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## UCP-OC Management

**Paul Pulver**, Executive Director

**Kai Kaiser**, Director of Infant Services

**Kathleen McFarlin**, Director of Family Support Services

**Becky Nguyen**, Director of Respite Services

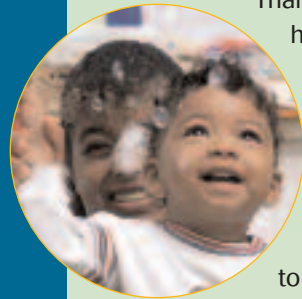
**Marisol Parand**, Director of Fund Development

**Barbara Jones**, Finance Manager

**United Cerebral Palsy**  
**of Orange County**

230 Commerce, Suite 190  
Irvine, CA 92602  
Ph: 714.200.2630  
Fax: 714.200.2640  
info@ucp-oc.org

## 86 Families in Need Helped During the Holidays



Thanks to the generous support of our donors, we were able to deliver holiday gifts, food, and household items to 86 needy families in our community! Twenty-seven of the families that received a Holiday Gift Basket were "adopted" by an individual, family, or company and received personalized gift baskets based on wish lists and family profiles. Of those adopted, pillows were delivered to a family who had instead been using bundled clothes night after night, and a new bunk bed went to a family of six that shares a single bedroom. Thanks to general donations of household items, food, toys, clothing, gift cards, and financial support, fifty-nine additional families were given generous gift boxes fulfilling their holiday needs and wishes.

Thanks to the caring and generous support of our donors like you, we were able to further our vision of a life with out limits for children with disabilities and their families.

## Hiring Kind-Hearted People

Enjoy working with children? Want to make a difference in a child's life? Looking for a part-time job with flexible hours? UCP-OC is looking for kind-hearted energetic people that are interested in helping families who have children with Down syndrome, autism, cerebral palsy, and other similar disabilities.

For more information please call Becky at (714) 200-2646 or email her at: bnguyen@ucp-oc.org



### FAMILY FUN FAIR COMING!

Join us at UCP-OC and learn about recreational activities and summer programs for your child. Children will enjoy bounce house, clowns, train and more!

Saturday, May 19, 2007 • 10:00 am – 1:00 pm  
230 Commerce • Irvine, CA 92602

Call /contact name and number here/ for more information?

## Swap Meet

is our way of connecting families who are in need of discounted equipment for their children with similar special needs. If you are in need of equipment or are ready to donate or sell equipment your child no longer uses, please call **714.200.2628** or email Janet Winter at **jwinter@ucp-oc.org**. Here is a sample of items on the list:

**Hydraulic Lift for Conversion Van**  
Call Iris (949) 581-8436

**Bike Carrier, Pediatric Quad Canes, Pedal Wheelchair**  
Call Iris (949) 581-8436

**Tumbleform Chair, small**  
Call Jean (714) 742-1234

For updated list, please check our website: [www.ucp-oc.org](http://www.ucp-oc.org) UCP cannot store equipment at our facility but we will do our very best to link you with a family needing your equipment.



### Over \$50,000 Raised through the OC Marathon

UCP-OC would like to thank all of the runners, volunteers, and fundraisers who contributed to making UCP-OC's involvement in The OC Marathon a huge success. It is because of dedicated supporters like you that we were able to raise over \$50,000 to continue our mission to help children with developmental disabilities reach their full potential, improve the quality of life for their families, and foster an attitude of acceptance and inclusion

Please remember United Cerebral Palsy of Orange County in your workplace Giving campaign.



*Life without limits  
for people with disabilities.*

## Mission

To help children with developmental disabilities reach their full potential, improve the quality of life for their families, and foster an attitude of acceptance and inclusion.

## In This Issue...

- *Inspirational Stories*
- *NEW UCP Therapy Center Follow-up*
- *Year-end Giving*
- *Save the Date for our Annual Golf Tournament*
- *Join Team UCP at the '07 OC Marathon!*
- *Adopt a Family*

*53 years of serving  
and making a difference in  
Orange County.*

# Connections

## "I was informed they couldn't 'accommodate' my son in the after-school program."



Sean McElwee

I would have lost my job if I didn't have after-school care for my son, Sean, who has Down syndrome. When he was in first grade his speech was still pretty unintelligible, so he communicated more with 'showing' what he wanted to do instead of being able to say it. 'Showing' was considered bad behavior in daycare, so he came very close to being removed from the school district's after-school program.

