

SPOTLIGHT ON

UCP Seguin

of Greater Chicago

WHERE WE'VE BEEN AND WHERE WE'RE GOING



Heidi Russell-Green is all smiles under her mask after receiving her first dose of the COVID vaccine.

WHAT A COUPLE OF YEARS WE'VE EXPERIENCED!

While 2021 saw UCP Seguin pass through the darkness of the pandemic, 2022 finds us springing forward into the light – by leaps and bounds – with new programs and initiatives for the entire UCP Seguin community.

Michelle Sanders, Chief Operational Officer at UCP Seguin, is proud of how the agency responded with great agility to the coronavirus pandemic. Our efforts resulted in safe environments for UCP Seguin participants and employees, while we continued to provide exceptional care and support for those we serve. The decision to require mandatory testing for staff members and offering convenient, on-site testing for staff, participants and families was key to UCP Seguin's initial success in achieving this goal.

In early February 2021, we held the first of over 15 COVID-19 vaccination clinics, ultimately vaccinating more than 2,000 participants, staff, foster parents and family members. UCP Seguin was the first agency in Illinois serving those with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) to offer vaccination clinics on site and the first – and among the few – of such organizations in Illinois to mandate that all employees be vaccinated against COVID-19. “Quite simply, mandating the vaccine saved lives,” said Ms. Sanders. Due to our dedication and diligence to safety regarding COVID-19, we weathered all variants with much less impact to our UCP Seguin community.

Lori Opiela, Vice President of Clinical and Support Services, noted that UCP Seguin quickly pivoted to using home-based services with virtual classes and activities, utilizing Zoom and other telecommunications. UCP Seguin emerged as a leader among peer organizations in Illinois during the pandemic, initiating weekly discussions with over 40 IDD agencies to provide needed space for problem-solving and productive discussion. Agencies shared information on how best to maintain safety, testing, mandating vaccines and much more for their participants and staff. *Continued on page 3*

Create Life Without Limits for People with Disabilities!
GIVE AT UCPSEGUIN.ORG



UCP Seguin of Greater Chicago
Administrative Offices/Carr Center
3100 South Central Avenue
Cicero, Illinois 60804-3956
Tel 708.863.3803
Fax 708.863.3863
TTY 708.863.7653
UCPSeguin.org

Infinitec Southwest
7550 West 183rd Street
Tinley Park, Illinois 60477
Tel 708.444.8460
Fax 708.429.3981

Joseph Mengoni
President/CEO

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A Message from UCP Seguin's new President and CEO, Joe Mengoni



In November of 2021, I assumed the position of President and CEO of UCP Seguin of Greater Chicago, a nonprofit seen as a leader among peer organizations, with an annual budget of nearly \$50 million providing a vast range of services to more than 1,620 persons with disabilities. I'm thrilled to take on this role with such a fiscally and programmatically strong organization, with dedicated employees and foster parents and a supportive Board of Directors.

And I am especially grateful to our immediate past President and CEO John Voit for his 23 years of visionary leadership, and for the opportunity to further our mission.

Having started my career at UCP Seguin in 1987, I have witnessed amazing growth to meet expanding community need, and continued development of innovative services that make our organization unique in our field.

Like many others in our field of human services, I began in direct services as a Direct Support Professional or DSP. I benefited from working in a variety of roles across multiple domains – behavioral support, residential services, and day services. As I've moved up the chain of command and now in the role of UCP Seguin's CEO, I've taken these early experiences to heart, having learned at ground level what it takes to best serve individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

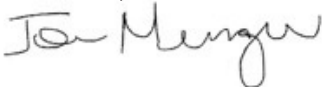
As I begin this exciting new journey in executive leadership, I look back at all we've accomplished at UCP Seguin. We've been successful in providing safe, comfortable, accessible homes and day services environments; in providing individuals with disabilities choice, greater levels of independence, and inclusion in their communities; in weathering the COVID-19 pandemic, especially in keeping everyone safe, saving lives in the process; with our leadership in advocacy through the They Deserve More Coalition, in providing people with disabilities the services they deserve, and their caregivers a living wage. And yet, there's so much more to celebrate.

But now we must look to the present, to the future, to challenges we face and opportunities to fulfill our mission. For that reason, UCP Seguin has begun the process of formulating a new Strategic Plan, as we bring together our various constituents to make bold plans, to continue our legacy of achievement and innovation.

