

SPOTLIGHT ON UCP Seguin

of Greater Chicago



UCP SEGUIN PARTICIPANTS ENGAGE THE COMMUNITY WHILE GIVING BACK

The Moving Wall came to Berwyn's Proksa Park from August 7th through 11th – and persons with disabilities and staff from UCP Seguin of Greater Chicago were moved to help make its brief visit a success.

Throughout the year, UCP Seguin participants take part in a variety of efforts to give back to their local communities. One such example was this August when The Moving Wall, the half-size replica of the Vietnam Veteran Memorial on permanent display in Washington D.C. and which has toured local communities throughout the United States for 30 years, came to Berwyn. Berwyn Mayor Robert J. Lovero and the Berwyn Development Corporation sponsored the wall's local visit and organized the many volunteers

needed to ensure a meaningful experience for local veterans and other community members. Staff members of UCP Seguin's "Community Connections" program connected with the organizers, seeing this as a way for people with disabilities to give back to their community.

UCP Seguin of Greater Chicago serves 1000 children and adults with disabilities throughout the Greater Chicago area, including many residents of Berwyn and other west and south suburbs. A large group of individuals with developmental disabilities and UCP Seguin support staff joined other community members, groups and organizations as volunteers for The Moving Wall. UCP Seguin volunteers helped loved ones locate the names of their friends and family members on the exhibit. Afterwards they assisted with routine maintenance of the exhibit.

Many of individuals with disabilities engaged in this effort recently moved into UCP Seguin homes and employment and training programs, when the State of Illinois closed the Jacksonville Developmental Center in 2012 as part of Governor Quinn's Rebalancing Initiative. They were provided an opportunity to fulfill UCP Seguin's mission, and "act as full members of the community".

"We are especially proud of the way people with disabilities and staff generously contributed to this poignant memorial," stated John Voit, UCP Seguin President and CEO. "The Moving Wall brought together, side by side, people with and without disabilities to commemorate the brave souls we have lost to war. Not only do the people we serve benefit from this experience, but so does the whole community."

Pictured on top of front page, Bruce Morgan, Curtis Jenkins and Olivia Voit advocate for persons with disabilities at Thompson Center in Chicago.

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Participants volunteer in the community — clockwise
 from top: Andrea Straney (center) volunteers at
 UCP Seguin Gala; Larry Mikrut (right) volunteers at
 UCP Seguin Golf event; Fredrique Campbell and
 Scott Conrad volunteer at Knights of Columbus Tootsie
 Roll Drive; David Sturgis, Isiah Glenn and Teddy Cole;
 members of Community Connections South volunteer
 at Food Pantry; Eric Heller and Eric Sciortino
 volunteering at SCARCE recycling facility.



Can you help us meet them?

Challenge One Help Us Find Employment for People with Disabilities

Tony Randolph is a bright fellow with an engaging smile, a positive attitude, and a great sense of humor who truly enjoys meeting new people. Tony also has cerebral palsy. He operates his motorized wheelchair using his head, and employs assistive technology to communicate. Like anyone, Tony desires a full life: work and recreation, activities with family and friends, and the opportunities that go along with a gainful job.

Tony lives with his family on the south side of Chicago. Starting his services under the former UCP several years ago, Tony is excited to be supported by UCP Seguin. In addition to providing job placement and training services, UCP Seguin has assisted Tony in securing the latest assistive technology, from wheelchairs to communication devices, enhancing his mobility and ability to connect with others. Among other activities he participates in Adapted Bocce Ball tournaments throughout Illinois.

Despite facing many challenges, Tony has long wanted a community job. UCP Seguin Employment Coordinator Rebecca Schachter has worked with him to craft a resume, connect with employers, and practice job skills. Thanks to UCP Seguin's efforts, Tony secured a position this year as a greeter at the Town of Cicero's Public Safety Offices. His confidence and self-esteem have grown immensely. He has become a contributing member of the community while earning the self-respect a paycheck can bring.



An anonymous and very generous friend of UCP Seguin

has pledged to match the first \$10,000 in donations

this holiday season to benefit this worthy program. Help people with disabilities achieve their potential and advance their independence through community jobs.

