Realities!



Since our founding in 1980, United Cerebral Palsy has focused on assisting individuals with disabilities and their families. While staff and some of the program offerings have changed, the goal of removing barriers and maximizing the potential of our clients has remained constant.

Today, our community (disabled individuals and their families) is growing while funding and services are shrinking. According to the most recent census data (2006), approximately 130,000 individuals in Shelby County are challenged every day by a

disability. These individuals and their families are also twice as likely to live below the poverty line as those without a disability.

In an effort to increase our services, UCP has introduced new and expanded programs including: job readiness, adult care, personal assistance, life skills and family respite.

According to Peggy Fryer, UCP's President, "The growth of UCP's programs and services must reflect the level of need in our community. The true measure of success is our ability to significantly impact the lives of people with disabilities by helping them achieve independence and become more aware of citizenship privileges and social opportunities"

In addition to the introduction of

more focused programs, UCP will launch a multi-faceted awareness campaign to create a community-wide understanding about the challenges faced by people with disabilities.

Development Director, Andrew Israel believes that, "funding for disability services must become a priority. A life-changing disability can occur at anytime, to any member of our community, yet philanthropic dollars generally flow to larger, singularly focused charities. We need to change that trend so we can provide a life without limits for people with disabilities."



UCP Awarded \$50,000 Grant

Eight local nonprofit organizations received Community Partnership Fund grants from the Community Foundation of Greater Memphis. The largest grant of \$50,000 was awarded to United Cerebral Palsy to fund a variety of branding and service initiatives. "Through the growth of our endowment and the generosity of our donors, we're able to

allocate more money to the Fund than ever before," said Robert M. Fockler, the president of the Community Foundation. "This Fund allows us to respond to the immediate needs of the community."

The funding will help UCP design and implement a comprehensive marketing and awareness campaign, as well as develop a

greater interactive online presence. The funds will also be used to expand the Adult Care Enrichment Program by adding education and training tools to aid recipients and Direct Support Professionals as they address individual growth and development needs.



Peggy Fryer
President/CEO

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Letter from the President

Welcome to the first edition of *UCPeople*, the official newsletter of United Cerebral Palsy of the Mid-South. On behalf of the Board of Directors, staff and recipients of UCP, I am pleased to introduce you to our newsletter that illustrates the programs and services we proudly offer to citizens with disabilities. Our mission is to provide these citizens "Life without Limits" as we promote independence, full citizenship and improved quality of life.

Along with the celebration of our first newsletter comes the celebration of great transition at UCP – a newly committed staff, dedicated to providing quality services to our target population – an updated website with program descriptions, illustrations and the opportunity to make on-line donations – and a renewed effort to extend our disability outreach beyond the boundaries of Shelby County to Crittenden, Tunica, Desoto and Fayette counties.

While our transition is well underway, there is much work to be done! We are currently focused on expanding the programs and services we offer to the reported 130,000 people with disabilities in Shelby County. These individuals not only face the daily challenge of living with a disability but also are twice as likely to be living in poverty. To truly serve our population, we need your volunteer support and participation in our community network. We also ask that you keep UCP in mind as you consider your level of charitable giving for the year; an envelope is inserted for your convenience.

Thank you for your support.

Stayed tuned for more great news in future issues of *UCPeople*!



UCP Partners with Shrine School

For many children with disabilities, art education in school is not available due to budget cuts and regulations. To help bring art back into the classroom for these 'special' children, UCP, the Memphis

City Schools (MCS) and the Brooks Museum are working together to provide students at the Shrine School with a unique art education pilot program. The Shrine School is part of the MCS but is unique in the fact that the entire student body is challenged by a disability. Their philosophy promotes their responsibility to help each student

develop a positive self-concept, realize the value of learning, achieve the maximum level of independence, and become a productive citizen.

Funded in-part by a recent Adams Foundation grant (to UCP), the pilot curriculum is designed to give students a better understanding of the world of art. The program is led by Ms. Emily Dillinger, a graduate student at the Memphis College of Art (MCA) who will use the pilot as the basis for her thesis project at MCA. Through weekly classes, the children will not only learn about art themes like complimentary colors, but they will also learn to improve their fine motor and cognitive skills. Each session will include some instruction / teaching and hands-on opportunities for the children to create works of art. The 20 program participants are from four different Shrine classes and are challenged by a variety of disability diagnoses and cognitive abilities.