I envision UCP Seguin sustaining and improving upon our core services, including but not limited to residential, day, employment, children's foster care, Infinitec assistive technology and training, and other essential services, with a crucial infusion of technology. Given our efforts to work with historically underserved populations and a diverse staff, UCP Seguin can become a major force in promoting Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) not just within our organization, but among other social service agencies and the community-at-large. But there are gaps in services – such as increased community mental/behavioral health services for persons with dual diagnoses – that UCP Seguin is poised to fill.

In short, I am eager to move forward, in concert with the incredible UCP Seguin community, toward fulfilling our mission: life without limits for people with disabilities.

All the best,



Joseph Mengoni, President/CEO

Continued from page 1

UCP Seguin's staff did not miss a beat in using a wide array of interesting and effective technology to provide essential services within the homes. April Dear, Senior Director of Behavior Analysis, Therapy and Case Management, stated, "Technology proved an effective way to provide not only virtual day program services, but also behavioral, medical, and mental health supports, enabling UCP Seguin participants to continue to live life without limits throughout the pandemic."

In recognition of the diverse community of persons with disabilities we serve and the staff and foster parents who support them, Dani Chitwood, Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) and chair of the Cultural Competency Committee, is leading UCP Seguin in groundbreaking new directions.



Amanda, a UCP Seguin participant, goes virtual with her volunteering efforts during the pandemic sending Valentine's to sick children.

Among several new initiatives, Dani has introduced a new Lunch & Learn series to promote an inclusive environment at UCP Seguin. This Lunch & Learn curriculum is designed to provide for the mental well-being of UCP Seguin's team of staff and participants. The series will create opportunities for topical discussions geared at engaging and challenging the UCP Seguin community, presenting new and fresh ideas to grow empathy and understanding. In addition, UCP Seguin is launching opportunities for professional development for our diverse workforce. UCP Seguin is also intentionally recruiting leadership and Board members who reflect who our organization is and whom we serve.

Despite the pandemic, and contrary to many of our peer organizations, UCP Seguin has continued to respond to community need, through development of innovative new initiatives and expanded access to services. One such example: UCP Seguin purchased and renovated a new property in Addison, which will be a multipurpose site, providing individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) in DuPage County a variety of services tailored to their unique needs. This specialized program will offer activities primarily geared towards adolescents and adults (14 years old and over) with ASD at the Addison Day Services Center. All the staff members will receive dedicated training to meet and understand the specific needs of those with ASD. The design of this center creates a range of environments – some stimulating, others calming – but also attuned to the need for consistency and routine benefiting individuals with ASD.

As Andrea Yarger, Autism Services and Addison Program Administrator, explained, "The persons who attend the Addison program will have an individual program plan which includes specific communication needs and individual supports to meet those needs. The center will provide community-based program opportunities to explore the community, volunteer, as well as potential paid employment."

Continued on page 5



One example of UCP Seguin's nascent Lunch & Learn series of conversations to promote an inclusive environment at UCP Seguin.

UCP Seguin Participants THEN AND NOW

EMPLOYMENT

THEN: Longtime Seguin Auto Center employee Larry, washes a car not long after the opening of the garage.

NOW: Joe is proud of his new job at Raising Cane's, you just can't see his big smile under his mask!



ARTWORK

THEN: Mary shows off her colorful submission to the Arc of Illinois Annual Convention Art Contest.

NOW: Ben poses with staff and his painting after a Convention Attendee purchased it at the event.



CERAMICS

THEN: Bill puts the finishing touch on a ceramic pot before it gets fired and then put up for sale at Seguin Gardens & Gifts.

NOW: Bill tags ceramic ornaments he painted before they head to Seguin Gardens & Gifts this holiday season.



VOLUNTEERING

THEN: David enjoys volunteering with his friends by packing meals at Feed My Starving Children.

NOW: The Wheaton crew stopped by to thank their local firefighters on Firefighter Appreciation Day.



CINDY CARR MEMORIAL HOLIDAY PARTY

THEN: The Smiths, Richard Sr and Richard Jr, enjoy the holiday festivities at the Carr Family Holiday Party at the Wishing Well.

NOW: Olivia and Breanna take in the creative holiday scenes at the parade version of the Cindy Carr Memorial Holiday Party for UCP Seguin.

