



PATHWAYS

Life without Limits for People with Disabilities

Resource for Farmers with Disabilities



United Cerebral Palsy of Michigan has teamed up with the Michigan AgrAbility Project (AgrAbility) to promote AgrAbility as a resource for people with disabilities. AgrAbility is part of Michigan State University's Extension Office and works statewide, including the Upper Peninsula, to help people with disabilities employed in agriculture continue to farm and live independently.

According to the U.S. Safety Council, nearly 55 of every 1,000 farm workers will suffer a work-related injury. While many farmers fully recover from these injuries, many are left with permanent disabilities. Unfortunately, physical limitations can lead to work and financial limitations. The Michigan AgrAbility Project can help reduce these limitations and help farmers maintain their financial independence.

The Michigan AgrAbility Project provides on-site consultations to farmers and their families to find ways to manage their entire farm. Any Michigan farmer or family member who has a disability

such as arthritis, chronic back pain, motion loss, hearing loss, or any other condition that may limit his or her ability to work on the farm, regardless of the cause of the condition, is eligible for AgrAbility services. Services offered include farm assessments, suggestions of assistive equipment, counseling, and physical therapy.

The information and referral services and farm-site assessments are offered at no cost to the farmer. The cost of new equipment or modifications made to old equipment, the farm operation, or the farm home is not typically covered with AgrAbility funds. Some assistance with these costs may be available from Michigan Rehabilitation Services or Easter Seals, and the farmer is always asked to share the costs to the extent possible. The Michigan Assistive Technology and TeleWork Loan Funds may also be viable options for a farmer needing to purchase any assistive equipment.

To find out more about the Michigan AgrAbility Project, call 800-956-4106 or go to www.michiganagrability.org.

United Cerebral Palsy of Michigan



Save the Date!

Saturday, February 10

8 pm - Midnight

Third Annual

Baby Boomer Bash!

Dance to The Seacruisers!

Cadillac Club, Lansing

Hors d'oeuvres

Door Prizes

Tickets \$30

For reservations call:

800-828-2714

Credit Cards Accepted



Pro Wrestling Benefit for UCP Michigan!

See pro wrestlers Kamala, Demolition Ax, Koko B Ware, Doink the Clown, The Barbarian, Pat Tanaka!

Saturday, February 10, 2007, 7:00 pm

The Hope Center, Adrian

Sponsored by CIW Wrestling and WQTE Q95 Country

Admission \$10 at the Door

Proceeds benefit UCP Michigan!

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Welcome New Staff!

OFFICERS

Josephine Jabara - President, Webberville

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John Peck - Vice President, Allendale

Lou Reinwasser - Secretary, Lansing

Charlie Hawes - Treasurer, Lansing

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John Eulenberg, Lansing

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Steve Lyons, Auburn Hills

Dan Vivian, Lansing

LANSING STAFF

Linda Potter, Executive Director

Pam Patchak-Schuster, Program Manager

Sara Stech, Work Incentive Coordinator

Stacey DieKevers, Parent Project Coordinator

Marcy Lancaster, Parent Project Coordinator

Carolyn Brown, Grants Manager

Michele Seybert, Loan Fund Marketing Manager

Leah March, Loan Fund Manager

Linda Carey, Office Manager

Glenn Ashley, Program Manager

Natalya Staviss MacNeil, Development Director

Tisha Robinson, Secretary

MARQUETTE STAFF

Sara Menzel, A.T. Center Manager

TRAVERSE CITY STAFF

Lynn Ross, WIPA Project Director

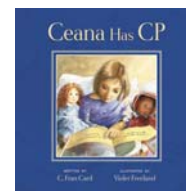
Jack Anderson, Work Incentive Coordinator

Natalya Staviss MacNeil is UCP Michigan's new Development Director. Natalya says: "I think we have a great opportunity to raise more funds so that we can expand the work of UCP Michigan. We are a unique organization that consistently and successfully serves the disability community in Michigan. We have many dedicated donors who support our work, and we will be actively seeking new donors from both the private and corporate sectors in the months and years to come."

Glenn Ashley, a veteran disability rights advocate, will manage two new grants, *Our Stories, Our Voices* and *All Aboard! Transportation Policy 101*. Glenn comes to UCP Michigan from the Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council.

Tisha Robinson is UCP Michigan's new secretary. Tisha is a recent graduate of Stockbridge High School and a former UCP Michigan volunteer.

BOOK CORNER: *Ceana has CP*



Ceana ~ A little girl with a big smile who loves to chase her grandma's hairless cats. Can she catch them? Read the book and see. Your child or students will love this fun, easy to understand story. Written for ages 3-7, *Ceana Has CP* will teach children about disabilities of all kinds in a loving and fun way.

Go to the *Ceana Has CP* website to order this book for \$16.95 plus shipping and handling: www.ceanahascp.com.



Special thanks to UCP Michigan's tireless and well dressed Bingo volunteers!

