

*Life without limits for people with disabilities™*

## Life Without Limits

### OUR MISSION

*To maximize independence and opportunities for full participation in the community for individuals with cerebral palsy or other disabilities, and their families, by raising the standard for quality programs, service and advocacy.*

## Telethon Sets A Record!

Once again the central Illinois community came together for United Cerebral Palsy Land of Lincoln's annual Telethon!

Thank you to everyone who supported UCP this year by making a pledge during Telethon! On January 28th volunteers in Springfield, Decatur, Morrisonville, Mt. Zion, Pleasant Plains, Litchfield, Pawnee, Lincoln, Taylorville, Beardstown, Jacksonville, & Girard supported UCP.

The goal was \$270,000 and our volunteers raised \$274,300 - our best year ever! Telethon is UCP's largest fundraiser of the year. The money raised is used to provide services such as therapy, job training & placement, residential support and case management in twenty-seven counties in central Illinois.



*Top left: Mikela Hunt with a family Right: Hosts Jill Egizii & Paul Wappel Bottom: Phone bank volunteers in Springfield*

### Telethon Sponsors:

Thank you to all of our Telethon 2007 sponsors, volunteers and hosts - Paul Wappel, Jill Egizii, Marcus Thorpe & Mikela Hunt of WANDTV, and Sam Madonia, John & Michelle of WFMB.

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## Message From The President

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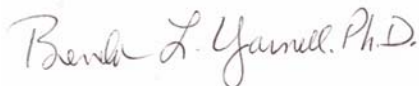
**Visit our website  
[www.ucpll.org](http://www.ucpll.org)**

Recently I have been involved in two strategic thinking groups through UCPA talking about the future as part of Big Sky. Big Sky has retained the Institute for the Future to develop a custom forecast Map that provides an independent, outside-in view of future forces that are likely to have major impacts on individuals with disabilities over the next decade. A vision statement that evolved from one of the groups that I found exciting was by the year 2020 “throughout the world disability is understood to be part of the human experience, neither defining or limiting.”

Many aspects of the map are exciting as well as promising, including a section that indicates that there will be a decline in legacy institutions, such as UCP. The challenge will be for UCP to be responsive to the needs of people who come to us for services. We are already experiencing that shift as students leave school; they want a job in the community and they want to live in a place of their own.

The leadership of UCP is in the process of developing our strategic plan for the future. We have spent months eliciting input from people who receive services, staff members, donors, funding entities, families and employers through surveys and focus groups. The leadership will utilize the information from stakeholders, as well as aspects from the Map of the Future to develop UCP’s Strategic plan.

I look forward to sharing the results of our plan in a future issue.



Brenda L. Yarnell, Ph.D.  
President/CEO  
UCP Land of Lincoln

### **Life Without Limits TV Show**

UCP has a weekly television program which airs on Insight’s Channel 4. *Life Without Limits* is hosted by board member Jill Egizii. You can watch our show on Wednesdays at 3:30 am, 11:30 am and 8:30 pm.

### **White Glove Cleaning Professionals**

White Glove Professionals, a division of UCP, offers a wide variety of commercial cleaning services customized to meet the needs of local businesses. Daily, weekly, monthly, seasonal, and annual services are being offered. Services can be performed during the day, after business hours or on weekends. If you or your business is interested in more information, contact Bill Dye at 525-6522.

## Children's Programs

### Summer of Fun

Mark your calendars now! UCP is preparing three fun filled camps for children 6 to 21-years-old.

#### **Recreational Camp**

Come spend the night! UCP Recreational Camp will be held June 4th to June 6th for ages 6 to 13 years and June 6th to 8th for ages 14 to 21. This three-day, two-night camp is the only one of its kind in central Illinois. Camp is a unique social opportunity for campers who have any type of disability. Attendees enjoy crafts, swimming, interacting with special guests and meeting new friends. All campers are partnered with a volunteer "Buddy" who is a constant companion throughout camp. Camp is also a perfect respite opportunity for parents who might need a short break from the day-to-day care of their child. UCP staff and registered nurses are on duty.

#### **Boundless Bunch**

Boundless Bunch will meet at the UCP center for students 6 to 21-years-old who have any type of disability. Camp dates are June 18th thru August 3rd, a camper can sign up for one week or all summer. While renewing friendships, campers will participate in craft activities, utilize the UCP computer lab and go on field trips. Field trips will be educational and recreational including visits to historical sites, behind the scenes tours of their favorite stores and bowling.

#### **Computer Camp**

Computer Camp is an activity for youth 6 to 12-years-old who are fascinated by the computer. On August 6th, 7th, and 8th from 8:30 am to 4 pm students are invited to try out the latest software in UCP's computer lab, go on field trips, try their hand at crafts and renew friendships from past years.