Continued from page 3

Additionally, the Addison Center will be home to a new “After Hours” drop-in center for post-high school or college age for adults with ASD. This new program will offer classes on important transitional independent living skills for young adults, including daily life skills, navigation within the community, transportation use, shopping and budgeting, not to mention fun social opportunities, such as dinner out as a group and a gaming center.

UCP Seguin’s Children’s Foster Care program is collaborating with the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) to add a new service option to the Children’s Department. Patrice Vining, Vice President of Children’s Foster Care, said, “This Referral Program will allow UCP Seguin to work directly with biological families and their children by linking them with resources aimed at stabilizing the family unit and helping them to avoid entry into the foster care system.” UCP Seguin’s team of six staff for the Referral Program will begin at the end of March 2022, with hopes of DCFS adding a second team if there is enough demand.

Finally, through the generous support of the Community Memorial Foundation (CMF), UCP Seguin has begun a pilot telehealth medical services program to the residents of three UCP Seguin CILA homes. This pilot program, which will utilize the “Station MD” app, will provide alternative healthcare assessment options and quick access to a physician outside of regular business hours for the targeted UCP Seguin participants. The program was designed to decrease the number of potential Emergency Room visits, therefore minimizing trauma associated for UCP Seguin’s participants, while saving resources. ER doctors, who all have specialized training in caring for individuals with IDD, will conduct virtual exams, using an app and bluetooth-enabled stethoscopes for virtual examinations. The homes will also have access to a quick care pharmacy as part of Station MD services.

Now that’s just a small portion of where we’ve been, and to some degree where we’re going at UCP Seguin. With the unwavering support of the entire UCP Seguin community, we have definitely sprung into the light to provide life without limits to people with disabilities. And as we develop our new Strategic Plan over the coming months, we are enthusiastically looking forward to where we are going next...**and we can’t wait to bring you along with us.**



Erin, a UCP Seguin participant who attends the Addison Center which provides specialized services to individuals with autism, enjoys a fun meal out with UCP Seguin staff member.



Theresa, UCP Seguin Foster Parent, has been changing the lives of countless foster children since 1991. Today, she showers love on two children in care whom she has adopted.

Al & Terry Carr Family Bring 50 Years of Joy To People with Disabilities and Create a Lasting Legacy

What started out as a mission to find the perfect Christmas gift for a family patriarch has become a beloved tradition for the participants of UCP Seguin.



The continued support of the entire Carr Family is one of UCP Seguin's greatest gifts.

Al Carr was notorious for being difficult to shop for and as a public servant, friends and family knew he would appreciate a gift that gave back to the community. Terry Carr, a UCP Seguin board member and Al's son, and a few of Al's friends hosted the initial Carr Holiday Party for 18 participants in 1972. 50 years later, nearly 500 participants attend the festivities each December. In the early years, the party was held at the Carr Wishing Well Banquet Hall in Cicero, but has relocated to larger venues as the attendance has expanded over the years. In loving memory of Terry's late wife, the event was renamed the Cindy Carr Holiday Party in 2016.

Al and Terry have always been deeply engaged in a variety of ways with UCP Seguin. Perhaps Terry and Al's most significant accomplishment is building a legacy of generosity through their children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. The next generation of Carrs, Terry and Cindy's sons Terry Jr., Allan and Jeremy — along with their wives and children, are now responsible for planning the Holiday party each year. When asked how their involvement with UCP Seguin has impacted his family, Terry said, "Being involved with the holiday party and UCP Seguin has made my children and grandchildren better people." The next generation of Carrs continues the spirit of giving and supporting a life without limits for people with disabilities.

Sadly, Al Carr passed away in November 12, 2021. His life and legacy will continue to impact the lives of the adults served by UCP Seguin during the Holiday party each December.

MEMORIALS

This past year, UCP Seguin lost three of our greatest champions. Their losses are felt deeply, but their legacies will live on in the work we do every day to support children and adults with disabilities.



**Alan
Goldberg**

Alan Goldberg was part of the UCP Seguin Board of Directors since our 2013 merger. Prior to that, Alan served on the Board of UCP of Greater Chicago for many years. Alan lived his life dedicated to helping others and was an incredible, inspirational champion for children and adults with disabilities. It has been our privilege to have known Alan, and an additional blessing to have such an outstanding, compassionate advocate as a member of our UCP Seguin community.