Information presented in this newsletter is intended to provide people with current, accurate information about developments in treatment, education, technology and equipment, rehabilitation and therapy.

Reference in this newsletter to any particular practice does *not* constitute endorsement or promotion of that practice by UCP Michigan. Decisions to select any course of treatment should always be made by an individual after consultation with his or her professional provider.

Thank You Grand Rapids Baby Boomer Bash Supporters!

The first annual Baby Boomer Bash at the Van Andel Public Museum of Grand Rapids



UCP Supporter Sadie Chamelly dances with Casey Verwijs

Miller Canfield
WOOD-TV 8/WOTV 4
WFGR Oldies 98.7
Sadie Chamelly
Grand Rapids Ballet Company
Linda Grinstead

James Scott
Grand Rapids Symphony
Paciak Glass
Irma Love
West Michigan Whitecaps
The Gilmore Collection
Mainstreet Ventures
Jane Toot
Our Small Planet
Bennigan's



WOOD-TV's Susan Shaw, Linda Potter, and Oldies 98.7's Robb Stewart



UCP Michigan Board Members Jackie Doig, John Peck, and Lou Reinwasser ride the Museum's Carousel

Outback Steakhouse
Koeze Company
Applebee's
Olive Garden
Tanaz Hair Boutique
Future Media Corporation
Meijer Gardens
Indian Trails Golf Course
Julia Jabara

BPAO Project Becomes WIPA Project

The Benefits Planning Assistance and Outreach Project (BPAO) served Michigan over the last six years, working with all individuals receiving SSDI and/or SSI Benefits who were interested in employment. The BPAO Project had great success and showed that many people who hesitated to work for fear of losing their benefits are now employed. The BPAO Project ended September 30, 2006 and was replaced by the WIPA Project.

On October 1st, 2006 the Work Incentive Planning and Assistance Project (WIPA) was introduced, and UCP Michigan was awarded a three-year grant to serve 58 counties in Michigan. The Social Security Administration, which underwrites this grant, has changed the name and objectives of the project, but the staff who serve your area

will remain the same. WIPA staff will be known as Community Work Incentive Coordinators (CWICs).

Under the WIPA grant, our efforts will focus on helping individuals about to enter the workforce or already working, including students 14 years of age and older. The goal of the grant is to help folks understand how to utilize the work incentives available to them.

Contact Jack Anderson at 888-873-8812 if you live in the following counties: Alger, Alpena, Antrim, Baraga, Charlevoix, Cheboygan, Chippewa, Delta, Dickinson, Emmet, Gogebic, Houghton, Iron, Keweenaw, Luce, Mackinaw, Marquette, Menominee, Montmorency, Ontonagan, Otsego, Presque Isle, Schoolcraft.

Contact Lynn Ross at 800-211-1356 if you live in the following counties: Alcona, Benzie, Crawford, Grand Traverse, Iosco, Kalkaska, Lake, Leelanau, Manistee, Mason, Mecosta, Missaukee, Montcalm, Muskegon, Newaygo, Oceana, Ogemaw, Osceola, Oscoda, Roscommon, Wexford.

Contact Sara Stech at 800-828-2714 if you live in the following counties: Arenac, Bay, Clare, Genesee, Gladwin, Gratiot, Huron, Isabella, Midland, Saginaw, Sanilac, Shiawassee, St. Clair, Tuscola.

For southern and southwestern Michigan, contact the Arc Michigan at 800-292-7851. For Oakland and Macomb counties, contact UCP of Metro Detroit at 800-827-4843.

News and Notes from the Executive Director



As one year ends and another begins, no one moment from 2006 stands out. But there are notable victories to celebrate, and we know both struggles and victories lie ahead for 2007. A few highlights:

Single Point of Entry

UCP Michigan and other disability and senior advocates are committed to a rebalance of long term care services away from nursing homes toward community services so people who want to can get the help they need in their homes or other non-institutional settings. We are one step further now: legislation passed creating Single Point of Entry offices where seniors and people with disabilities can find out all their options and choose where they want to live or get services. Thank you to the Legislature and to Governor Granholm!

Visitability Legislation

Not all Michigan citizens require accessible housing, but we ALL want ALL of our friends to be able to visit our homes, which we call "visitability." Michigan took a step toward home visitability with a new law requiring 50% of housing constructed with public funds be "visitable:" have at least one zero-step entrance and at least one accessible bathroom with a 36" door. Again, thank you to the Legislature and the Governor!

School Seclusion, Restraint Policy Leaves Children at Risk

After two Michigan children with disabilities died as a result of restraint by school personnel, the

State Board of Education took up the issue and eventually adopted a policy about the use of seclusion and restraints in response to student behavior. Many advocates, including UCP Michigan, believe the policy is too weak and will endanger students with disabilities. We will continue to work for stronger protections!

