



Fall Spotlight
2025

A Message From Our President



2025 has been a year of momentum and mission in action. Together, with the dedication of our staff, the commitment of our partners, and the unwavering support from YOU, hundreds of children and adults with disabilities have taken meaningful steps toward independence, inclusion, and opportunity.

We are deeply grateful for your role in helping us achieve some incredible milestones:

- **UCP Seguin has earned its 13th consecutive 3-Year Accreditation from CARF**, a testament to our unwavering commitment to excellence. CARF surveyors praised our **exceptional staff retention, strong leadership, and person-centered services** across all programs. They highlighted our efforts to raise DSP wages, our deep community engagement, and the life-changing impact of our employment services. This recognition reflects the dedication of our team and the trust of those we serve.
- **Special Olympics has returned to UCP Seguin!** After a long hiatus, athletes supported by UCP Seguin are once again participating in the Special Olympics Illinois program. Our Track & Field and Bowling teams had successful seasons, and we're excited to cheer on our Basketball team this fall. We celebrate the determination and spirit of every athlete involved.
- **UCP Seguin's Children's Department is making a powerful impact across Chicagoland.** Over 1,600 have received support with their mental health, financial stability, access to housing and food, and parenting education through a partnership between our Community Connections Services program's partnership with the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services. This support helps families stay together and build a lasting foundation for stability.
- The children and adults with disabilities we serve depend on the compassionate, one-on-one care of Direct Support Professionals (DSPs). Through your advocacy and the efforts of the They Deserve More Coalition, lawmakers recently approved a critical wage increase for DSPs across the state.

On behalf of our Board of Directors, staff, and the individuals and families we serve—THANK YOU for being part of our journey and making these accomplishments possible.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joseph Mengoni".

Joseph Mengoni
President/CEO

P.S. As we enter Thanksgiving and the holiday season, we're depending on you to empower families through care, advocacy, and opportunity. Please consider making a year-end gift.

A promotional graphic for the "Opening Doors" video. It features a bright yellow background. On the left, a yellow door is open, revealing a blue sky with white clouds and a blue carpet leading into the distance. On the right, text reads: "We are proud to present **Opening Doors**, our newest agency video—now a Midwest Emmy nominee!" Below this text is a QR code. At the bottom right, text says: "Scan the QR code to see what you make possible!"

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Opening Doors, our
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“The goal of Building Bridges is to determine what individuals with disabilities will do with the rest of their lives.”

*—Veronica,
Transitions Outreach Specialist*

UCP Seguin: Building Bridges to the Future

Graduating high school should feel exciting, not overwhelming. But for families of students with disabilities, graduating brings a maze of forms, court hearings, and wait lists that often delay adult services like a Community Day Program or vocational training.

That's where UCP Seguin's Building Bridges to the Future team steps in. Transition Outreach Specialists—Maria, Nancy, and Veronica—have the expertise needed to navigate these issues alongside families to ensure a smooth transition through milestone events and changes within the family. Each year, this team helps more than 200 families across Cook and DuPage counties as they navigate guardianship, applying for Medicaid, and waiting lists for funding and services.

These processes can be especially difficult when English isn't a family's primary language. All three Transitions Outreach Specialists speak both Spanish and English fluently and offer interpretation services. "They are just so relieved that someone will help them in their language," Nancy shared. Helping families in this way is important to her as the daughter of immigrants. "This could have been my mom or dad."

Nancy added, "We try to see every angle of the situation to make sure families are protected in every way."

You'll learn more about the Building Bridges to the Future program in this year's holiday appeal letter. Your generosity can fuel hands-on guidance when it matters most—so families aren't left to figure it out alone.

**Help families
cross the bridge
to adulthood.**

**Your gift today makes sure
no family has to navigate
disability services alone.**



Family, Golf, and Life Without Limits

What makes the Life Without Limits Classic such a success? The hundreds of UCP Seguin supporters who come out in droves with family, friends, and colleagues to support the children and adults we serve, like the Shanahan family, Tom, Jennifer, and their son Chris.

After leaving high school and navigating difficult program fits, Chris joined UCP Seguin's Wheaton Day Program and quickly found joy and a sense of belonging. Today, he lives at our Lombard group home just three miles from his family. "He really loves his house," Tom shared. "He runs in happily after visits, and he also happily sprints out to our car when we pick him up. He enjoys living there independently."