JOHN VOIT CELEBRATION OF SERVICE

On November 11, 2021, UCP Seguin staff, families, and friends gathered for a Celebration of Service to recognize President/CEO John Voit for his 23 years of visionary leadership as President/CEO, and dedication to providing a life without limits for the children and adults with disabilities served at UCP Seguin.

As part of this special evening, UCP Seguin honored John by naming a home in Brookfield the Voit House in recognition of John's stellar leadership and generous philanthropic commitment to the organization.

John continues to be of service to the agency, joining the Development department in his new position as the Relationship Manager. In this new role, John is helping to grow our philanthropic efforts by capitalizing on his relationships within the UCP Seguin community and developing new friends within the Greater Chicago community. John is spearheading our efforts to reach out major donors to collaborate with UCP Seguin as we develop new programs to continue to provide a life without limits for the individuals we serve.



John Voit with his wife Kathy and their daughter Olivia.



John Voit with his predecessor Lynn O'Shea and his successor Joe Mengoni.



Richard N. Scheck

Among the most bighearted and humble supporters of UCP Seguin, Richard N. Scheck exemplified the true spirit of philanthropy in all its facets. His compassion for people with developmental disabilities was evident through the many ways he contributed to the cause. Introduced to the organization through his friendship with UCP Seguin supporters Al and Terry Carr, the former North Riverside Mayor had an immense impact on the lives of UCP Seguin participants.



Allan C. Carr

Allan C. Carr has been a devoted UCP Seguin supporter for over 50 years. Starting with his work as a Cook County Commissioner, Al lobbied for funding to ensure participants lived in safe, accessible housing and had access to functional activity spaces. Al's generosity spread over into his family, with the creation of an annual holiday party for adults served by UCP Seguin. Fifty years later, that party is still going now headed by Al's son, and UCP Seguin Board Member, Terry and Terry's children and grandchildren.

UCP SEGUIN EARNS 12th Consecutive 3-Year ACCREDITATION FROM CARF INTERNATIONAL

“Leadership and staff members are professionals who provide heartfelt care and support to the persons served and their families,” says CARF International.

Following a three-day virtual survey conducted in November by three seasoned surveyors with expertise in the social services field reviewing our Administrative practices, Employment Services as well as Children and Youth Services, UCP Seguin is proud to report the organization has been awarded its 12th consecutive three-year accreditation from CARF International.

CARF International assists service providers to improve the quality of their services and meet internally recognized standards. People served, their families, and the general public look for CARF accreditation as assurance that providers strive to offer the highest quality services and funders, insurers, referrals agencies and government regulators recognize that CARF-accredited providers are accountable. Many community human service providers, such as UCP Seguin, throughout the country and throughout the world seek this highly valued accreditation.

For more than three decades, UCP Seguin has succeeded in meeting CARF’s top level - a Three-Year Accreditation. The surveyors shared that 2,276 standards were reviewed during this survey.

Among the many accolades included in the CARF report were the following:

- UCP Seguin “benefits from an outstanding leadership team, whose members advance the growth of the organization and provide the foundation for healthy, safe service delivery and work environments for the persons served and staff members.”
- UCP Seguin “is commended for its commitment to expanding services to address Illinois’ waiting list and for specifically focusing on serving individuals who have been overlooked and have not proportionately been served.”
- “The value UCP Seguin places on fostering a culture of inclusivity was evidenced in the recent hiring of a director of diversity, equity and inclusion. This action further strengthened the organization’s already commendable advocacy efforts with respect to the rights and privacy of the persons served.”
- “The caliber of supervision provided to direct care staff members by managers... is a direct testament to their personal and professional commitment to the overall well-being of the personnel.... Staff members at every level of UCP Seguin are models of professional demeanor, commitment, energy and creativity.”
- UCP Seguin’s foster homes provide safe, loving environments for the youth in care. The outstanding one-on-one attention and the levels of care that the organization provides to foster families are critical to the successes it has achieved in this arena.”
- “Employers characterized UCP Seguin’s staff members as approachable, empathetic, well qualified and skilled at providing services that lead to positive outcomes for all stakeholders... They really came through for me with labor during the pandemic.”

This CARF report illuminates the character of UCP Seguin, its staff and the services it provides.

