UCP Seguin's Social Recreation Program is a member-focused club providing recreation and leisure activities which promote independence and community involvement for its members.

The Social Rec program is partially funded by the Community Mental Health Board of Oak Park Township (CMHB), Berwyn Mental Health Board and the Illinois Department of Human Services (DHS) and serves approximately 150 adult members with disabilities.

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A Message From Our President/CEO

As we move into 2023 and I finish my first full year as President/CEO of UCP Seguin of Greater Chicago, I continue to be excited and amazed with the passion and hard work of the staff at this incredible organization.

UCP Seguin celebrated Staff Appreciation Month in October, where we recognized the outstanding work of our employees. At the Staff Recognition Luncheon, 80 employees were commended for providing five or more years of service to UCP Seguin! Cheryl Deardorff, Nancy Guzman, Joe Mengoni, Lori Opiela, and Nora Sandoval were celebrated for 35 years and Wendy McDaniel, Inga Sandoval, Jane Stites and Aurora Torres were hailed for 25 years of dedication to the participants we serve every day. Sara Arieta, Bettyte Dorsey, Russel Houser, Yajaira Jimenez and Debbie Kernell were nominated by their peers for going above and beyond for UCP Seguin and recognized as the 2022 Shooting Stars. You inspire your peers each and every day! A tremendous thanks to all of our dedicated and selfless staff who give 100% to create lives without limits for people with disabilities!

Russel Houser, UCP Seguin Intake Coordinator, was also recognized by The Arc of the United States with the Rising Star Award at their National Convention in Denver, Colorado this past November. Russel has worked for UCP Seguin for over 5 years as Intake Coordinator and a Case Manager. Russel was nominated by Ruth Aguilar, Ligas Family Advocate with The Arc of Illinois. We are very proud of Russel and congratulate him on this well-deserved recognition!

Over the past year, UCP Seguin diligently developed a new Strategic Plan. This project involved gathering, compiling, and reviewing the information used in defining the mission, vision, values, and strategic initiatives of the organization. The extensive process of building a new strategic plan was multifaceted and highly inclusive and involved gathering feedback through focus groups and surveys with key stakeholders. Seeking input was crucial to developing a diverse, rich, and relevant plan. The strategic initiatives identified provide a UCP Seguin with a focused framework for annual goal setting, demonstrating a shared commitment to serving our participants.

I hope you will be joining us at The Big Event on Saturday, April 15, 2023 at The Bridgeport Art Center! Enjoy an evening of cocktails, hors d’oeuvres, a silent auction and raffle filled with experiences and awesome prizes! After the Awards ceremony, the festivities continue with an evening of casino games and the announcement of the auction and raffle winners. UCP Seguin will be recognizing contributions to the agency by honoring U.S. Congressman Jesus ‘Chuy’ Garcia and U.S. Senator Richard J. Durbin with the President’s Advocate with The Arc of Illinois. We are very proud of Russel and congratulate him on this well-deserved recognition!

The UCP Seguin Social Recreation Program is divided into three types of activities/events:

1. Buddy Outings are events organized by Social Rec. The team consists of eight athletes, all of whom are in wheelchairs and have cerebral palsy or a similar disability. The Chargers have competed in boccia, a precision ball sport, across the country as well as internationally. A recent meet did not disappoint! The members sampled Creole cuisine, toured bayous, made friends with some alligators, strolled the streets of the infamous French Quarter, enjoyed the magical nightlife on Bourbon Street, and so much more.

2. The UCP Seguin Social Recreation Program has big plans for the future – they are looking forward to where the future will take them. Rumor has it that a trip to see a famous Mouse’s House in Florida is on the horizon!

3. The UCP Seguin Social Recreation Program is divided into three types of activities/events:

   a. Buddy Outings are smaller, individualized, member-led outings for two to three people. Club members are encouraged to organize and plan activities with their favorite “buddy/buddies” or meet someone new. Members plan their outings according to their interests and work with the Social Rec Staff to ensure a successful buddy outing.

   b. The UCP Seguin Social Recreation Program is divided into three types of activities/events:

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      2. During a recent business meeting, the members voted to participate in an “Explorer” event, where they explore different cities and states. As a result, the “Explorers” traveled to New Orleans, Louisiana! The three-day trip to The Big Easy did not disappoint! The members sampled Creole cuisine, toured bayous, made friends with some alligators, strolled the streets of the infamous French Quarter, enjoyed the magical nightlife on Bourbon Street, and so much more.

