SPOTLIGHT ON

UCPSESUIN of Greater Chicago



UCP Seguin of Greater Chicago has partnered with the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) on an innovative, new model to support youth in care.

In March of last year, four young women moved into a new home in Broadview. This home is a welcome change and was made possible by a partnership between UCP Seguin of Greater Chicago and the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services, also known as DCFS. This partnership was established to address the unique needs of young people in foster care who require placements able to provide more specialized care due to diagnoses of intellectual or developmental disabilities.

Photos: Children's Foster Home in Stickney; Charles and Oscar play Uno, a favorite pasttime, after school.

Continued on page three

Create Life Without Limits for People with Disabilities!

GIVE AT UCPSEGUIN.ORG





Life without limits for people with disabilities"

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A Letter from Joseph Mengoni, President/CEO



As we move into 2024, I'm immensely proud of everything that the UCP Seguin community has accomplished in the last year, and I'm excited for what's in store in 2024. As always, I'm grateful for your support of our work, which includes essential services for children and adults with disabilities so they can achieve their potential, advance their independence, and act as full members of the community. The dedication and generosity of so many make this possible.

You'll find some of their stories in this issue of UCP Seguin's Annual Report, like Patrice Vining, who is our Chief Program Officer over our Children's program. Patrice and her incredible team have played a vital role in the recent expansion of our services available to children. As you'll read in our cover story, we've recently opened two homes where teens with specialized needs are able to live in a warm, home-like environment with the support they need to transition to a traditional foster home.

I'd also like to extend thanks to Representatives Jesus "Chuy" Garcia and Danny K. Davis, who have been instrumental in securing government grant funding for capital improvement projects at UCP Seguin. These projects include the upcoming purchase of a multi-unit housing site and ongoing improvements to the Carr Center in Cicero and the

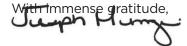


Jamie and the staff in Broadview relax in the basement game room.

Levinson Center in Oak Park. This vital financial support allows us to devote more of our other funding to programs and services that directly serve individuals with disabilities.

These programs and services are made possible through gifts big and small. I'm humbled by the generosity of more than 1,100 donors and funders—most of whom are individuals who improve our communities every day through acts of philanthropy and service. I hope you'll read the story of the Casimiros, whose tireless support of individuals with disabilities means so much to us.

Amazing things are happening everyday thanks to the incredible network of support of which you are an essential part. Because of the incredible dedication of you and others, I look towards the future of our organization with excitement—a future of continued expansion and improvement so individuals with disabilities can live life without limits. Thank you.



Joseph Mengoni President/CEO Appropriate placements for these young adults are difficult to find, leaving them to live in hospitals, mental health facilities, or residential centers instead of homes. These solutions provide physical space but are not positioned to provide the best care for individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities—or the socialization, independence, and privacy they deserve.

DCFS works with partner agencies, including UCP Seguin, to address this pressing need. Youth in care are eligible for placement into one of our homes if they have a diagnosis of autism or an intellectual or developmental disability. These young adults typically range from 12 to 20 years old. UCP Seguin works in tandem with DCFS through the placement process to ensure that each resident is a good fit for the home and the other residents.

UCP Seguin is uniquely positioned to provide these homes because of our innovative and proven residential options for adults with disabilities through the Community Integrated Living Arrangement (CILA) model. CILA homes offer a family-like environment and staff who are trained to provide individualized support to residents. UCP Seguin turned a home in Broadview for the first Children's CILA, where the first four young women moved last year.

This approach has been a positive change for these young women, who have private bedrooms, opportunities to engage with one another and the



Amy's staff helps her complete a puzzle.

community, and dedicated live-in staff to provide around-the-clock care and companionship. They're able to attend school and maintain relationships with biological families when able.



The ladies' home in Broadview.

This home has been such a success that UCP Seguin

has opened a second home for up to four young men in Stickney, continuing our partnership with DCFS. (UCP Seguin has received additional funding from the Pulte Family Charitable Foundation to install a sensory room in this home, further meeting the unique needs of residents.) The partnership between UCP Seguin and DCFS will allow more young people to thrive in homes where they receive the support they deserve so they can live life without limits.

Meet Patrice Vining, Chief Program Officer - Children's Foster Care

Patrice joined UCP Seguin in July of 2001 as the Licensing Supervisor for the Children's Foster Care Program. Prior to joining UCP Seguin, she worked in Child Welfare at two other private agencies. Patrice has a master's degree in public administration majoring in public government which contributed greatly to her ability to quickly design and implement procedures necessary for day-to-day operations. She fell into the Child Welfare field after being introduced by a former boss and has never looked back.

According to Patrice, "What I like most about my work at UCP Seguin is the rewarding feeling of placing youth with a family and knowing that I contributed in some small way with someone's life being a little bit better and equally as much, I enjoy working with my team."