Welfare Changes

New Welfare Reform laws put lifetime limits on cash assistance and add new sanctions (withholding of benefits) for recipients who don't meet the law's work requirements. There are exemptions for mothers of children with disabilities and mothers who have disabilities, but making sure they know about these rights is our ongoing challenge.

Join us in our Policy Work

We have a new public policy web-based program called *Get Active*, through which we can email alerts about public policy to people who sign up. When you get an alert, you can go to the site, read about the issue, and read our draft of an email (or snail mail) letter to the relevant public officials. You can then personalize the letter, send it as is, or not send it at all. You only have to sign up once, after that, the software knows you. Call us if you have problems signing up, if you want to be part of the process but don't "do" online, or with questions. We have strength in numbers: please join our policy efforts!

To explore *Get Active*, or to learn more about each of the policy issues described above, go to: www.ucpmichigan.org and click the "Advocacy and Public Policy" link at the left of the screen.

Loan Fund Council Members Needed

UCP Michigan is looking for people to serve as members of either the Michigan Assistive Technology Loan Fund Advisory Council or the Michigan TeleWork Loan Fund Advisory Council.

The primary activities of the Advisory Council are to:

- Ensure all policies and procedures of the Michigan Assistive Technology Loan Fund or Michigan TeleWork Loan Fund are adhered to and give input when changes need to be made.
- Give input regarding the progress and improvement of the Loan Fund.
- Spread the word about the Loan Fund, help us reach others across the state and discuss ways for program staff to market the programs.

Time Commitment: The Advisory Councils meet quarterly. The Michigan Assistive Technology Loan Fund meetings are generally held on the 1st or 2nd Tuesday of the month in which they meet from 1:30 - 3:00 PM. The Michigan TeleWork Loan Fund meetings are generally held the third Thursday of the month in which they meet from 1:30- 3:00 PM.

Meeting Location: Members may attend the meetings in person at the Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC) office in Lansing or by phone via a toll free number.

If interested, please contact Leah March at United Cerebral Palsy of Michigan at 800-828-2714 or march@ucpmichigan.org.

Please Support UCP Michigan!

Enclosed is my tax-deductible gift of \$_____.

Please make check payable to UCP Michigan

Or charge my Visa: card number:

Signature: _____ Expiration Date: _____

Donor Information:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Please mail to:

UCP Michigan
3401 E. Saginaw
Suite 216
Lansing, MI 48912

Thank you!

My gift is made:

In memory of In honor of Occasion

Please send acknowledgement to:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Gift amount will not be mentioned.

Youth Essay Contest!



Sometimes people don't understand what it's like to have a disability, or that people with disabilities have plenty of *abilities*. UCP Michigan is sponsoring our seventh annual essay contest for 6th - 8th grade students on the theme *We're More Alike Than Different!*

If you have a disability, or if your good friend or family member has a disability, please tell us:

- What things do you (or your friend/family member) do differently than other people because of a disability?
- What things do you (or your friend/family member) do just like other people?

Winning essays will be printed in our newsletter *Pathways*. Winners will receive a plush *Ability Bear* and a gift certificate for a pizza, and their schools will receive *The Gun Lake Adventure Series* mystery books.

Essays should be 500 words or less and contain the student's name, age, school, and address. Entries may be sent via mail, email, or fax. The deadline is April 25, 2007.

ATXchange!

If you need assistive technology or medical equipment, Michigan Disability Rights Coalition's free website www.atxchange.org lists new and used assistive technology items for sale.

The ATXchange allows people all over the state of Michigan to post new or used AT items for sale or donation. People can also post items needed and link up with people who have the needed equipment.

If you do not have access to the internet, call UCP Michigan at 800-828-2714 and we will assist you.



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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



A member agency of United Way

New UCP Michigan Development Office Needs Your Help!

This year we are planning many new activities to raise money for UCP Michigan, so we can serve people with disabilities even better!

If you live in the Lansing area, consider helping us with mailings; we will need people to stuff envelopes several times throughout the year. We'll even serve you coffee & treats!

We need people to put up flyers and posters around town for our upcoming *Baby Boomer Bash*.

We also need someone to look up telephone numbers for us on

the Internet, as well as other tasks as they come up.

Please give us a call at 517-203-1200.

Children's Special Health Care Services: Early Adult Transition Task Force

Nine Michigan youth ages 15-21 are working to help their peers with special health care needs transition from services for children to services for adults. The group was put together by the Michigan Department of Community Health, Children's Special Health Care

Services. The group, called the Early Adult Transition Task Force (EATT), has set a goal to provide information about health care and transition to fellow young adults with special needs.

With members all across Lower Michigan, EATT will be working together through e-mail and occasional face-to-face meetings. EATT will also produce a quarterly newsletter. Topics will include how youth can manage their own healthcare, first person stories, and resources. Youth who would like to join EATT or subscribe to the newsletter may contact Gina Tremonti at tremontig@michigan.gov or 800-359-3722.