

# The Union Lifestyle Lends Itself to a Community Lifestyle

*...Because every picture has a story to tell.*

In July 2013, Seguin Services Inc. merged with the United Cerebral Palsy Association of Greater Chicago to become United Cerebral Palsy (UCP) Seguin of Greater Chicago. The organization is a nonprofit human services agency dedicated to enriching the lives of persons with intellectual, developmental, and physical disabilities. Headquartered in Cicero, the agency provides programs and services for individuals from birth through adulthood across more than 85 communities in the Chicagoland area. Twenty-four thousand individuals have taken part in the agency's programs and utilized its services, which include 75 group homes and 160 children's foster homes. For those individuals and families who attend the agency's programs, UCP Seguin has offered life-changing skills, training, and support. It truly is a community of love, and one that everyone who is involved with is overwhelmingly grateful for.

Richard Scheck, founder and President of Scheck Industries, a proud UA member, and the former Mayor of North Riverside, has been involved with UCP Seguin for a long time. He is one of their unsung heroes. In 2005, he worked to involve Sprinklerfitters 281, Chicago, IL, with the organization. The apprentices installed

a lifesaving fire suppression system at the Carr Center—the main training center in Cicero. Brother Scheck said, "The 2005 project was a win-win situation. Local 281 received on-the-job training for its apprentices, while UCP Seguin received labor at no cost to them, which resulted in a safe and secure center for its staff and the people with disabilities who use it."

In 2017, UCP Seguin was proud to open its new Rubloff Center for Employment and Life Skills Training in Berkeley. The new Center would be the base of operations for the organization's CLIMB initiative. This initiative reflects the idea of participants "climbing up the ladder of success." As UCP Seguin describes it, CLIMB is designed to provide a more innovative, community-integrated, person-centered service and support model that is increasingly desired by people with developmental disabilities

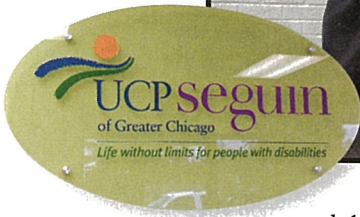




From left are Apprentice Joe Gibbons, Journeyman Kent Towers, Apprentice Kevin Loveless, Journeyman Kevin O'Brien, Apprentice Jeff Alderden, Journeymen Bill Suchinski, Rob Kettering, and Chris Jarvis, and LU 281 President Bill Cartwright.



From left are Rich Scheck, Scheck Mechanical; Apprentice Kevin Loveless; LU 281 Business Manager Dennis Fleming; LU 281 Instructor Alan Crawford; Apprentice Jeff Alderen; LU 281 Executive Board member and Sequin project Foreman Patrick Connolly; General President Emeritus Bill Hite; LU 281 Training Coordinator Bryan LaRoche; Instructor Don Ott; and Apprentices Joe Gibbons and David Pedraza.



**“Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart.”**

- Elizabeth Andrew

and their families. Individuals are offered services and support that includes, 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.

The plan at the Rubloff Center was to install a fire sprinkler system to ensure the safety of all the participants and staff. The challenge for the Center's administration was how to raise funds for such a system, which could easily have cost tens of thousands of dollars. Representatives from the UCP Seguin Center stated that, once again, the former Mayor, Richard Scheck, answered the call. Brother Scheck went back to Local 281 and secured the services for the installation of the system, and Local 281 quickly agreed to donate the labor and materials for the fire sprinkler system at the Berkeley site. In order for the system to be installed, new water service had to be brought into the building. Brother Scheck introduced the administration of UCP Seguin to Riccio Construction Corporation and Frank Novotny and Associates. Riccio Construction provided all of the labor and materials to get the new waterline operational at

a drastically reduced rate, and Frank Novotny and Associates provided engineering plans for the project pro bono. It was stated that the village of Berkeley officials were also instrumental in facilitating a smooth sprinkler installation process.

On Friday, October 5, 2018, UCP Seguin conducted a special event to recognize the four entities that helped to make its latest day services center a safer place for people with developmental disabilities. The celebration acknowledged the donations from Sprinklerfitters local 281, Scheck Industries, Riccio Construction Corp., and Frank Novotny and Associates. Local 281 Business Manager Dennis Fleming accepted the plaque on behalf of the local's members who volunteered their time, and Richard Scheck accepted their certificate on behalf of Scheck Industries.

“Mayor Scheck is truly our guardian angel,” stated Jon Voit, President and CEO of UCP Seguin. “He has introduced us to the Sprinklerfitters, Riccio Construction, and Frank Novotny and Associates, whose members and employees are wonderful community partners in UCP Seguin's efforts to build a better life for people with disabilities.”