After taking on the role of department head in May of 2011, Patrice has overseen the expansion of UCP Seguin's specialized foster care program and enlarging our footprint in the Chicagoland area. Patrice played an instrumental role in the creation and implementation of two innovative new programs: group homes for youth with autism or intellectual/developmental disabilities and a Referral Program which helps to stabilize youth while they remain in the care of their biological parents, avoiding foster care.



The Bridgeport Art Center was a magical place for The Big Event on March 9th! With cocktails in the elevator, an interactive photo booth, casino games, and a high-energy DJ, the night's festivities brought down the house. We celebrated the combined 100+ years of dedication of Adult Foster Parents Larry Yaus and Lisa Vito and Children's Foster Parents Althea Ray-Toolie and Georgina & Francisco Salmeron with the Inaugural Fostering Excellence Awards. The Shining Star Award was given to Danny Temponeras for his commitment to stepping outside of his comfort zone. UCP Seguin presented Congressman Danny K. Davis of the 7th District with the President's Award for his longstanding support of people with disabilities, and for securing a \$750,000 grant to purchase and renovate much-needed housing and address day center improvements. For always being advocates and supporters of people with disabilities, we were thrilled to present the Life Without Limits awards to our friends at the Village of Oak Park, Oak Park Township, and the Community Mental Health Board of Oak Park Township.

Of course we couldn't have made The Big Event happen without our generous sponsors! Thank you again to Great Computer Solutions, Busey Bank, The Horton Group, RV Construction, Robert R. Andreas & Sons and Andreas Equipment & Fleet Care Service, Nobs Towing, Byline Bank, RA James Construction, Sullivan's Plumbing, Heating & Cooling, Tarrytown Expocare Pharmacy, and Tito's Handmade Vodka.

Fostering Excellence



Amber Grzeda, Larry Yaus, Sue Waldman, and Joseph Mengoni

Larry Yaus, "a gift," creating a family environment for people with disabilities.

Since July of 1996, Larry has dedicated himself to caring for UCP Seguin participants. In his nearly 30 years at UCP Seguin, Larry has not taken a single vacation. Instead, he commits himself to the participants in his home.

The men in Larry's care are VERY different. They have different physical abilities, they have different communication styles, and they require different levels of care. But Larry understands them all. He knows when something is wrong with Dan, Roosevelt, or Ken without them saying a word. He surrounds them with fun, care, and safety and will do anything to make them happy. 3437 S. 61st Avenue is not a house, it's a home. For the families of Larry's guys, "he's a gift."

In the good times and the bad, Larry is there. In all his years at UCP Seguin, just five men have come under Larry's care. When individuals come to live with Larry, they stay with Larry. Under his watchful eye, Carl and Gene passed in peace and comfort.

For Larry's years of patience and commitment, we were honored to present him with the Fostering Excellence Award at The Big Event.



Althea Ray-Toolie and Patrice Vining

Making a lasting imprint, Althea Ray-Toolie has been changing the lives of children with disabilities for 21 years.

When Micah needed a new foster home Ms. Toolie was there with open arms. Micah's needs were many – diagnosed with Lupus and Renal Failure among other conditions – and she was tired of being sick and shuffling from foster home to foster home. That's where Althea stepped in. She didn't think twice when welcoming Micah into her home. She made sure Micah attended every doctor's appointment, attended dialysis three times a week, received necessary infusions every six months, AND attended school via Zoom.

Micah blossomed with Ms. Toolie. She learned to take responsibility for her medical needs and her health steadily improved, with Althea always by her side.

Being young and sick is not fun. Ms. Toolie made sure Micah's life was filled with joy. She applied to Make-a-Wish, where the family was awarded a trip to Orlando to visit Disney World and Sea World. Ms. Toolie put Micah first and Micah responded with laughter and love.

Unfortunately, Ms. Toolie's love and support couldn't cure Micah's illnesses. In February, Micah left this world for a place free from illness and pain, and Althea was at her side. Just like always.



Althea Ray-Toolie and Larry Yaus

CONGRESSMAN GARCIA - "Guardian Angel" to UCP Seguin

UCP Seguin has a vast constellation of program sites that enable UCP Seguin to deliver on its mission to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). But these sites require constant upkeep and maintenance, which involves major, and often very costly, renovations.

Congressman Jesus "Chuy" Garcia of the 4th District of Illinois answered our call for help, sponsoring and securing a federal \$975,000 Community Project Funding (CPF) capital grant for significant improvements to the Carr Center, our main headquarters and largest training center in Cicero.

Over the course of the past year, UCP Seguin has totally resurfaced the Carr Center's two parking lots to address significant wear and tear from years of heavy traffic and harsh winters, and replaced the center's old, leaky windows with modern, energy efficient windows. Soon, the final phase of the project will be complete, the replacement of aging flooring in several areas of the center.

