



# press release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Village of Oak Park, Oak Park Township, and Community Mental Health Board of Oak Park Township To Receive Life Without Limits Award From UCP Seguin Of Greater Chicago**

**Chicago, IL** – On Saturday, March 9th, UCP Seguin of Greater Chicago will present the Life Without Limits Award to the Village of Oak Park, Oak Park Township, and the Community Mental Health Board of Oak Park Township during The Big Event at Bridgeport Art Center. The **Life Without Limits Award** is bestowed on an individual, group, private organization, or public entity who has made outstanding contributions to UCP Seguin to benefit the children and adults with disabilities we serve.

Over the past 3 decades, the Village of Oak Park has awarded UCP Seguin over \$1.5 million in Community Development Block Grants to make necessary improvements to the 6 homes and Levinson Building located in the village. Funding provided energy-efficient windows, fire sprinklers and smoke detectors, creating accessible spaces, and much more. They also stepped up when COVID-19 struck by providing PPE, cleaning products, necessary supplies, and food delivery. The Village has been a true community partner, helping UCP Seguin make our homes and day center in Oak Park safe, accessible, functional, and energy-efficient, while ensuring the continued acceptance and inclusion of persons with developmental disabilities into their neighborhoods.

In the mid-1970s, Oak Park Township formed one of the very first Mental Health Boards in Illinois, dedicated to supporting residents with mental illness, substance use disorders, and developmental disabilities. UCP Seguin and the Oak Park residents we serve have been major beneficiaries of the Township and its Community Mental Health Board. For the past 40 years, they have provided over \$1.8 million, filling major gaps in funding from the State of Illinois, and allowing UCP Seguin to serve individuals whose needs would otherwise be left unmet. These funds have allowed for transition services for special education students as they and their families move from school into adulthood; employment services that enable individuals to work and feel the pride of earning a paycheck; respite supports so parents receive a well-deserved break while their children have fun and make friends; and social and recreational services that give individuals with disabilities the opportunity to access, be included, and have fun in their community.

The Mental Health Board has also granted funds to improve our area homes and day center through the purchase of appliances, iPads, and other technology, and most recently a special calming sensory space at the Levinson Center. The Township and its Mental Health Board have helped UCP Seguin promote greater awareness of developmental disabilities and remove stigma from residents with such conditions. They have been an essential partner in making Oak Park a welcoming community that truly supports and celebrates individuals 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. **You can learn more about UCP Seguin at [ucpseguin.org](http://ucpseguin.org)**

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