

# the PULSE



United Cerebral Palsy of Greater St. Louis ♦ May 2005 ♦ www.ucpstl.org

Thank you . . .

## MARDI GRAS MASQUERADE Raises More Than \$218,000!

More than 470 guests enjoyed a night of fast-paced auction fun, fabulous food and great jazz as United Cerebral Palsy of Greater St. Louis brought Mardi Gras to The Ritz.

UCP celebrated its 13th annual dinner auction, *Mardi Gras Masquerade*, on March 5, 2005. Music was provided by the **Leslie Maclean Trio** who also donated a 3-hour private party, which raised \$1,000 during the Oral Auction. In total, more than 450 items were up for bid, raising in excess of \$218,000!

"Year after year, this event experiences tremendous success. We are grateful to everyone who helped to make this a night to remember," says UCP Executive Director, Richard Forkosh.

In the past three years, the UCP dinner auction has grown by leaps and bounds, nearly doubling the number of auction patrons it attracts and the amount of money raised.

Primary sponsors include: **First Bank** as *Presenting Sponsor*, **EMC Corporation** and **Magna Visual** as *Supporting Sponsors*, and **Mallinckrodt/Tyco Healthcare** as *Section Sponsor*.

**Table sponsors include:** A.G. Edwards ♦ Balke Brown ♦ Citizens National Bank ♦ Computer Sales International ♦ Dell ♦ Drury Hotels ♦ Edward Jones ♦ Gallop, Johnson & Neuman ♦ Heartland Bank ♦ Hewlett Packard ♦ IBM ♦ JD Streett & Company ♦ Microsoft

**Presented by First Bank:**  
Danny Chadakhtzian, Phil Lykens, Gary Pratte, Peter Cohen, Karen Claspille, Doug Johnston, Dennis Hirstein, Mark Mesnier, Dan Jasper and auction chair, Greg Fuesting.



**Enjoying the Masquerade:**  
(top left) Lisa Moise, Laura Nestor, Mark & Deb Miller and Kelly Bloom of Enterprise Rent-A-Car (right) Cynthia Dalton & Pamela Strothkamp of THF Realty (left) Jane & Kevin Scully and Debbie & Jeff Allback of A.G. Edwards, Jerry & Teresa Lis of IBM.

❖ Miller Lite ❖ Otis & Clark Properties ❖ Pulaski Bank ❖ Quadrant Properties ❖ THF Realty.

Special thanks goes to 2005 Auction Chairperson, **Greg Fuesting**, and the 2005 Auction Committee.

Planning committees for the 14th Annual Dinner Auction are forming now. To join, call (314) 994-1600, ext. 320.

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## Where Do We Go From Here?



**Richard Forkosh**  
Executive Director

At both the state and federal levels, sweeping changes in Medicaid are now being proposed and implemented.

At the heart of these changes is the belief that many people who receive Medicaid-funded services should not because of their personal income or other options.

While I understand the argument, I am confused as to some of the rationale being used to cut this critical funding mechanism. Medicaid has been and continues to be a primary health care and programmatic safety net for many individuals with disabilities and critical support for their families. We always need to be mindful that children with disabilities grow up to be adults with disabilities.

Our organization, and many organizations like ours, diligently strive to promote the self-worth and independence of people with disabilities through services and programs that provide housing, employment, personal assistance, adaptive equipment and a host of other support services. In doing so, we have witnessed that the

vast majority of people with disabilities have a strong desire to become gainfully employed and as self-sufficient as possible. Yet they remain in the highest unemployed or underemployed segment of our society. To overcome these barriers, UCP services and Medicaid assistance have been there to help.

Over the years, UCP has developed programs and supports that allow individuals with disabilities to become more independent. These programs have been funded, in part, through the Medicaid program and related waivers, which are jointly funded by the state and federal government.

Medicaid also has been one of the primary means by which these individuals receive their health care services, purchase adaptive and mobility equipment and the personal services that help them to get ready for their jobs or other meaningful activities. Given the proposed or known cuts to the Medicaid program, many of these individuals will lose much, if not all, of their independence and ability to live productive and independent lives.

Taking a wheelchair away from someone who is reliant on this

means of mobility can be the difference between gainful employment and being confined to bed. Is this really what we want as a caring and compassionate society? I would hope not!

Statistics show that in the very near future, one in three Americans will experience some degree of disability.

I have spent the vast majority of my career working in support of people with disabilities. I have witnessed wonderful outcomes from the investments we have made in support of our fellow man. I fully support accountability and realize that we must be prudent with valuable resources. But I fear what the massive changes being proposed and made in Medicaid will do; and the impact that these changes will have on the independence and self-worth of some of our most vulnerable citizens.

To me the questions needing to be answered are simple.

Do we believe as a society that we have a moral and ethical obligation to help our fellow citizens who may need assistance to live a "decent" life?

And, regardless of your answer:  
**Where do we go from here?**

### Marlborough Hall Revived

Marlborough Hall, one of UCP's longest running programs, recently underwent some transformations that are yielding very favorable results.