For Tom and his wife Jennifer, UCP Seguin has been "a huge blessing." They cherish the outings, activities, and consistent support that keep Chris engaged and connected to his community.

Tom has attended every Classic and uses his passion for golf to rally colleagues and friends in support of UCP Seguin. Each year, he secures multiple event sponsors—proudly enlisting companies he's worked with in the financial industry.

For Tom, every new sponsor is more than a name on a sign; it's a step toward awareness and resources for families like his. "I'm proud that they support my son and the UCP Seguin mission," he said. "It makes me feel they really value me, my contributions to the business, and the wider disability community."

And when it comes to the day itself, Tom says one thing always stands out: "The participation of UCP Seguin clients is fantastic."

Looking ahead, Tom hopes to bring even more sponsors on board and one day see large companies and even celebrities joining the cause — helping raise awareness and support for a system he believes is vital.

We are deeply grateful to Tom, his family, and every sponsor, golfer, and volunteer who make the Life Without Limits Classic a success — proving once again that together, we can build a life without limits.



We had an absolute blast at the **2025 Life Without Limits Classic** at Bolingbrook Golf Club—welcoming **144 golfers** and **raising over \$137,000** to support children and adults with disabilities!

A huge **THANK YOU** to every golfer who came out, bringing energy, camaraderie, and generosity to the course. Your spirit made the day a true celebration of community and impact.

ADVOCACY IN ACTION: UCP Seguin Engages Policymakers

This summer, UCP Seguin and our Advocacy Network were actively engaging with local, state, and federal officials to highlight the incredible work being done across our programs. By opening the doors to our residential homes and day services locations, we helped these leaders gain a deeper understanding of the needs and accomplishments of the children and adults with disabilities we serve.

One standout moment was when UCP Seguin welcomed U.S. Congressman Sean Casten for a meaningful discussion on how current legislative activities in Washington are affecting individuals with disabilities and the vital services we provide. His visit underscored the importance of advocacy and collaboration in ensuring that federal policies support inclusive opportunities, sustainable funding, and equitable access for the people we serve.

These visits offer invaluable opportunities for UCP Seguin staff, families, participants, and advocates to connect face-to-face with decision-makers and share powerful, personal stories that drive change.



State Representative Terra Costa Howard tours one of our group homes for teens in foster care.



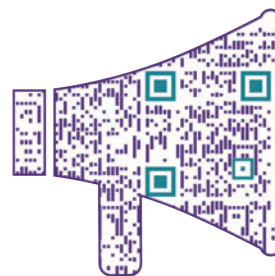
U.S. Congressman Sean Casten visits the CLIMB Community Day Site in Villa Park.



State Representative Abdelnasser Rashid visits a group home in the south suburbs.



US Congresswoman Robin Kelly took a tour of our Tinley Park location to learn more about Day Services, Community Employment, Infinitec, and Children's Foster Care.



**Be part of the change—
join the UCP Seguin
Advocacy Network today!**

ucpseguin.org/get_involved/advocacy/



Crafting Opportunity, Celebrating Ability



At **Seguin Gardens & Gifts**, every handcrafted ceramic and batch of homemade fudge created through the **UCP SeguinMade** program reflects the creativity, talent, and dedication of individuals who thrive when given the opportunity to shine. This social enterprise provides meaningful employment for people with disabilities, supporting their journey toward independence, confidence, and personal fulfillment.

For **Denise, Joe, Sonia**, and their fellow artists, each day in the production room is more than just work—it's a chance to express themselves, build skills, and contribute to their community. Their craftsmanship is a powerful reminder of what's possible when people are seen for their potential and supported in their growth.

Thanks to the generosity of a UCP Seguin family, Seguin Gardens & Gifts has a new kiln, allowing for expanded ceramics production and the creation of additional job opportunities. From festive holiday ornaments and charming planters to elegant serving dishes and rich, homemade fudge, each item is brought to life with vibrant color and creativity.

These unique, handcrafted pieces are available **year-round**—not just during the holidays—at Seguin Gardens & Gifts. Every purchase helps create jobs, build confidence, and support creativity for people with disabilities.

**Scan here to
explore the
full collection**
(SeguinGardens.com)



or visit in person at
5621 West 31st Street in Cicero.

Purchase with purpose. Celebrate ability. Support UCP SeguinMade.



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reach their full potential.



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