NOTE: A copy of the complete CARF International Survey Report can be found at www.ucpseguin.org



UNITED CEREBRAL PALSY SEGUIN OF GREATER CHICAGO

Consolidated Statement of Activities 2021

For the Year Ended June 30, 2021 (with Comparative Totals for 2020)



	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	2021 Total	2020 Total
Public Support & Revenue (As adjusted)				
Public Support:				
State of Illinois, Purchase of Service	\$ 34,956,948	\$ -	\$ 34,956,948	\$ 33,694,725
Government Grants	\$ 97,578	\$ -	\$ 97,578	\$ 118,205
Department of Education	\$ 1,236,395	\$ -	\$ 1,236,395	\$ 1,408,641
Community Development Block Grants	\$ 240,473	\$ 751,483	\$ 991,956	\$ 939,522
IHDA Funding	\$ 114,700	\$ -	\$ 114,700	\$ 60,715
Community Mental Health Act (708)	\$ 314,205	\$ -	\$ 314,205	\$ 316,224
Contributions	\$ 1,473,357	\$ 357,152	\$ 1,830,509	\$ 1,869,059
In-kind Contributions	\$ 2,388,898	\$ -	\$ 2,388,898	\$ 1,999,520
Total Public Support	\$ 40,822,554	\$ 1,108,635	\$ 41,931,189	\$ 40,406,611
Revenue:				
Work Contracts/Training	\$ 38,843	\$ -	\$ 38,843	\$ 89,108
Client Fees	\$ 4,054,191	\$ -	\$ 4,054,191	\$ 4,087,423
Rental Income	\$ 168,187	\$ -	\$ 168,187	\$ 157,563
Investment Income	\$ 922,945	\$ -	\$ 922,945	\$ 33,342
Gain (loss) on Sale of Assets	\$ 105,144	\$ -	\$ 105,144	\$ (43,945)
Sales of Goods & Services	\$ 453,462	\$ -	\$ 453,462	\$ 446,374
Other	\$ 40,014	\$ -	\$ 40,014	\$ 53,639
Net Assets Released from Restrictions	\$ 1,147,038	\$ (1,147,038)	\$ -	\$ -
Total Revenue	\$ 6,929,824	\$ (1,147,038)	\$ 5,782,786	\$ 4,823,504
Total Public Support & Revenue	\$ 47,752,378	\$ (38,403)	\$ 47,713,975	\$ 45,230,115
Expenses				
Program Services	\$ 41,693,148	\$ -	\$ 41,693,148	\$ 40,925,127
Supporting Services	\$ 4,271,526	\$ -	\$ 4,271,526	\$ 3,990,973
Total Expenses	\$ 45,964,674	\$ -	\$ 45,964,674	\$ 44,916,100
Change in Net Assets	\$ 1,787,704	\$ (38,403)	\$ 1,749,301	\$ 314,015
Net Assets				
Beginning of the Year	\$ 16,952,864	\$ 1,267,568	\$ 18,220,432	\$ 17,906,417
End of the Year	\$ 18,740,568	\$ 1,229,165	\$ 19,969,733	\$ 18,220,432

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In-Person and Virtual Options

Pulte Family Charitable Foundation Comes Through For Foster Children



Through the support of the Pulte Family Foundation, UCP Seguin is able to provide children like Kutee with excellent medical care and support.

For the past two years the Pulte Family Charitable Foundation has awarded generous grants to UCP Seguin in support of our foster care program, underwriting vital nursing care for the children we serve with specialized medical needs.

Many UCP Seguin foster children are challenged by brain trauma, seizures, organ failure, and mental and behavioral disorders caused by abuse and neglect. UCP Seguin nurses make regular home visits, monitoring health outcomes while providing training and support to the foster parent, ensuring that foster children are able to live and to thrive within a nurturing, caring, family environment.

The Pulte Family Charitable Foundation is guided by the belief in the inherent dignity of all persons. With a broad national and international footprint of giving, the Foundation “strives to meet the basic human needs of the most marginalized members of the human family”, including individuals served at UCP Seguin.

We extend our deepest thanks to the Pulte Family Charitable Foundation for this continued support, and to the nurses, foster parents, and staff who care for our foster children. Together we are creating life without limits for children most in need of such care.

To learn more about the Pulte Family Charitable Family Foundation, please visit pultefamilyfoundation.org.

YOUR OLD WHEELS CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE TO THESE WHEELS

To donate a vehicle, contact UCP Seguin of Greater Chicago at:
Ogden & Central Avenues, Cicero, Illinois 60804 • 708.652.5037 • www.ucpseguin.org



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. Our goal: life without limits for people with disabilities.



