



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Date:** August 11, 2017  
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**UCP SEGUIN CUTS RIBBON AT NEW COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS SITE**

*Berkeley Community Shows Its Support for Innovative Initiative*

(Berkeley, IL) This past week UCP Seguin of Greater Chicago hosted an open house and ribbon-cutting to commemorate its new Rubloff Center for Employment and Life Skills Training in Berkeley. The building is one of five such bases of operations for UCP Seguin’s Community Connections initiative. Community Connections is designed to provide a more innovative, community-integrated, person-centered service and support model increasingly desired by people with developmental disabilities and their families.

Through Community Connections, UCP Seguin offers its ground-breaking services to residents with disabilities from communities across the Greater Chicago area, including Berkeley and surrounding communities.

When participating in Community Connections persons with disabilities can engage in a wide variety of productive, meaningful community-integrated activities. Individuals are offered services and supports that include, but are not limited to: employment, vocational training, volunteer opportunities, activities to build life skills, and engagement in educational and enrichment experiences in community-integrated settings. Berkeley has been especially welcoming and the participants look forward to becoming a well-integrated part of the community.

Several Village of Berkeley dignitaries were in attendance at the open house and ribbon-cutting, including Village President Robert E. Lee, Jr., Trustees Diane Salemi, Jerry Perez and Sherry Graf-Stone, Village Administrator Rudy Espiritu, Assistant Fire Chief Pat McManus, Commander Tim Larem, and Executive Administrative Assistant Anita Arroyo. Recently the Village of Berkeley presented UCP Seguin with the *Beautify Berkeley Business of the Month Award*, recognizing UCP Seguin’s “commitment to maintaining a well-manicured business and curb appeal” associated with the new Rubloff Center.

Also present were representatives of other local organizations – the Berkeley Garden Club, the Oak Park-River Forest Food Pantry, the Elmhurst YMCA, the Hillside-Berkeley Chamber of Commerce, Proviso Township, Park Art Center, and others – with whom Community Connections partners to enrich the lives of people with disabilities.

As John Voit commented, “Berkeley and other area communities are to be commended for having leaders who share in UCP Seguin’s mission – life without limits for people with disabilities.”

UCP Seguin of Greater Chicago believes that all people, regardless of ability, deserve to achieve their potential, advance their independence and act as full members of the community. So we 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. Our goal: life without limits for people with disabilities.

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