Call Aimee Gray for more information 525-6522.

### A Ballet Fling

Flings are social opportunities for students 14 to 21. The next fling will meet on Friday, April 20th. Students will meet at the Sangamon Auditorium from 6 to 9 pm to enjoy Sleeping Beauty performed by the Springfield Ballet Company. Dinner will be served. Yes, this is for the gentlemen too! There are men in the ballet. Call Aimee for more information.

### **WANTED : YOUR TIME AND TALENTS**

What is the heart of every good program? Great volunteers! UCP is looking for volunteers 14-years-old and older to assist with:

- Saddle Up! - Volunteers donate one & a half to three hours one evening a week for up to six weeks.
- Summer Camps - Volunteers donate a few days, mornings or afternoons throughout the summer months to assist campers.

No experience is necessary - UCP will train you!

## Vocational Programs

### Sangamon County Transition Planning Committee Fair at UIS

On Monday April 23rd the University of Illinois at Springfield's Office of Disability Services will partner with the Sangamon County Transition Planning Committee to host a Transition Fair from 10 am to 2 pm in the PAC Concourse.

The purpose of the Sangamon County Transition Planning Committee is to promote conditions that allow individuals with disabilities to progress successfully from high school to adult life in the area of employment, independent living and community participation. Students in high school along with their families are invited to attend. Representatives from community agencies that assist people with disabilities will be present to answer any questions about the agency's services and what can be done to assist the students during and after high school.

## UCPLL's Annual Meeting

## Memorials

### Community Leaders Honored at the Annual Meeting

UCPLL's annual meeting, hosted by Board Chair Honorable Leo Zappa, was held on November 2 at the Crowne Plaza in Springfield. More than 140 people were in attendance to honor organizations and individuals for their significant contributions to UCP.

<b>Outstanding Corporate Support:</b>	<i>LPGA State Farm Classic</i>
<b>Outstanding Board Member:</b>	<i>Mary Anne Holloway</i>
<b>Outstanding New Board Member:</b>	<i>Sherry Simmons, M.D.</i>
<b>Outstanding Trustee:</b>	<i>Lisa Nardi</i>
<b>Outstanding Community Partner:</b>	<i>LLCC's Occupational Therapy Assistant Program</i>
<b>Outstanding Telethon VIP:</b>	<i>Gary Reynolds</i>
<b>Outstanding Volunteer:</b>	<i>Jan Wilson</i>
<b>Outstanding Camp Volunteer:</b>	<i>Bradley Hermann</i>
<b>Employer of the Year:</b>	<i>TJ Maxx</i>
<b>Gene Schneider Leadership Award:</b>	<i>Katie Hofmann</i>
<b>Donna Newton Employee of the Year:</b>	<i>Talya Reed-Wood</i>
<b>Special Recognition:</b>	<i>American Business Club &amp; Insight Media for their work on behalf of people with disabilities</i>

*In memory of Mary Belle Waechter Riley  
William E. Waechter*

*In honor of Lois C. Schwengel  
Smith Tire Company*

*In memory of Mary Beth Riordan  
Daniel & Sarah Riordan*

*In memory of Joe Doherty  
Stephen Baker*

*In memory of Duane Woll  
Jim & Marlene Eeten*

*In memory of Joan Leavitt  
Patricia Pearson*

*In memory of Anthony Manuele  
Joseph & Angela Ciaccio*

## News from Decatur

### The UCP Life Without Limits Celebration in Decatur was a huge success!

On March 17th the sold out Life Without Limits Celebration was held at the Decatur Club Ballroom. Live entertainment from Soul Purpose provided wonderful music for dancing, dinner was served and a live & silent auction offered many great items that cannot be purchased anywhere else!

The highlight of the evening was Decatur's first ever "Celebrities Dancing for Dollars Contest." The contest featured dance routines from several local celebrities including Sean Streaty of WAND-TV, Athena Rich of the Herald & Review and Decatur City Councilman Dan Caulkins.

Celebrities were paired up with local dance instructors Sam & Judy Wright of the Richland Community College Dance Department and Simone Brooks of the Decatur YWCA School of Dance. The crowd voted for the best dance couple, won by Athena Rich & Sam Wither.

### Updates:

- Linda Gaffron has joined the staff as the new Lekotek leader for Decatur.
- Summer camp 2007 dates: June 18-22, July 23-27, August 13-17
- Lincolnland AMBUCS donated \$1000 toward camp scholarships for summer camp program. The Decatur Rotary gave \$850 towards Playgroups, and HSAC gave \$500 toward the purchase of vocational assessment tools.

### Computer Camp

The Decatur office held a two-day computer camp December 27 & 28 for children ages 6-21. The camp was designed to give children with disabilities a change of pace and their parents a break during school vacation. Ten individuals participated in activities that included learning the different parts of a computer, internet usage, and graphic design.