Challenge Two Help Students with Disabilities Transition to Adulthood

Cynthia Moretti is a beautiful twenty-two year old young woman, residing in Oak Park with her supportive parents Kris and Sheri Lenzo. She enjoys life on many fronts: nuzzling up to her dog Beyoncé, spending time with friends, joking with her family. While she has cerebral palsy, Cynthia makes her way around using a specially designed wheelchair, and effectively communicates through her computer.

Along with Cynthia, Kris and Sheri wondered what would happen when their daughter moved on from Oak Park and River Forest High School into the world of adulthood. They faced the complex process of transition, uncertain of the steps needed to secure adult services for Cynthia. Fortunately, through its Building Bridges to the Future program, UCP Seguin stepped in to help. As Sheri states, "We would not have navigated the transition without Building Bridges."

This innovative initiative offers hands-on support to students with disabilities preparing to leave high school. It helped Cynthia and her family to register for the state waiting list, secure funding for adult services, and obtain basic public benefits. Cynthia now has access to home-based services, while using affordable door-to-door transportation to attend day services and enrichment activities, all under the auspices of UCP Seguin. She and



her parents can breathe more easily... and Cynthia can build life skills, develop new friends, and act as a full member of her community.

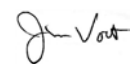
As an incentive to donors, an anonymous foundation has pledged to match the first \$9,100 from new donors or donors who increase their giving to the UCP Seguin's Building Bridges to the Future program.

Help build bridges to a future of achievement for individuals with developmental disabilities.

Two Challenges, Two Success Stories

— and you can assist UCP Seguin in creating more success stories. Help children and adults with disabilities achieve their potential, advance their independence and act as full members of the community.


Steven V. Napolitano, Board of Directors Chairman


John Voit, President/CEO

GIVING TUESDAY, DEC. 2
www.ucpseguin.org

Online donations from new donors will generate additional match from The Coleman Foundation



Send your donation in the envelope provided, or make an online contribution at **www.ucpseguin.org**.

Thank you for your generosity!

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS FY2011-2015



UCP Seguin has a long legacy of innovation in serving individuals with disabilities. But the organization is always looking to the future, and to how we can expand and improve services as well as meet emerging needs. In 2011 the Board adopted a Strategic Plan to take the agency through the next five years. We are now in the final year of that plan, and are already starting the process of developing a new plan. While we have shared with you our goals as well as our achievements over the past four years, we also want to ensure you – our stakeholders – are aware of what we have set as “strategic directions” to guide our activities since 2011. We look forward to engaging many of you in formulating a new plan to address future challenges and take advantage of opportunities, so we can fulfill our mission...and provide “life without limits for people with disabilities”.

> STRATEGIC DIRECTION A

UCP Seguin will increase the quality of its services by enhancing the health, welfare and safety of our participants and the quantity of our services by creating a diverse menu of services based on individual needs and choices.

> STRATEGIC DIRECTION B

UCP Seguin will take a leadership role to expand cooperation and initiate collaboration in all domains of its operations.

> STRATEGIC DIRECTION C

UCP Seguin will engage the Latino community and other emerging racial and ethnic groups to increase access to services through visibility, outreach and community building activities.

> STRATEGIC DIRECTION D

UCP Seguin will develop the competencies, leadership skills and diversity of staff to meet its challenges and to capitalize on its opportunities.

> STRATEGIC DIRECTION E

UCP Seguin will diversify its funding and broaden its base of support and will market to the community the services in which it has expertise.

> STRATEGIC DIRECTION F

UCP Seguin will increase its green focus in order to protect the environment, take advantage of funding and employment opportunities, and realize cost savings.

Donate your Jewelry

Gold, Silver, Costume,
Old or Just Taking Up Space.

We will take your donation and either recycle it or upcycle it into something beautiful created by the participants in our UCP SeguinMade program. All upcycled jewelry will be sold at Seguin Gardens & Gifts, a social enterprise at UCP Seguin of Greater Chicago.

Contact Julie to donate
or for more information:

708.222.4253
jlerch@seguin.org



FIND US / LIKE US



UCP Seguin believes in a world where children and adults with disabilities achieve their potential, advance their independence and act as full members of the community.

