

UCP

UNITED CEREBRAL PALSYP

United Cerebral Palsy of Huntsville and Tennessee Valley
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UCP United Cerebral Palsy

of Huntsville & Tennessee Valley

Life without limits for people with disabilities

Mission

UCP's mission is to enhance the quality of life for individuals with disabilities and promote their independence, self-sufficiency and full citizenship in the community. UCP strives to fulfill this mission through direct services, community education, parent training and advocacy.

What is CP?

Cerebral palsy (CP) is a term used to describe a life-long condition caused by injury to the brain during pregnancy, delivery or shortly following birth. "Cerebral" refers to the brain, and "palsy" refers to muscle weakness or poor control of movement or posture.

Cerebral palsy is not a disease; it is neither progressive nor communicable. There is no single cause of cerebral palsy. It can be associated with a number of conditions such as premature birth, lack of oxygen to the brain during development and/or birth, blood incompatibility between parents, infection of the mother during the pregnancy, as well as drug or alcohol addiction and AIDS infection in the mother.



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Family Services

UCP of Huntsville and Tennessee Valley provides comprehensive support to families of children with developmental delays. Through several different programs UCP offers parent counseling, family outings, mentoring, financial assistance and respite relief.

Family Connections: UCP of Huntsville and Tennessee Valley offers much needed assistance to its families through Family Connections. This program provides parenting sessions with a licensed counselor, emergency financial assistance for equipment or unexpected expenses, family outings for networking and support, mentoring between new families and veteran families within the disability community, information and referrals.

What is respite? Respite is temporary relief for parents and caregivers of individuals with a disability or special health care need. It allows primary caregivers to take a break from their everyday responsibilities.



H.E.A.R.T.S.: Help-Emergency and Respite Treatment Service (H.E.A.R.T.S.) is designed to provide respite care for families of children with special needs up to age sixteen. Skilled respite is provided by licensed nurses or nursing assistants through local home health agencies. A voucher system allows parents to secure a caregiver of their choosing, with payment by voucher.

Alabama Lifespan Respite Resource Network: Funded in part by the Alabama Council for Developmental Disabilities, the Alabama Lifespan Respite Resource Network is intended to identify respite resources across the state, develop a directory of those resources that may be easily accessed by caregivers, and assist communities in developing additional respite services.



Who We Are

United Cerebral Palsy of Huntsville and Tennessee Valley was established in 1963 to provide programs and services to children with cerebral palsy and their families. Since then UCP has expanded these services to meet the needs of children and adults with other types of disabilities and now serves clients with more than fifty different diagnoses.

The UCP Center located at 2075 Max Luther Drive in Huntsville provides occupational, physical and speech therapy, as well as educational and social services to children and adults with disabilities.

Who We Serve

UCP of Huntsville and Tennessee Valley annually serves more than 600 children and adults with disabilities and their families in Madison, Morgan, Marshall, Limestone, and Jackson Counties.

UCP also provides treatment to individuals who do not have cerebral palsy but can benefit from therapy or services offered.

UCP serves children and adults with other diagnoses such as spina bifida, muscular dystrophy, developmental delay, mental retardation, etc.

How We Are Funded

Funding from these sources allows UCP to provide services, often at no charge:

- Local and Foundation Grants
- Contracts with State Agencies
- Contracts with Area Schools and other service agencies
- Special Events
- Individual and Corporate Donations
- Combined Federal Campaign
- Memorials and Honorariums
- Third Party Payment



WASTE NOT Technology Finds: The WASTE NOT program is part of a statewide network which addresses the demand for exchanged, loaned and recycled assistive technology equipment such as communication devices, wheelchairs, vans with lifts, hand controls, computers, TDDs, etc. The program maintains a listing of both new and used equipment available for sale or donation as well as equipment needed by individuals with disabilities. UCP of Huntsville and Tennessee Valley serves as the North Alabama site for this equipment loan network.

Computer and Augmentative Communication Equipment: Many individuals with disabilities require special equipment to assist them to better communicate and interact. Education aids include adaptable keyboards, computer software programs, automatic page-turners, and adapted pencil grips to enable children to participate in classroom activities. Technology can also be a substitute - such as an alternative augmentative communication device that provides vocal output for a child who cannot communicate with his or her voice. UCP assists its clients in determining what equipment is needed and then assists them in acquiring those items that are most needed.

Technology Services

Technology is a key to leveling the playing field for individuals with disabilities. An individual may use assistive technology to travel, communicate with others, engage in recreational and social activities, learn, work, control the immediate environment, and/or increase his or her independence with daily living skills.

Equipment Loan Program: Because assistive equipment can often be financially straining on families of individuals with disabilities, UCP of Huntsville and Tennessee Valley provides assistance through an equipment loan program and a statewide listing of available assistive equipment.

SHARE: UCP's Special Help with Adaptive Resources & Equipment (SHARE) Program is a local equipment loan program that enables UCP Center clients to borrow seating and mobility equipment, adaptive and developmental toys and high technology equipment such as computers and augmentative communication systems.



Children's Services

UCP of Huntsville and Tennessee Valley currently serves more than 100 infants, toddlers and preschoolers across North Alabama.

Early Intervention: UCP's Early Intervention Program focuses on identifying developmental delays in children from birth to three years of age, developing a treatment plan, and providing appropriate therapy to fit individual needs, as well as providing parents and families with disability education and training.

In conjunction with the Early Intervention Program, UCP offers Pre-School Readiness Group Time for children 18 months to 3 years of age. Group Time is a weekly, hour-long program that provides children with enjoyable learning experiences and the socialization skills needed to enter a traditional classroom setting.

Childcare Provider Training: UCP of Huntsville and Tennessee Valley provides training to childcare providers across the Tennessee Valley to help create an inclusive environment for children with special needs. The Childcare Enhancement with a Purpose program offers on-site training, consultation and technical assistance to preschools, daycares, and other childcare providers. More than 2000 area children benefit annually from this basic child development and inclusion education and training.

Therapy Services

UCP of Huntsville and Tennessee Valley offers physical, occupational and speech therapy with special emphasis in the area of pediatrics. Therapy is not only provided to individuals with disabilities, but is also available to anyone who may benefit from therapy services.

Outpatient Therapy Program: Through its Outpatient Therapy Program UCP of Huntsville and Tennessee Valley provides therapeutic evaluations, as well as direct treatment including physical, occupational and speech therapy for individuals of all ages. The UCP Center in Huntsville has the latest in therapeutic equipment available to its clients. When a physician prescribes outpatient therapy, young children with disabilities may also be provided with splinting and casting services to allow for proper bone growth and development. Computerized gait analysis and neuromuscular electrical stimulation services are also available.



Children's Therapy Services: Therapy services are also offered to typically developing children with short-term injuries due to sports and childhood accidents. Services offered for children from birth to age 16 include pediatric physical, occupational and speech therapy and are available upon physician referral.

Infant Massage Classes: UCP of Huntsville and Tennessee Valley offers Infant Massage classes to teach parents how to properly massage their babies. Infant Massage promotes parent and child bonding, helps babies relax tight muscles, helps alleviate constipation and helps babies fall asleep easier. This class is offered to parents of infants birth to six months old, whether or not the child has a disability.