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   Top Photos: Jeffrey poses with a “gator” in New Orleans, Silvia and Natalie join Team USA for practice, Chris gets up close and personal with an alligator.

   Bottom Photos: Ciara takes part in a button making class, Logan and Michael enjoy a lunch date, Darius checks out his shot.
Jonathan is Always Achieving Milestones
...with Help from UCP Seguin’s Adults Services Program

Jonathan had big plans—his sights were set on getting his own apartment. He had already achieved several of his life’s goals including being successfully employed with not two, but two community jobs. Jonathan worked relentlessly to obtain his driver’s license and own his own car.

Over the next several months, Jonathan was determined to prove he could be more independent, learning all the skills necessary to live later on his own. Eight short months later, he moved into his first apartment.

Jonathan didn’t stop there. If you know him, you know how ambitious he is. He is always striving for more, which is evident in his tireless work ethic. While he has excelled in all of his jobs, he wanted a career. Jonathan took the initiative to complete certification training to be a security guard. You may have seen him in the past serving and protecting at the North Riverside Mall. Jonathan is also certified as an instructor for others who want to be security guards. He teaches CPR and First Aid, and has a food service and sanitation certification. Jonathan is an across-the-board, certified PROFESSIONAL—a true testament to his initiative and unparalleled determination to succeed.

Peter Continues to Overcome
...with Help From UCP Seguin’s Children’s Foster Program

In September 2018, Peter came to live with his devoted foster mom Marcy. At 22 months old and weighing only 10 pounds, Peter had been diagnosed with “Failure to Thrive”, cerebral palsy, and other challenges. He was very small and under-developed; he was not walking, talking, or eating. He was barely surviving. Foster Mom Marcy said she prayed to God for the strength to take care of him and all of his needs. Peter saw at least 10 doctors, specialists, and therapists—often having two or three appointments weekly. He received intensive physical, occupational, and speech therapy services at Shirley Ryan Ability Lab as well as at home.

The UCP Seguin Children’s Foster Care team leapt into action to support Marcy and Peter in every way. Nursing staff ensured Marcy and her family on his nutritional, healthcare, and therapeutic supports and accompanied them to doctor’s appointments. Case Managers were on-call 24/7 to make sure Peter received everything required for him to continue to thrive and grow. They also made sure certain Peter was able to maintain a relationship with his biological siblings. Almost five years later, Peter has grown and flourished. At age three he started preschool, and at age five he took another major step by entering kindergarten. Marcy is confident that Peter will excel in school, just as he has already overcome the countless other challenges in his young life. Peter has a huge personality that lights up the day of everyone he meets, and his vocabulary is, well, out of this world. He is just a very lovable, affectionate, and funny kid who loves music, basketball, and the piano.

Peter’s amazing progress is a testament to his fortitude, as well as the nurturing love, support, advocacy, and encouragement he receives from Marcy and his extended foster family.

Peter has overcome adversity to live a meaningful and wonderful life through the support of UCP Seguin.
UCP Seguin earns 5th Consecutive 3-year Accreditation from Praesidium, Inc.

"The UCP Seguin team has continuously integrated consumer protection in every aspect of their organization and culture. Maintaining Praesidium Accreditation is a testament to their ongoing commitment to protecting consumers from abuse. Praesidium is honored to work with an organization who makes remarkable impact every day in the lives of those they serve," says Praesidium.

UCP Seguin’s stakeholders are fortunate to be represented by many elected officials who see themselves as “public servants”, including Congressman Jesus “Chuy” Garcia of the 4th District of Illinois and U.S. Senator Richard Durbin of Illinois. Through their sponsorship and successful advocacy with the FY2022 federal budget, Congressman Garcia and Senator Durbin were able to secure a $975,000 Community Project Funding/Congressionally Directed Spending grant to help UCP Seguin deliver on its mission to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD).

The three-year grant will cover costs for Community Day Services site capital improvements, including major and much-needed renovations on UCP Seguin’s Carr Center, our headquarters and largest training center in Cicero. These dollars help ensure that we have functional, accessible, safe, and energy-efficient environments for the people with IDD we serve.

As noted by Joseph Mengoni, UCP Seguin President/CEO, “These capital funds allow us to devote our other precious funding resources to where they can be best utilized – to direct services to people with developmental disabilities, and to paying our staff the wages they deserve. This federal funding will create essential jobs for people in construction trades as well.”