Sean loved to play and have fun with all of his classmates after school but when it was time stop and change activities, he would refuse sometimes by running away from the staff and continue playing...transitions were difficult for

him. It was hard for him to transition from an outside activity to another one, like from movies to sitting down quietly.

As a working parent, when they informed that they could no longer accommodate Sean in the program, I was desperate so I contacted my Regional Center service coordinator. She referred me to Inclusion Connection at UCP-OC. The program director, Kathleen spent several hours observing my son during his afternoon program and based on those observations a list of suggestions were created. The child care staff was then trained accordingly.

One simple modification given to Sean was count-downs when activities were about to change and he was able to transition more willingly. It was suggested that the movie should be an option for all the children and other adjustments were implemented.

Inclusion Connection was the lifeline that allowed me to keep my job while the childcare staff kept their sanity and Sean was able to be included in a great social program with all the other children he attended school with. 🙌

## "We were lost and frustrated when we were told our boys would not be able to continue to attend preschool."

Our goal was to provide our 4 years old twins who have autism, an environment where they could interact with other children and learn basic social skills. At the beginning our boys didn't understand the school's routines. An evaluation from UCP-OC determined that a single "shadow" was going to be required. UCP-OC located, trained and provided the person to fill this position. She is absolutely loving, caring and is very effective to support to our twins – we love her.

UCP provided the staff and administration at the school with special training. It meant a lot to me that the staff were so willing to receive training that they gave up Saturday to do it.

A few months have gone by; we see great improvement in our children's behavior. They

accept transition from one situation to another, from one person to another, which is very challenging with autism. Toilet training has

progressed significantly as well as general behavior. One of our guys is developing a connection with another child; they hug each other, talk to each other and play a little together...it means so much for us! It gives us so much hope!

Thank you for having such compassion and commitment for our children and for making their inclusion a reality!



Twins Shayne & Ryder, with father Paul, and Carolyn Nguyen, UCP-OC employee

## Inclusive Child Care



Caption here??

UCP-OC's Inclusive Childcare Program promotes the successful inclusion of children with disabilities into childcare settings with typically developing children. UCP-OC's role has two parts: perform an assessment of the child and identify

the supports necessary for the child to be successful in a child care environment. And, when a child needs an aide to be successful, UCP-OC is responsible for recruiting, training and supervising staff that support children in fully-integrated childcare settings.

Not only does the Inclusive Childcare Program help meet the need that parents have for finding accessible childcare, but perhaps more importantly, it addresses the need that children with disabilities need to experience developmentally-appropriate learning opportunities in natural settings with typical children.

All children benefit when children with and without disabilities play together in the same childcare centers. Children with disabilities learn important personal and social skills

that they might not otherwise learn in segregated settings. Typically-developing children benefit by experiencing an improved self-concept, growth in social cognition, greater tolerance of others and a decreased fear of human differences. (Biklen, Corrigan & Quick, 1989), (Peck, Donaldson & Pezzoli, 1990)

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) was passed in 1990 to guarantee equal opportunities in both public and private sectors for all individuals who have disabilities. The ADA directly addresses the responsibilities that childcare facilities have to accept and accommodate all children, regardless of whether or not they have special needs. The ADA affords children with mental or physical disabilities the opportunity to participate in all activities related to every day "community" life, which includes the opportunity to benefit from being in a childcare setting. Children can no longer be excluded on the basis of a disability

UCP-OC has assisted families of children with special needs for over 50 years. During the past 15 years, UCP-OC has emerged as a community leader in the area of inclusive childcare by providing education, training, evaluations and assessments, on-site assistance, and service coordination.