These dollars have helped to ensure that we have functional, accessible, safe, and energy-efficient environments for the people with IDD we serve, the staff who support them, and any visitors accessing our Carr Center site.







CONGRESSMAN DAVIS Secures Major Federal Grant for UCP Seguin

UCP Seguin has been blessed to have so many supportive, conscientious elected officials representing our vast area of services. A stalwart among these officials is Congressman Danny K. Davis of the 7th District of Illinois. UCP Seguin presented Congressman Danny K. Davis of the 7th District with the President's Award for his longstanding support of people with disabilities, and for securing a \$750,000 grant to purchase and renovate much-needed housing and address day center improvements.

This major capital grant will enable us to buy and renovate a multi-unit supportive housing site for up to six persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD), as well as complete much-needed improvements to our day services site in Oak Park, the Levinson Building.

With funding through Congressman Davis, UCP Seguin can further expand residential services to address a significant need among people with IDD: affordable, community-integrated housing. This grant will also enable us to replace aging, outdated heating/ventilation/air-conditioning (HVAC) units at the Levinson Building, where 40 individuals with IDD receive essential life skills training, enrichment, and other therapeutic supports.

Due to his outstanding advocacy on behalf of UCP Seguin and the people we serve, Congressman Davis received the prestigious President's Award at The Big Event on March 9th.

As Joseph Mengoni, President/CEO of UCP Seguin, so appropriately states, "Congressman Davis has selflessly devoted his entire political career to bettering the lives of marginalized people – including persons we serve and the dedicated staff who help fulfill our mission: life without limits for people with disabilities."



Maria and her husband Javier chose UCP Seguin for their son Danny because of our welcoming staff, the variety of activities we offer, and, most importantly, because Danny felt immediately comfortable. As a bonus, the Carr Center is only five minutes from El Porvenir, the store owned and operated by Maria and Javier.

The Casimiro family joins other generous family members and friends of participants who give to us because they see firsthand the amazing things that happen at UCP Seguin. "I know we can trust in you because we see your work every day—because we see Danny coming out happy every day," Maria said. Maria and Javier give a monthly gift to UCP Seguin—

but they also give generously from their store, which has provided birthday cupcakes from the bakery, sodas, and other goods to our Programs team in support of our participants.

They know their frequent gifts make a difference, and hope others will do the same. Maria shared, "If every family decides to donate something every month, just little by little, we can do something. It's great that somebody can come with a huge check—those donations that happen once a year or once in a while, but if you can get a bunch of people who can do something every month, every month—that is support you can count on."

Ad-VO-Ca-Cy - Public support for an idea, plan or way of doing something such as an advocacy group or organization.

UCP Seguin recently launched the **UCP Seguin Advocacy Network**. Please join us in our advocacy efforts for people with disabilities, their families and the people who support them. Family members, staff, friends and neighbors put a face to our mission. We are looking for advocates such as you!



JOIN TODAY AT THE UCP SEGUIN ADVOCACY NETWORK ucpseguin.org/get_involved/advocacy/

People With Disabilities Deserve More in Illinois.

THEY DESERVE MORE

www.theydeservemore.com





15,000+

People on the state waitlist for services.

11,000



Providers report an average of 11,000 staff overtime hours per month.*

Strains overworked DSPs and overtime is **NOT** reimbursed by the state.



Illinois ranks
49th of the 50
states when
it comes to
funding support
for communitybased
services.**

SAVE THE DATE! JUNE 23RD





Commons Park
2401 S DesPlaines Ave
North Riverside



Scan the Code to Register

ucpseguin.org/get_involved/events/stroll-roll.html

UNITED CEREBRAL PALSY SEGUIN OF GREATER CHICAGO

Consolidated Statement of Activities 2023

For the Year Ended June 30, 2023 (with Comparative Totals for 2022)