THEY DESERVE MORE – A MAJOR FORCE FOR CHANGE

UCP Seguin Continues Leadership Role in 6th Year of Advocacy for People with Disabilities & Their Dedicated Caregivers

Pushing for positive change is never-ending work...the UCP Seguin community knows this well. True to form, UCP Seguin continues its leadership role with They Deserve More (TDM), a 90-member statewide coalition, now in its 6th year of intensive legislative advocacy to increase funding for community services to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

The primary focus of TDM is to secure equitable wage rates for direct support staff wage and other operational cost reimbursements. Most of our frontline workers – Direct Support Professionals or DSPs – are women and persons of color, each of whom deserves a living wage.

Since 2017, They Deserve More has been instrumental in raising the state wage rates for DSPs by 49% and securing the first cost-of-doing-business increase in 11 years for programs for people with disabilities. As result of our concerted advocacy, the state has increased funding to providers in steady increments over the past five years, including \$170 million in FY'22.

These increases represent a step forward, but not nearly enough to address the funding crisis facing agencies who care for people with disabilities.

Historically high inflation has blunted the impact of DSP wage increases, and the percentage difference between the minimum wage and the state DSP wage rate has actually decreased over time. In addition, UCP Seguin and many other providers on average pay well more than what the State funds for these wages, doing our best to fill crucial staffing needs despite shortfalls in revenue.

Governor Pritzker's proposed budget includes an increase of \$94.8 million in FY'23 funding to implement the Guidehouse Rate Study recommendations. But TDM sees that as falling well short of what is needed. Our primary message is simple and direct: The state must provide an increase of \$246.8 million to fully fund the Guidehouse Rate Study recommendations for FY'23. This funding is being carried in two bills: HB4832 in the Illinois House, and SB4063 in the Illinois Senate.

More details on how you can take action in support of They Deserve More legislation can be found at the TDM website: theydeservemore.com

As always, please follow UCP Seguin as well as They Deserve More on Facebook and Twitter for the latest updates. Join the cause for positive change: **Illinoisans with Disabilities Deserve More!**



WITH SPECIAL THANKS

DONORS

Donors include those who provided support during Fiscal Year 2021 – July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021. Although we have taken great care to assure accuracy of listing, we apologize for any errors or omissions.

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UCP Seguin Honors Philanthropic Champions



WHO MAKE LIFE WITHOUT LIMITS POSSIBLE



The Bartecki House 255 N. Washington St, Westmont

Through unmatched generosity and advocacy, Don and Mary Bartecki created spaces for individuals with disabilities to live more independently and thrive in their communities. UCP Seguin honored the Bartecki family for their giving and service to UCP Seguin by dedicating a beautiful home in Westmont for residents with disabilities. For over 20 years, Don Bartecki and his late wife Mary made substantial contributions and provided helpful expertise in entrepreneurship, business counsel and finance that made a profound difference. Their skills made key differences in serving as a major catalyst in the 2013 merger between Seguin Services and UCP of Greater Chicago and serving on the Board of Directors as well as facilitating the establishment of two businesses to give people with disabilities employment opportunities. Don was also instrumental in raising capital dollars for a major renovation of UCP Seguin's headquarters as well as generating support through their network of colleagues and friends. Together they volunteered their time, talents and treasure to make a "life without limits" for people with disabilities a reality.

The Bartecki family – Ryan, Don, the late Mary, Tommy and Packy—have endeared themselves to the UCP Seguin family with their years of counsel and support, and for which UCP Seguin named the Bartecki House in their honor.



The Filipiak House 1041 Golf Lane, Wheaton

Parents of children with disabilities are always seeking services that provide the fullest and happiest life for their loved one. UCP Seguin has served Tony and Estelle Nakroshis son Tony Joe since 1987; Tony Joe is deaf, blind and on the autism spectrum. "The staff at UCP Seguin have done wonders for Tony Joe," said Estelle Nakroshis. "They saved us from drowning when we didn't know how to best help our son. Now one of our life missions is to give back to UCP Seguin after all they've done for our family." Estelle and Tony generously decided to donate funds for a home in Wheaton for residents with disabilities. The Filipiak House is dedicated to Estelle's late father, Dr. Marion Joseph Filipiak, a community doctor who always went the extra mile for his patients and his family. Due to the generosity of the Nakroshis family, UCP Seguin will continue to support individuals with disabilities to live full and productive lives, with both independence and dignity.