**LPGA State Farm Classic**

UCP Land of Lincoln is grateful to be one of the major charities in 2006 associated with this tournament. The LPGA State Farm Classic donated the record amount of \$37,547.60!

Thank you to our wonderful volunteers who shuttled pro-am players, marshaled and served food in the volunteer tent during the week of the tournament. We are already signing up volunteers for this years event, August 30th at Panther Creek. Call Rene for more information at 525-6522.

**Minnesota survey reveals changes in public perception towards individuals with developmental disabilities**

A recently completed survey of 806 randomly selected Minnesota heads of households shows a dramatic positive change in the general public regarding the community integration of people with developmental disabilities.

Ninety-one percent of those surveyed agreed that individuals with developmental disabilities should be integrated into the employment sector and with the right training those individuals can be very productive workers. Eighty-five percent of the respondents favored companies that employ those with developmental disabilities and they agreed with the statement “when society helps people with disabilities live to their highest potential, we’re all better off.”

Seventy-eight percent disagreed with the statement “it’s OK to exclude people with developmental disabilities from many public situations: they cannot be expected to fit in.” Ninety-two percent disagreed with the statement “if a person with a developmental disability moved into my neighborhood, I’d be concerned.” More than ninety percent of the respondents agreed that individuals with developmental disabilities should be integrated into society as much as possible. Just three percent of those surveyed felt that individuals with developmental disabilities should be kept in institutions.

\*Excerpt from The Wallace Group & The Minnesota Governor’s Council on Developmental Disabilities report.

**10th Annual Original Barstool Open**

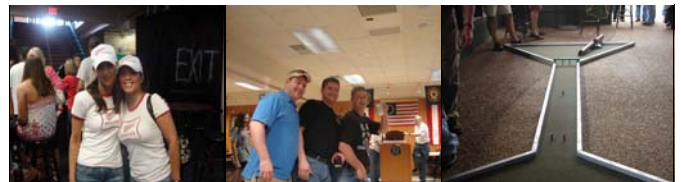
The Barstool Open, a miniature golf tournament was held downtown on March 31st. We were excited to have 118 teams play this year - helping us to raise over \$12,000!

Thank you to Tim Ryan & Matt Yarnell of E & F Distributing and Alex Preston of CompuPrint for their support, The American Business Club for judging, the Parrot Heads for recruiting volunteers and our sponsors: Miller Lite, FOXTV, Harmony Cutting Edge Limousine, KISSFM, and 96.7 The Classic Rock Station.



*Top Row - 1st: “Brunettes do it better”, 2nd: Golfers outside D.H. Brown’s*

*Bottom Row - 1st: Liz & Amanda, 2nd: Firehouse team, 3rd: Boone’s “martini” golf hole*



**Hole Sponsors:**

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- Parrot Heads of Lincoln Land
- Recycled Records, Inc.
- Richards & Stehman Rubber Stamps

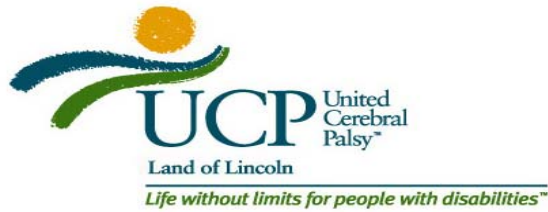
**Participating bars:**

- Alamo
- American Legion
- Boone’s Uptown Grill
- Brewhaus
- Catch 22
- D.H. Brown’s
- Firehouse
- Floyd’s Thirst Parlor
- Mo-Jo’s
- Two Brothers
- Underground City Tavern

## Upcoming Events

- **Saturday, April 21st** - Annual Blue Chip Gala, Hilton Hotel - Springfield
- **Friday, August 23rd** - UCP Annual Golf Outing, Scovill Golf Course in Decatur
- **August 30th - September 2nd** - LPGA State Farm Classic, Panther Creek in Springfield
- **Friday, September 21st** - ABC Charity Open, Piper Glen Golf Course in Springfield

For more information, or to volunteer for an event, call 525-6522 or e-mail us at [ucponline@gmail.com](mailto:ucponline@gmail.com)



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# Announcing the 27th Annual Blue Chip Gala

**On Saturday April 21st the 27th Annual Blue Chip Gala will be held at the Springfield Hilton. The evening features exceptional hors d'oeuvres, incredible live & silent auction items, casino gaming and music by the Debbie Ross Band.**

**The Blue Chip Gala is the most elegant, longest running charity event of its kind. Sponsorship opportunities are still available and individual tickets are \$100.00 each. All the money raised supports UCP's children's programs. Please plan to join us Saturday April 21st!**

**Call Rene at 525-6522 for more information.**