Due to their stalwart advocacy on behalf of UCP Seguin and persons served, at its mid-April 2023 “The BIG Event”, UCP Seguin is bestowing its prestigious President’s Award to both Congressman Garcia and Senator Durbin.

Thanks to Congressman Garcia’s and Senator Durbin’s invaluable support, UCP Seguin can be an economic engine for Cicero and surrounding communities, while fulfilling our mission: life without limits for people with disabilities.

After a year of productive engagement with our many stakeholders, UCP Seguin is pleased and proud to present the culmination of our collective efforts: our new Strategic Plan. This three-year plan is a user-friendly, to-the-point transformational roadmap for the future of UCP Seguin, enabling us to sustain and improve upon our innovative services and management practices, and to better fulfill our mission on behalf of children and adults with disabilities.

This plan embodies our organization’s longstanding capacity to adapt to the needs of our participants, our workforce, and the community. The six Strategic initiatives identified in the new plan form a strong and bold framework for our future endeavors, reflecting the mission, vision and values enunciated in the plan.

These values represent what UCP Seguin stands for: Accountability, Accessibility, Belonging, Care, Compassion, Connections, Fun, Inclusion, Innovation, and Transformation. We have woven into the plan an all-important Equity Statement, which addresses our commitment to social equity extending to every person and every circumstance impacted by unfair and imbalanced treatment. The initiatives flowing from these values are integrated across the organization, with each department defining the specific outcomes critical to achieving these objectives and performance goals for managers demonstrating their contribution and commitment.

The development of this Strategic Plan was led by a formidable team. UCP Seguin utilized the expertise of planning consultant John Newton of Planning and Risk Management. The Strategic Planning Steering Committee was approved and adopted by UCP Seguin of Greater Chicago Board of Directors on October 11, 2022.

UCP Seguin embarks on new path to success

UCP Seguin embarks on new path to success: New strategic plan provides road map to meet agency mission

THE NEW STRATEGIC PLAN CAN BE FOUND ON OUR UCP SEGUIN WEBSITE HERE: ucpseguin.org/who-we-are/strategic-plan

You can check this site regularly to monitor our progress on this exciting journey!
In 1997, a couple of servant leaders named Dr. Paul Dulle and Peggy Childs met with a group of visionary special education leaders in the southwest suburbs to discuss how they might work together. After a year of meetings, trusting, and listening, this team of special education leaders embraced Paul and Peggy’s vision of collaboration to affect systemic change for assistive technology, and the Infinitec concept was born.

This year marks the 25th anniversary of Infinitec Coalition Services! Since its inception, Infinitec has grown to 1000 school districts in five states and a coalition of 60 social service agencies in 13 states.

Paul Dulle and Peggy Childs’ vision proved that when we partner for a common mission, we can maximize our human, fiscal and temporal assets by sharing resources through partnerships and commitment to collaboration. We want to thank you for being an ambassador of the Infinitec spirit.

Happy Anniversary to Infinitec, and thank you, Paul and Peggy!
Ad-vo-ca-cy - Public support for an idea, plan or way of doing something such as an advocacy group or organization.

UCP Seguin recently launched the UCP Seguin Advocacy Network. Please join us in our advocacy efforts for people with disabilities, their families and the people who support them. Family members, staff, friends and neighbors put a face to our mission. We are looking for advocates such as you!

JOIN TODAY AT THE UCP SEGUIN ADVOCACY NETWORK
ucpseguin.org/get_involved/advocacy/

What is the Latino Outreach Program?

The UCP Seguin of Greater Chicago Latino Outreach program was created to serve the needs of individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities and their families in Cook and DuPage Counties. UCP Seguin makes it easier to access vital resources, such as:

1. Entry into Developmental Disability System
2. Medical/Financial Benefits
3. Independent Service Coordination (ISC), formerly known as PAS
4. Prioritization of Urgency for Need for Services (PUNS)

Your link to services is our team of Transition Outreach Specialists (TOS) who will:

- Serve as the primary contact for the program
- Develop and maintain linkages between families, special education staff, and adult service providers
- Provide in-service training and coaching sessions for parents, guardians, and students
- Advocate for and assist in establishing eligibility for community services, such as employment, day programs, residential services, and respite care
- Facilitate participation of students in seasonally offered Adult Transition Experiences to prepare them for adult services

UCP Seguin’s Transition Services program is funded by:

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