Tony and Estelle Nakroshis with their son Mike, daughter-in-law Debbie and grandson Luca celebrate the dedication of the Filipiak House named in honor of Estelle's father Dr. Marion Joseph Filipiak.



Small Effort

BIG DIFFERENCE

A small effort on your part can make a **BIG DIFFERENCE** to our mission - include UCP Seguin in your will.

When you take the small step of including UCP Seguin in your **ESTATE PLAN**, you help us continue our important work. A gift like this won't affect your lifestyle today and will make a tremendous impact on those we serve tomorrow.

Contact Julie Lerch at jlerch@seguin.org to learn how you can make a **BIG DIFFERENCE** starting today!



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 Mr. Marcelo Tapia
 Ms. Amanda Thomsen
 Ms. Kathleen Tiffin
 Ms. Matina M. Travis
 Ms. Bonny Trevino
 Aley B. Valiaparumbil
 Ms. Donna Vasicek
 Ms. Ximena Velazquez-Hernandez
 Ms. Ashley Vinent
 Mr. and Mrs. John Voit
 Mr. and Mrs. Joshua S. Voit
 Ms. Rose Wasik
 The Wayman Family
 Erika and Robert Winston
 Ms. Brenda L. Wood
 Ms. Andrea Yarger
 Ms. Mary Yearling
 Ms. Regina S. Young

Memorial and Honorary Gifts Made to UCP Seguin Provide Life without Limits for People with Disabilities

This past year (July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021), UCP Seguin received gifts from many of the "Friends of UCP Seguin" in honor of or remembrance of the following loved ones.

Gifts Given in Memory of:

Ms. Irene Allardyce
 Mr. Aldo Balzarini
 Ms. Jeanne Billo
 Mr. Terrence Nichols Brienza
 Ms. Laura Congreve
 Mr. James Dillenbeck
 Ms. Mary C. Eugene
 Ms. Nancy Fetty
 Mr. Frank Graf
 Mr. James Peter Grippando
 Ms. Barbara Hadraba
 Lynn Dee Jamieson
 Ms. Barbara Johnson
 Mr. Joseph Krickl
 Joseph and Geraldine Koziol

Ms. Diane Liberatore
 Mr. Samuel A. Mangia, Sr.
 Ms. Beverly Neate
 Mr. Luis Pesavento
 Mr. Kenny Selvidio
 Ms. Natalie Sodeika
 Ms. Kathy Schneider
 Mr. Lawrence Skippet
 Mr. Hank Svoboda
 Mr. Vince Torczynski
 Mr. John R. Vanenka
 Pat Werner
 Ms. Darlene Wood
 Mr. Ray Zielinski

Gifts Given in Honor of:

Ms. Jennifer Bolker
 Frank and Debbie Catalano
 Ms. Mavis Collins
 Ms. Brigid Dee
 Mr. Christopher Gray
 Mr. Scott Hallett
 Mr. Eric Heller
 Mr. Jared Jacobson
 Ms. Gloria Kahn
 Dr. Ben Katholi
 Mr. Steve Kirby

Ms. Patti Kirk
 Ms. Victoria Mantle
 Mr. Tivo Luis Olavarria
 Mr. Danny Parker
 Cheiko Presto
 Mr. Gregory Sacks
 Mr. Jacob Schmidt
 Mr. Lawrence Skippet
 Tompkin Family Charitable Fund
 The Yarger Family

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James Rises to Achieve His Goals, Overcoming Challenges with UCP SEGUIN'S SUPPORT



In 2018, James enrolled in UCP Seguin's Tinley Park Community Day Services program where he received developmental, life skills, and other training, as well as our employment services while he continued to live at home with his parents, Tim and Christine. James had definite skills for community employment, although he struggled with interpersonal communication and social acceptance.



Fortunately, James had a keen advocate in UCP Seguin's Employment Specialist Regina Guffie. Regina secured a service positions for James at LaQuinta Inn and Portillo's Restaurant, but James was not fully content in his positions although his employers were satisfied with his work. During 2020, James asked Regina if she could help him find work with his dream employer, "What about Culver's? That's my dad's favorite place." Although Regina tried to connect James with Culver's in Crestwood several times, the job openings were scarce due to the coronavirus pandemic.