		Without Donor Restrictions		With Donor	2023 Total		2022 Total
				Restrictions			
Public Support & Revenue							(As adjusted)
Public Support:							
State of Illinois, purchase of service							
Department of Human Services	\$	30,647,299	\$	- \$	30,647,299	\$	26,532,721
Department of Children and Family Services	\$	9,071,752	\$	- \$	9,071,752	\$	8,457,625
Government grants	\$	157,371	\$	- \$	157,371	\$	139,847
Department of Education	\$	1,671,369	\$	- \$	1,671,369	\$	1,322,755
Community Development Block Grants	\$	190,328	\$	- \$	190,328	\$	718,156
Illinois Housing Development Authority	\$	46,803	\$	- \$	46,803	\$	
Community Mental Health Act (708)	\$	493,182	\$	- \$	493,182	\$	378,952
Contributions	\$	1,351,841	\$	- \$	1,351,841	\$	1,661,586
Contributed nonfinancial assets (in-kind gifts)	\$	2,483,925	\$	- \$	2,483,925	\$	2,292,754
Total Public Support	\$	46,113,870	\$	- \$	46,113,870	\$	41,504,390
Revenue:							
Work contracts/training	\$	141,026	\$	- \$	141,026	\$	108,23
Client fees	\$	4,730,368	\$	- \$	4,730,368	\$	4,129,43
Rental income	\$	122,235	\$	- \$	122,235	\$	136,362
Investment return, net	\$	507,787	\$	- \$	507,787	\$	(778,35
Loss on sale of assets	\$	(1,225)	\$	- \$	(1,225)	\$	3,900
Sales of goods and services	\$	430,396	\$	- \$	430,396	\$	388,72
Other	\$	100,836	\$	- \$	100,836	\$	37,15
Net assets released from restrictions	\$	161,204	\$	(161,204) \$	-	\$	
Total Revenue	\$	6,192,627	\$	(161,204) \$	6,031,423	\$	4,025,460
Total Public Support and Revenue	\$	52,306,497	\$	(161,204) \$	52,145,293	\$	45,529,850
Expenses							
Program services	\$	45,561,710	\$	- \$	45,561,710	\$	41,210,58
Supporting services	\$	5,191,931	\$	- \$	5,191,931	\$	5,017,46
Total Expenses	\$	50,753,641	\$	- \$	50,753,641	\$	46,228,04
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	\$	1,552,856	\$	(161,204) \$	1,391,652	\$	(698,19.
Net Assets							
BEGINNING OF YEAR	\$	17,755,725	\$	1,515,816 \$	19,271,541	\$	19,969,73
END OF YEAR	\$	19,308,581	\$	1,354,612 \$	20,663,193	\$	19,271,541

UCP Seguin's friends ROCK!

Huge thanks to Chris Lee, Firewater Saloon, Stargazer, Crisis, Eric Lee, Randy Firfer, Stevie D and of course the guest of honor Mark Banak. The 2024 Marky Markapalooza raised over \$8,500 to benefit UCP Seguin and the children and adults we serve.









WITH SPECIAL **THANKS**

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Donors include those who provided support during Fiscal Year 2023 -July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023. Although we have taken great care to assure accuracy of listing, we apologize for any errors or omissions.

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Photos L to R: Lance enjoys bowling with the Social Rec crew; Candice celebrates Suki's birthday (Suki is the Social Rec mascot); MJ joins in on the Easter festivities.







Photos L to R: The Easter Bunny comes to UCP Seguin; Shanetha takes part in a Paint & Sip party; Jeffrey strikes a pose while out with friends.

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THE 3RD ANNUAL PINTS WITH A PURPOSE held on January 18th and hosted by the wonderful team at BuckleDown Brewing in Lyons. Thank you to everyone who joined us for amazing beer and even better company! Every dollar raised provides life-changing programs and services for children and adults with disabilities at UCP Seguin.













Her school district is a part of the Infinitec Coalition, which allows students, staff, and families access to assistive technology and supports them with training and resources. Infinitec provided training to Iris's teachers so they could support Iris as she learned to speak using her new device.

To help Iris connect with others through the spoken word, she utilizes LAMP Words for Life on an iPad. Iris selects buttons representing words which the app turns into speech. LAMP Words for Life is an augmented and alternative communication (AAC) device that allows for natural language acquisition and complex vocabulary, growing with the user as their use of language expands.

Iris is a prime example of how assistive technology and staff support can open doors. LAMP Words for Life allows Iris to connect with the people in her life more easily inside and outside of the classroom. Shortly after receiving her device, Iris was able to tell her family "I love you" for the first time. She recently took her first plane ride to visit her grandparents— where Iris introduced herself to the entire flight crew before peppering them with questions.

At school, she has become a leader and role model for her classmates. Iris leads small groups and has also been chosen to be a Student Ambassador. She was given a speaking part during last year's winter program where she used her device to deliver lines flawlessly in front of hundreds of people.

Iris began using LAMP Words for Life in first grade—at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. Iris mastered her device with the help of her parents and remote learning teachers. The training provided by Infinitec allowed her teachers to best utilize the app's features to support Iris as she learned to communicate in a new way.

Iris is flourishing through her own abilities but also with the assistance of her device, which has allowed her to gain independence and confidence while forging and deepening connections with others.



ONE OF HER TEACHERS SHARED,

"It was as if the door connecting her brain to her mouth was locked, and for the early years of her life she was pounding on the door, trying to open it. Once she started using her AAC device, it became the key to unlocking that door. And when she opened it, she ran out and never looked back!"

Top Photo: Iris enjoys singing at school. Bottom Photo: Iris loves hanging out with friends





Life without limits for people with disabilities™

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