

UCPeople

The e-Newsletter for UCP Affiliates

January 4, 2005 - Volume 2, Issue 1



Texas Home-of-Your-Own Program Highlighted in NCD Report

The National Council on Disability (NCD) Report on Livable Communities, which was sent to President George W. Bush, highlighted the Texas Home-of-Your-Own (HOYO) program. United Cerebral Palsy of Texas is a leader in the HOYO coalition of public and private organizations which seeks to create homeownership opportunities for people with disabilities.

The HOYO program is highlighted in Chapter Two of the report at <http://www.ncd.gov/newsroom/publications/2004/LivableCommunities.htm>.

Royal Christmas Company Ornament to Benefit United Cerebral Palsy

UCP of Greater Birmingham Consumer Zachary Woolley Inspires Design

By Jim Baker
January 4, 2005



The Royal Christmas Company and Polish designer Krystyna Gawlik have created a special holiday ornament to benefit United Cerebral Palsy (UCP).

The ornament, which was inspired by UCP of Greater Birmingham consumer Zachary Woolley, reveals the interaction and joy as Zachary receives a gift from Santa Claus.

United Cerebral Palsy is urging UCP affiliates to inform their community retail contacts about the ornament, which will be made available for wholesale purchase later this month.

"Like any youngster, Zach loves Christmas time," says Michael Woolley, Zachary's father and a board member of UCP of Greater Birmingham. "And our whole family is honored to join in helping United Cerebral Palsy while celebrating the holidays together."

Zachary, who has cerebral palsy, is 14-years-old and active in his community and school. He is a determined self-advocate and has worked to educate his community about disabilities like cerebral palsy. An avid athlete, he is ranked nationally in the sport of boccia, an official sport of the United States Cerebral Palsy Athletic Association.

Bob and Beverly Hitt, owners of the family-operated The Hitt Company, introduced designer Krystyna Gawlik to Zachary, their grandson, earlier this year. The Hitt Company is a wholesale representative for the Royal Christmas Company.

Gawlik, who is known for her collection of Faberge style hand-blown ornaments, was inspired to create a special ornament to benefit United Cerebral Palsy. After completing her design, Gawlik commissioned Polish carver Mieszko Tylmiesz, whose daughter Zozia also has cerebral palsy, to bring her concept to life.

"The ornament's message is about the inclusion of children with disabilities," says Gawlik. "I hope every family will be proud to hang this ornament on their Christmas tree."

A portion of the proceeds from the sale of Zachary's ornament will be donated to United Cerebral Palsy and its national network of affiliates serving and advocating for people with disabilities.

For more information, contact Roz O'Brien, Associate Director of Development, at robrien@ucp.org.

The ornament will be shown to retailers at the Atlanta International Gift and Home Furnishing Market (Building 2-1421) from January 11-20, 2005. Please contact Bob or Beverly Hitt, the wholesale representatives, at (800) 803-8296 for additional information for retailers.

See the *United Cerebral Palsy press release about Zachary's ornament* at <http://www.ucp.org/document.cfm/5952>.

HomeAbility Update

Fannie Mae Partnership to Help Build Affiliate Homeownership Programs

By Carl Varner
January 4, 2005

UCP is proud to work with Fannie Mae to offer the HomeAbility program to our affiliates. This program is designed to build and facilitate affiliate capacity to provide and support accessible housing (i.e., training, technical assistance, education).

All materials necessary for participating in the HomeAbility application process were sent to affiliates prior to the holidays. Seven (7) affiliates will be selected by the UCP Professional Council for participation this year, with 13 affiliates selected for participation next year.



The HomeAbility application deadline is Friday, January 21.

For additional information or questions regarding the program, contact:

Carl Varner, Manager of Grants Development, at (202) 973-7111; cvarner@ucp.org, or
Julie Jernigan, Senior Development Manager, at (202) 973-7100; jjernigan@ucp.org

News and Notes...

Disability Policy Collaboration

United Cerebral Palsy and The Arc mourn the death of Representative Robert T. Matsui (D-CA) on January 1.

Rep. Matsui was the Ranking Minority Member of the Social Security Subcommittee of the House Ways and Means Committee. He was a staunch advocate for people with disabilities on other issues that came before the Subcommittee, including recent enactment of the Social Security Protection Act.

In March 2004, The Arc honored Rep. Matsui with the John H. Chafee Leadership in Public Policy Award for his outstanding bipartisan leadership in enhancing Social Security programs for people with disabilities and their families.



Check out [Capitol Insider](#) for a complete update on the week's most important public policy news.

News Round-Up

State News

Oklahoma Seeks Supplemental Funds for Programs for People with Disabilities

The Oklahoma Department of Human Services is seeking \$23 million to replace one-time funds used to pay for child care, keeping the elderly in their homes and providing services for people with developmental disabilities. If the funds are not approved, the agency will have to consider budget cuts across all programs, said a DHS spokesman to the Associated Press.

Illinois Employment Program Way Over-Budget

An Illinois employment program for people with disabilities is more than \$4 million over-budget. As a result, state officials will not accept new applicants for the Vocational Rehabilitation program for a 5 1/2 week period. Kristine Smith, assistant director of the Division of Rehabilitation Services within the Illinois Department of Human Services, told the Associated Press, the "breather" period would allow staff members to make sure the program is serving people with more severe disabilities. However, she noted that the department would not rule out reducing payments to local providers who provide job preparation and training.

Extreme Makeover TV Show Renovates Washington Woman's Home for Accessibility

The hit TV show *Extreme Makeover* and more than a dozen local Tacoma, Washington, businesses teamed up last week to make some big changes to Judy Dann's home. Dann was injured in a car accident in 1985 and uses a wheelchair for mobility. The group renovated the interior of the house for accessibility, and also built an exterior wheelchair ramp.

Kansas Group Home Operators Indicted

Arlan and Linda Kaufman, who have operated a home for adults with mental disabilities in Newton, Kansas, since 1995, have been indicted with involuntary servitude and health care fraud. The federal indictment lists three counts of holding group home residents in involuntary servitude, two counts of forcing them to perform manual labor, and 16 counts of health care fraud, among other charges. Authorities allege the couple received more than \$200,000 by submitting fraudulent Medicare reimbursement claims, and forced group home residents to perform sexually explicit acts and manual labor.

New Hampshire Requests Federal Funds for GraniteCare

New Hampshire Health Commissioner John Stephen is asking federal officials for about \$200 million over 5 years, in addition to funds the federal government already provides, for programs serving the elderly, low-income families, and people with disabilities. The funds would be used to launch GraniteCare, a state Medicaid reform plan, which would reduce nursing home use by 30% in favor of home- and community-based care.

2005 UCP Annual Conference



Stay tuned for updates about the UCP Annual Conference each week in UCPeople.

For more information about news clippings, please contact Jim Baker at jbaker@ucp.org.