As James waited for his dream job, Regina enrolled him in several of UCP Seguin's Employment training classes via Zoom. James learned how to wear personal protective equipment (PPE) to protect himself and others, as well as a variety of job skills – including the importance of following his supervisor's instructions, how to dress for success, and the do's and don'ts of a job. Regina continued to reach

out to Culver's. When they were ready to consider him, sadly, James shared the news that his father had recently passed away. Despite his loss, James chose to move forward with his interview. He proceeded, using his new skills with confidence and dressed to impress. Regina complimented James' appearance, his newly shined shoes and encouraged him. James replied proudly, "These are my father's shoes."

James's excitement shone brightly during his interview and was offered a job immediately. He could hardly believe his greatest desire had come true when he heard "Welcome to Culver's." Excitedly, he told Regina and the Culver's manager, "This was my father's favorite place to eat." James has made the most of his "dream job" in a range of positions, including dining area clean up, serving food to customers in their vehicles, and assisting his Culver's teammates. He greets customers daily with a bright smile . . . and best of all, James can say he succeeded in achieving his goals!

Awardee Jonathan Lives Up to Promise of UCP Seguin's Infnitec Program

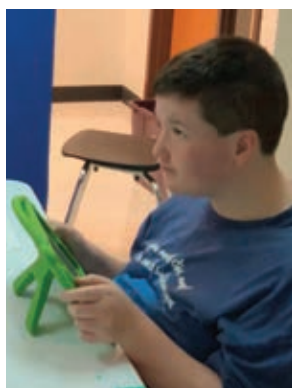
...Infinite Potential Through Technology

Jonathan is a 17-year old high school student in Chicago's south suburbs. Along with several other deserving students with disabilities, Jonathan was honored at the Infnitec Southwest Coalition Awards Ceremony on March 3, 2022 as an outstanding student technology award winner.

Infnitec is the assistive technology program of UCP Seguin of Greater Chicago. Infnitec leverages the power of technology to advance independence and promote inclusive opportunities for children and adults with disabilities. Each year Infnitec recognizes the amazing achievements of students with disabilities in its Greater Chicago area school coalitions through special awards dinners. Jonathan's achievements were especially worthy of this special recognition.

Jonathan is a hardworking, funny, and personable student who loves science fiction, particularly when it comes to dragons, wildebeests, and dinosaurs. He communicates in many ways, but sometimes his communication partners are not familiar with his signs or gestures. So, to help him to more clearly communicate, he also uses an iPad equipped with special features and applications, such as "TouchChat High Definition Augmentative and Alternate Communication (AAC) device with Wordpower". This device, along with his drive to be understood, has allowed Jonathan to communicate with anyone at any given time, for a wide range of purposes.

Jonathan sees things from a unique perspective, and tries his hardest to effectively communicate that perspective to his peers, teachers, and family. He does an excellent job expanding upon or clarifying what he wants to communicate, and his success has increased his confidence and motivation to interact with his many friends.



A role model to others, Jonathan has been featured in blog posts and online trainings for his exemplary use of AAC communication devices. In addition, his literacy skills have grown extensively over the past several years which provides him with even greater access to communication. And when he does not know how to spell a word that he wants to say, he uses emojis. In addition, he taught himself to use emojis to

express his emotions and search preferred topics on the internet.

Jonathan is on his local Special Olympics Basketball Team and has also participated in Special Olympics soccer in the past. He enjoys going to summer camp and is also a talented artist who enjoys drawing and putting together crafts at home and school.

His teachers say that Jonathan is enthusiastic, charismatic, and creative. He is a young man who enjoys laughing and making others laugh. He is a hard worker who gives his best effort to accomplish every task he tries. They could not be prouder of him for his accomplishments this year, and feel that he is so deserving of this Infnitec award, as he shows "infinite potential through technology".

UPCOMING EVENTS



SUNDAY
MAY 1, 2022
9:30 PM - 2:00 PM

Herrick Lake Forest Preserve
28W465 Butterfield Road
Wheaton, Illinois



THURSDAY
JUNE 23, 2022
6 PM - 10 PM

Signature Events
6440 Double Eagle Drive
Woodridge, Illinois



MONDAY
AUGUST 29, 2022
10:00 AM - 7:00 PM

Riverside Golf Club
2520 S Des Plaines Avenue
North Riverside, Illinois

