

Media Release

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EDITOR'S NOTE: Photo attached—Caption: DuPage Foundation awards grant to United Cerebral Palsy Seguin of Greater Chicago. From left: Marilyn Gaston, DuPage Foundation Trustee; Jim Haptonstahl and John Voit, United Cerebral Palsy Seguin of Greater Chicago; Ruth Carlson, DuPage Foundation Grant Committee member.

UCP Seguin of Greater Chicago Receives Grant from DuPage Foundation *...Funds to Help "Build Bridges" to Adulthood for Special Ed Students*

Villa Park, Illinois – UCP Seguin of Greater Chicago was one of 30 not-for-profit organizations and five local collaboratives to receive a grant at the DuPage Foundation's Spring Grant Awards Breakfast held on Wednesday, June 22, at Glen Oak County Club in Glen Ellyn. The DuPage Foundation awarded more than \$670,000 in grants to organizations working in the area of Health and Human Services and five local collaboratives focused on improving kindergarten-readiness in DuPage County. The grant will help underwrite the Building Bridges to the Future Transition Program that will facilitate the successful transition into adulthood of at least 40 DuPage County students with developmental disabilities.

The goal of the Building Bridges to the Future Transition Program is to assist special education students with developmental disabilities (ages 14-25, and their parents) attending multiple high schools across DuPage County, by providing them with coaching, linkages to financial, medical, and legal resources, and adult services training experiences.

UCP Seguin has headquarters in Cicero but satellite locations throughout Chicagoland, including an employment and life skills training center in Villa Park as well as several group homes in DuPage County. UCP Seguin believes that all people, regardless of ability, deserve to achieve their potential, advance their independence and act as full members of the community. So they stop at nothing to provide life skills training, assistive technology, meaningful employment and a place to call home for people with disabilities, as well as specialized foster care for children. The goal: life without limits for people with disabilities. With the merger of Seguin Services and United Cerebral Palsy Association of Greater Chicago in 2013, UCP Seguin serves more

than 24,000 people with disabilities each year in Illinois and three other states. For further information regarding UCP Seguin of Greater Chicago, please contact Jim Haptonstahl, Executive Vice President, at 708.222.4250 or jhaptons@seguin.org.

“There are so many dedicated people working harder than ever these days in our area not-for-profit organizations to ensure that critical services are available for those who are in need in our community,” said Barb Szczepaniak, Foundation vice president for programs. “Unfortunately, funding resources have dwindled at a time when they are most needed. The Foundation is pleased to provide overall grant funding at an increased level this year to these well-deserving organizations to help them better serve their clients who depend on their support and services.”

During its Spring Community Needs Grant Cycle, the Foundation awarded a total of \$425,883 in Health & Human Services grants. Community Needs grants are primarily awarded based on earnings from the Foundation’s unrestricted and field-of-interest funds. Additionally, during the selection process, the Foundation offers representatives of its donor-advised funds the opportunity to review the grant applications that it receives through its Community Needs Grant Program. It does this to inform local donors about the needs in the community, introduce them to the many organizations that apply to the Foundation, and to engage them in helping the Foundation increase the level of grant support that it provides through the grant process. In response to this year’s Community Needs grant applications, donor-advisors recommended an additional \$97,281 in grant funding.

In addition to the Community Needs grants, the DuPage Foundation’s Board of Trustees awarded more than \$245,000 from its Bright & Early DuPage initiative to further the efforts of local collaboratives focused on improving kindergarten-readiness in DuPage County.

About the DuPage Foundation

The DuPage Foundation seeks to raise the quality of life throughout DuPage County by fostering philanthropy, connecting donors to area needs and building community partnerships. Based on the American virtues of volunteerism and philanthropy, the Foundation fosters a legacy of support for the people of DuPage County by making grants to not-for-profit organizations working in the areas of Arts and Culture, Education, the Environment, Health, and Human Services. Since its inception, the Foundation has built its endowment to

approximately \$64 million and awarded more than \$26 million in grants to not-for-profit agencies serving the residents of DuPage County and beyond.

Established in 1986, the DuPage Foundation is a publicly-supported 501(c)(3) organization to which contributions are tax deductible. It was created to benefit the people of DuPage County and receives contributions and bequests into a permanent endowment from individuals, corporations, organizations and foundations wishing to make lasting contributions to the people of DuPage. The earnings on these funds are then used, in accordance with donor wishes, for the Foundation's grantmaking and community leadership activities.

For more information about the Foundation, or to arrange future media opportunities, please contact William Pearch, marketing manager, at 630.598.5290, or bill@dupagefoundation.org.

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