



UCPpeople

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 2

SPRING 2009

2009

CALENDAR

OF EVENTS:

- **March 17th**
UCP Riverkings Night
- **May (all month)**
Casual May
- **May 17th**
UCP Redbirds Night
- **June 14-15th**
EMHC "No Limits" Golf Tournament (Tunica, MS)
- **June - July**
CampLiviUp
- **August 15th**
Elvis Run, Walk, Rock & Roll

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A Feast for the Soul



The 500 or so guests who attended UCP's "3 Course Feast" on January 25th, 2009, at the Holiday Inn U of M were not only able to taste food from Memphis' top 20 chefs, they were also able to watch and learn how these culinary experts create their signature dishes. This year the annual fundraiser, formerly known as the "Great Chef's Tasting," incorporated a host, John Bragg of Circa, a new venue, and a more hands-on approach, including everything from center-stage demos to wine and beer pairings. Chefs also met and mingled with guests and prepared food, on site, for all their tastings.

At the end of the evening and as the new name implies, awards were given to the chefs who prepared the best three courses: appetizer, entrée and dessert. The winners were decided by votes cast throughout the evening by those who attended. David Krog from the Tennessean won Best Appetizer for his Lobster Lollipops, and Giacomo

Ciabattini from Café Toscana won both best entrée and dessert for his sausage-stuffed pork tenderloin and spumoni concoctions.

For the first year to host an event of this nature, it was a true success, not only by raising \$20,000 for the organization, but also unveiling the new community awareness UCP video and campaign. Jordyn Matthews, Development Associate of Special Events and Marketing, expressed gratitude for the support and enthusiasm of the community during the event. "[The event] put UCP back on the map as an organization that continues to reinvent and develop programs and services to meet the needs of the community" states Matthews. It was also an opportunity for attendees to learn more about local chefs who give their time and resources to so many nonprofit efforts throughout the city.

The following Memphis chefs and restaurants participated: John Bragg from Circa, Patrick Reilly from Majestic Grille, Erling Jensen from Erling Jensen's, Noodle, Doodle, Do, The Beauty Shop, Mollie Fontaine's Lounge, and Another Roadside Attraction Catering, Nick Scott from Bluefin, Brett "Shaggy" Duffee from Equestria, Kelly English from Restaurant Iris, Rick Savori from Ciao Bella, David Krog from the Tennessean, Bobby Baker and Ben Adams from Napa Café, Clint

Boutwell from Orleans of Front, Chris Windsor from Grill 83, Andrew Ticer and Michael Hudman from AM Italian Kitchen, Rick Farmer from Jarret's, Giacomo Ciabattini from Café Toscana, Jason Severs from Bari, David Johnson from McEwen's on Monroe, Felicia Willet from Felicia Suzanne's, and Reinaldo Alfonso from Chez Philippe.

Thank you to the following 2009 sponsors. In-kind and monetary sponsors include the following: WREG News Channel 3, Chef's Supply and Design, EMHC (Emergency Mobile Health



Care), United Access, Glass Seating and Mobility, Performance Food Group Batesville, Ben E. Keith, Walmart, and Q107.5.

Beverages provided by: D. Canale, Southwestern Distributors, Pepsi America, AS Barboro and Sam Adams, Victor L. Robilio Co. and Smirnoff Liquor, DBI Distributors, and High Point Coffee.

Letter from the President

As the world remains transfixed on the news and frequent reports of a struggling, declining, volatile economy, it becomes increasingly difficult to find the smallest glimmer of hope, particularly in the world of non-profits. This, our second issue of UCPeople, finds us not just latching on to glimmers of hope, but vigorously working to identify committed funding sources and new levels of possibilities for UCP and people with disabilities.

Our daily search for viable funding sources very often reveals a business community in the midst of repositioning itself to respond to the negative effects of an uncertain economy. It is becoming more evident that this economic downturn shows no respect for size or type of business - it rains on the large and small, Corporate and non-profits alike. Corporate America is hurting. When Corporate America sustains this kind of global pain, the truth of the matter is we all hurt. We can all attest to the fact that it is difficult to 'give' when one is in pain; we tend to move from the act of 'giving' to the posture of 'receiving,' in search of anything that will bring sweet relief.

The challenge for non-profits like UCP is to seek donations and cultivate partnerships and meaningful relationships with individuals who share our vision and passion for reaching out to people who, by no fault of their own, are destined to endure the most devastating blow from this sluggish, unpredictable economy. People with disabilities could conceivably end up at the bottom the list when economic recovery efforts are defined. Our charge is to keep the dollars flowing while making sure they are properly represented at all levels: local, state and national.

My short message here is "We need your help: your time, your talents and your donations." I will share our progress in future issues of UCPeople.