★ UCP SEGUIN ★ ★ SHOOTING STARS ★



UCP Seguin is fortunate to have talented and dedicated staff members who work hard every day to fulfill our mission.

Each year employees nominate their peers who have gone above and beyond during their daily duties to ensure that those we serve receive the highest quality of care and support. As part of Staff Appreciation Month in September, UCP Seguin recognized Kevin Key (Person-Centered Support), Leonard Maniece (Person-Centered Support), and Beth Vana (Team Work) with Shooting Star awards. Congratulations to Kevin, Leonard, and Beth! They do so much every day to make this organization and the services we provide the very best!



holiday
elves *This holiday please help Seguin Gardens & Gifts*

 **MAKE THE SEASON BRIGHTER**
for 125 adult participants served by UCP Seguin of Greater Chicago that do not have a family to help them celebrate the holidays.

**PLEASE CONSIDER DONATING
NEW, UNWRAPPED HOLIDAY GIFTS**
to be shared with those in need this season!

Items needed include gift cards to local stores, restaurants & movie theaters, bath & beauty products, t-shirts & socks, scarf & glove sets, slippers, electronics, etc.

**Donors will receive a \$5 OFF coupon
towards your next purchase.**
Drop off donations at Seguin Gardens & Gifts by December 15, 2014!

**GIFTS MUST BE DROPPED OFF AT SEGUIN
GARDENS & GIFTS TO RECEIVE THE \$5 COUPON**



FALL WINTER 2014 5

Riding High



Once again, UCP Seguin participants have succeeded in expanding their horizons through their involvement in the Special Olympics Illinois Equestrian competition. This year's events took place in Poplar Grove, Illinois on October 25-26, at the BraveHearts Therapeutic Riding & Educational Center. Erica Alvarez, Antonio Perez, Elizabeth Garcia and Justin Moriarty brought home the Gold, Silver, and Bronze medals. But they also brought home a sense of accomplishment, increased self-esteem, and a wonderful team spirit that comes from working toward a goal together. Congratulations to Erica, Antonio, Elizabeth and Justin!



Special Olympics Illinois - Equestrian

October 25 - 26, 2014



Mayor Ed Zabrocki Tours UCP Seguin

Discusses Working Together to Benefit Community & People with Disabilities

“UCP Seguin is happy to work with the Village of Tinley Park to provide opportunities which will benefit the community as well as the individuals with disabilities we serve.”

On September 2, the Mayor of Tinley Park, Edward J. Zabrocki, toured the UCP Seguin Tinley Park offices and program areas. Mayor Zabrocki met many UCP Seguin program participants and UCP Seguin senior staff, and learned more about the innovative services offered including computer and electronics recycling, job training and placement, and other services provided through its Tinley Park site. John Voit, President and CEO of UCP Seguin, presented the vision for continuing the mutually beneficial relationship between UCP Seguin and the Village of Tinley Park. As Mr. Voit explained, “UCP Seguin is pleased to work with the Village of Tinley Park to provide opportunities that will enrich the community as well as the individuals with disabilities we serve.”

UCP Seguin serves 1000 children and adults with disabilities throughout the Greater Chicago area, including residents of Tinley Park, Orland Park and Park Forest as well as 67 other communities. UCP Seguin seeks to expand partnerships with area businesses to employ individuals with disabilities and provide volunteer opportunities as well. Through these partnerships individuals with disabilities are fully integrated into their communities, including the forward-looking village of Tinley Park. In addition, UCP Seguin is always looking to hire qualified individuals as part of growing the agency in its many locations including Tinley Park.

Mayor Zabrocki addressed a broad range of areas in which UCP Seguin and Tinley Park can expand their joint efforts, from jobs to electronics recycling, from expansion of UCP Seguin’s social enterprises to participation in the local farmer’s market, from volunteer opportunities for UCP Seguin participants and village residents to funding options to improve our service sites. With supportive community leaders like Mayor Zabrocki, UCP Seguin has much to be thankful for as we strive to help people with disabilities engage their community.



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