For more information, please visit our website: [www.ucp-oc.org](http://www.ucp-oc.org), or call us at (714) 200-2600. 🌱

## And the Award Goes to.....



Board member, Steven Robert, Kathleen McFarlin and Jud Robert

UCP-OC was awarded with the **Spotlight Award** in the **Support Services Vendor** category by Regional Center. Kathleen McFarlin, in charge of the program accepted the award. The program is broadening access to inclusive child care and after-school programs. 🌱

## Celebrating 20 Years at UCP-OC

**Ana Reyes**, Infant Program Coordinator, has made a positive difference in the lives of thousands of children and families during her 20 years of service with UCP-OC.

Her encouragement of each child's developmental progress and genuine concern for families are an inspiration to every member of the

UCP-OC family. We celebrate Ana's dedication and love to the children and families we serve and to making our commitment to Life without Limits a reality! 🌱



## A Preschool's View on Inclusion

Contributed by Julie

The joys of having both children with special needs and typical children in my center are endless. The advantages and benefits have by far out numbered our trials and tribulations. As teachers, we learn from these wonderful children daily.

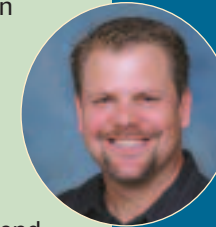
Our facility was fortunate to be connected with UCP-OC. Kathleen McFarlin – Director of Family Support Services, provided several instructive classes that elevated the educational quality of our center and helped us make our center a place for all children. I personally benefited from the classes so much that I ended up helping teach some workshops to our child care community.

My greatest reward is when typical children become partners in the care of children with special needs. They accept them naturally as regular peers that just need a little help now and then, and they don't even think about it and do what ever extra needs to be done so that everyone is included in the day activities.

As we learn from all children, we establish loving and trusting relationships that lead us to accomplish almost anything! ➡

## Kudos to Hatsue Daman!

Hatsue was the recipient of the **KCET Peabody Award** which honors outstanding works exhibiting excellence, distinguished achievement and meritorious service. She was awarded for the comprehensive efforts practiced in her childcare with all children, typical and with special needs. After raising three children and working for over 20 years as an engineering researcher, she decided to follow her true passion for children and start her own child care business. Hatsue has been connected with UCP-OC for the last seven years supporting our vision of Life without limits for people with disabilities! ➡



## Paul's Corner

Many people think the Americans with Disabilities Act solved most of the problems people with disabilities face, but the facts show that individuals with disabilities continue to be discriminated against and excluded from many aspects of our community. The National Organization on Disabilities (N.O.D.) has surveyed the participation of people with disabilities in American life since 1986 and has found consistent gaps between those with disabilities and those without. The most recent findings indicate:

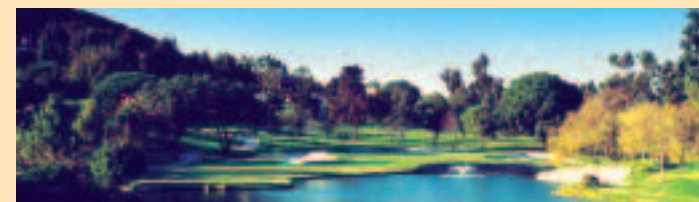
- 35% of people with disabilities are not at all involved in their communities, almost twice the percentage for people without disabilities (21%).
- People with disabilities are one and one-half times more likely to say they feel left out of things in their communities than people without a disability.
- Only 34% of people with a disability were very satisfied with life compared to 61% of people without a disability, a difference of 27%.

Recent polls also indicate the American public supports people with disabilities and the protections provided by the ADA, so this exclusion may not be intentional, yet it is real.

At UCP, we dream of the day when every Orange County business, organization and community institution is sensitive to the needs of people with disabilities and has adopted strategies that enable children and adults with disabilities to live life without limits as they freely participate in religious, recreational, educational, cultural and leisure activities.

We are all better when we learn to accept the differences among us and work to include everyone in the life of our community, and we all play a role in promoting the acceptance and inclusion of children and adults with disabilities in all aspects of community life right here in Orange County. Our goal will not be accomplished overnight, but your continued advocacy and financial support will go a long way in advancing life without limits!

## It's Almost Here!



## The 13th Annual Spring Classic Golf Tournament

Presented by:  
D • L • D



INSURANCE  
BROKERS INC.

Monday, April 23, 2007  
El Niguel Country Club

For more information,  
visit [www.ucp-oc.org](http://www.ucp-oc.org).