Peggy Fryer
President/CEO

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Food, Friends, and Fun for ACE Group

"Immediately I felt welcomed and had several new friends," recalls Jordyn Matthews, Development Associate for UCP, who attended UCP's ACE Socialization Group outing in February. Thirty members of this group and their personal assistants met at Pancho's for a Mexican fiesta and an exciting opportunity for adults in the Mid-South community with cognitive and physical disabilities to interact and develop friendships in a safe environment. These outings give the members something to look forward to each month when they might otherwise be isolated or only interact with a limited number of people. At Pancho's, conversations were centered around fun

activities planned for the spring and the upcoming ACE Socialization Group Easter basket fundraiser. Brian Ziskind, a member of this group, really enjoys "getting out of the house to see [his] friends and [he] looks forward to next month's outing." On March 17th, the group is traveling with other UCP staff, recipients, and parents to the Desoto Civic Center to attend the **UCP Riverkings Night**. All donors and friends of UCP are invited to attend the hockey game to show support for the organization.

The Adult Care Enrichment (ACE) Socialization Group meets once a month to allow members

a chance to build meaningful relationships with others. Meetings can take place anywhere from the UCP cafeteria to major sporting events and various restaurants around town, and the membership is free! If you know someone who may be interested in joining the group, please contact Sherry Shear at 901-761-4277.



UCP Launches Student Advocacy Program



In an effort to promote awareness and educate teens about the realities of disabilities, UCP has partnered with the Memphis City Schools to establish the

Students Promoting an Understanding of Disabilities, (SPUD) program. The program, launching this spring, will have UCP staff training high schools student volunteers to present a fifteen minute interactive program to their peers. The program features an explanation of various disabilities and an experiential learning exercise where students will use a shoelace to simulate living with restricted mobility. UCP Director of Development, Andrew Israel believes that, "SPUD has great

potential to not only change perceptions about those challenged by disabilities, but also to establish student leaders who can take the skills they acquire through this program and become true advocates for our community." Each student who participates in the exercise will be encouraged to submit a brief essay 100-150 words on the UCP website. The essays will be compiled into a publication in late 2009.

UPC Welcomes Annual Partners!



The non-profit world is filled with challenges, and while success is measured by your number of clients and dollars raised, true long-term success is based on the strength of your organization's relationships. As UCP continues to re-establish the organization as a leading 'grass roots' agency, they are delighted to have established new relationships with three community-focused companies and with the United Way of the Mid-South.

UCP's new Annual Partners, **Emergency Mobile Health Care,**



Glass Seating and Mobility and **United Access** all serve the disability community and have joined with UCP to support their work. Annual Partners have each made financial commitments to UCP, in addition to offering their time and expertise as members of UCP's new Advisory Board.



In January, UCP was selected to become a United Way member agency in Shelby County. While they have benefited from outside, county United Way funds in the past, this is the first time UCP can benefit from the UW Campaign in Shelby County. UCP Director of Development, Andrew Israel, feels that "partnering with local companies and the United Way will not

only benefit us financially, but will also provide new channels to expand awareness about our services and programs across Memphis."

If your company is interested in partnering with UCP, please contact, Andrew Israel at (901) 761-4277.



United Way of the Mid-South

Advisory Board will Help Guide UCP's Future Direction

Statistics tell us that more than 130,000 individuals in our community are challenged everyday by a disability. For close to 30 years, UCP has provided an evolving list of services to support their needs. As we move forward, it is essential that the programs we offer are in direct alignment with the needs of our community. To that end, UCP has established an Advisory Board of leaders from a variety of sectors, including education, mobility, therapy and medical, to help us reach-out to more special needs families and develop collaborative solutions to provide a "Life without limits for people with disabilities."

If you are interested in joining our Advisory Board, please contact, Andrew Israel at (901) 761-4277.

Casual Day Becomes Casual May

In years past, UCP has hosted "Casual Day," a day in which area businesses support UCP by making donations in exchange for wearing casual attire in the workplace. This year UCP is turning one day of dressing down into a month of awareness and activities for all ages. *Casual May* will focus attention on disability awareness and education through events and programs at schools and businesses for the entire month of May. During UCP presentations, participants will be invited to spend a minute taking part in experiences designed to increase the public's understanding of the challenges faced by many with disabilities in our community. The



"Spend a Minute" project will be the key component of a new approach by UCP to bring disabilities to the forefront of essential funding

priorities for our community.

Companies can participate in several ways, such as recruiting employees to donate at various levels for different UCP incentives or attending UCP presentations. Please visit www.ucpmemphis.org and click on the Casual May icon to download company registration forms, coordinator packet information, fact sheets, and sponsorship information. For additional Casual May questions, please contact Jordyn Matthews, Development Associate, Special Events and Marketing at email: jmathews@ucpmemphis.org or by phone: 761-4277 x 1107



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UCPeople

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UCP is pleased to work once again with sponsors EMHC and Sam's Town on this summer's upcoming EMHC No Limits Golf Tournament. Please mark your calendars for :
Pre-Party: June 14th, 2009
Golf Tournament: June 15th, 2009
All Events taking place in Tunica, MS.

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

To Donate Online:

UCP is now accepting on-line donations at www.ucpmemphis.org. When you reach the site, simply click the **Donate Now** link on the top right corner of the homepage and follow the instructions on the donation form.

Don't wait! Support UCP's life changing work today!

Coming Soon: UCP Membership:

Starting this Spring, UCP will launch a unique membership campaign to fund our services and activities while providing a variety of member-only benefits and event discounts. Visit our website, www.ucpmemphis.org for more details.

To volunteer:

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To donate:

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