After the 4-week session, the children's work will be

featured in Memphis City School's Exhibition of Student Work along with being showcased at the Brooks Museum's Art Studio. Further, all program participants will visit the Brooks Museum for a tour and hands-on art experience. According to Brooks' Education Curator, Karleen Gardener, "The Brooks Museum is excited to partner with UCP and the Shrine School in a unique program, which gives students the opportunity to experience the visual arts in their school as well as in the museum. Through this collaboration, [we] continue to fulfill our mission of enriching the lives of our diverse community by making the museum accessible to all audiences."



Aspiring Artist



UCP Launches Employment Training Center!



Food Services Training Class communication and job search and survival skill. Program participants, many of whom have never worked, attend classes five hours a day, five days a week. Skills are developed in the areas of food service and

who is in need of job-readiness training. "My experience here at the ETC was inspiring, fun, and educational. I've learned how to cook, do different types of things on the computer, how to communicate with others, and how to live an independent life. This is a good program because it helps people who can't work, work," says Upshaw.

In Shelby County, approximately two-thirds of working age, capable adults with disabilities are unemployed or under-employed. In response to this issue, United Cerebral Palsy has developed a job readiness program to give people with disabilities the opportunity to build essential skill sets and gain hands-on work experience. Established in September of this year, the Employment Training Center focuses on developing skills for the workplace including: Job readiness, attendance, work attitude,

computer administrative work which are career interest areas for the program's graduates.

At the end of the training cycle, students use their skills in 'stimulated' workplace environments, by completing work assignments under the guidance and direction of UCP staff. At the conclusion of work assignments, participants are able to consult their VR counselors to discuss potential job placements. Steven Upshaw, a student in the program, recommends the ETC to everyone

Eighteen students were referred to the program by Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Counselors and are expected to complete all training requirements by December of this year. UCP plans to continue building this program to empower those with disabilities for job success and to stimulate their individual and professional growth and development.

Durable Medical Equipment Program

What: UCP collects pre-owned, durable, medical, therapeutic and adaptive equipment with the goal of providing this life-changing equipment for those in need.
** No specific disability diagnosis is needed to lease or purchase equipment.

How: 1. Schedule an appointment to discuss and/or view the equipment.
2. Submit two documents: a therapist's recommendation and/or a doctor's prescription and the most recent tax return or proof of other income (SSI, SSDI, AFDC, or Food

Stamps).
3. Fill out an agreement prior to leasing or buying the equipment.
4. Arrange for the transport of the equipment from UCP.

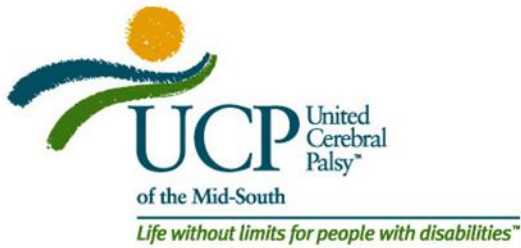
When: Call for an appointment and visit UCP Monday through Friday, 1-4 p.m.

UCP is a proud member of the Tennessee Technology Access Program, a state organization that provides a network of services and awareness for individuals with disabilities and non-profits to access used medical equipment.

For more information,
Ndi Onukogu, Manager, Children and Community Programs
901-761-4277



"The look on his face was an amazing memory for us"
Erica Grammer
-talking about the first time her son Kabel walked on his own with the help of UCP equipment



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UCPeople

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Designer: Crystal Smith

This edition is dedicated to two of our Day Services recipients who passed away this year: **Nick Walker and Laurence Gano.**

Our Mission: To advance the independence, productivity and full citizenship of people with disabilities.

Our Vision: We believe that all people with disabilities have a fundamental right to the opportunity to participate in lifestyles that enable them to live in their own community; to receive an education that prepares them for employment, and the opportunity to live and grow within their family.

Donate and Volunteer: You can support UCP in a variety of ways: in-kind donations, monetary donations, honorariums, memorials, company match donations, and corporate event sponsorship. We also welcome the opportunity to work with others in the community and look forward to building a strong volunteer base for our annual fundraising and community program events.

To volunteer:

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To donate:

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