A recent reorganization of the staff and refocusing on the primary intent and purpose of the program has both families and consumers raving about Marlborough Hall.

"Consumer and Family Satisfaction Surveys have been steadily improving and are now close to

an all time high," says Richard Forkosh, UCP

Executive Director, who explains that the program's primary focus is providing families with short-term respite. "It's a break that allows caregivers to recharge. Families may opt to take an out-of-town vacation or spend more time with other family members."

"This is not a luxury," says Forkosh. "It is an important service that helps families remain intact"

UCP's Adult Program Director, Shari Clay, assumed administrative

oversight of Marlborough Hall last September and Valerie Wade, a long term Marlborough employee, was promoted to Assistant Director. Their combined experience, dedication and commitment along with enhanced training for other Marlborough employees are central to the program's renewed success.

"We have always been focused on the overall health and safety of the consumers," says Clay, "however, added touches such as new drapes and furnishings, as well as

## Bracelet Craze Hits UCP Thanks to 12-Year-Old Joe Esrock

On August 6, Joe Esrock will celebrate his Bar Mitzvah, the day when Jewish boys become men in the eyes of their community. To prove that they are ready, each Bar Mitzvah candidate completes a service project. Joe's project began as an idea that quickly became "super-sized."

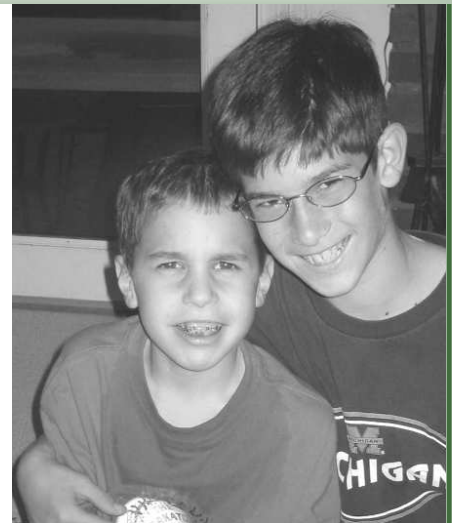
"I was thinking about what to do and I thought about how everybody was wearing those rubber bracelets. UCP didn't have one. My cousin, Scott, has cerebral palsy, and this seemed like a good way to honor him and help UCP," says Joe. "So I talked to my parents. They helped me buy the first 10,000 bracelets

and have the die made. We chose the words **Abilities Not Disabilities** so you'll think about what people can do not what they can't."

"All of our friends and family sold them at school and at work. We contacted *Kids Sportsworld* and they let us sell 5,000 of them in their stores. We shared some of the profits with Aqua Abilities, where Scott swims," Joe says.

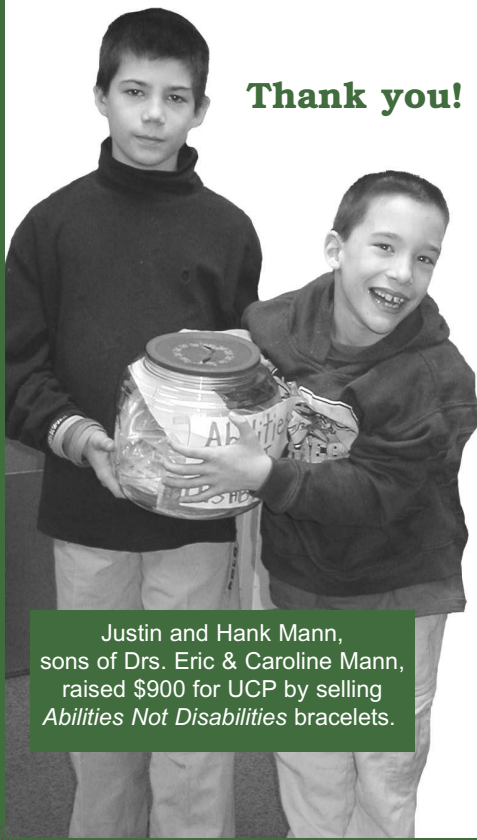
**Way to go Joe! Already, Joe's bracelet idea has raised more than \$14,000 for UCP!**

When he's not preparing for his Bar Mitzvah, Joe likes playing soccer, baseball, basketball or poker and hanging out with his family.



**Family Pride:** Joe Esrock (r) created UCP's *Abilities Not Disabilities* bracelet as a way to honor his cousin, Scott (l).

**Thank you!**



Justin and Hank Mann, sons of Drs. Eric & Caroline Mann, raised \$900 for UCP by selling *Abilities Not Disabilities* bracelets.

When Hank Mann turned 8 he wanted to celebrate in a big way by helping people with cerebral palsy, a condition he shares.

"When I first got the idea I talked to my principal, Mrs. Dupont, and she said it was a good idea," says Hank. "Every day for a week, my brother, Justin, our friends and I sold UCP's **Abilities Not Disabilities** bracelets for 15 minutes before school. We raised lots of money!"

The bracelet sale took place at **Glenridge Elementary** in Clayton and raised \$900 for UCP.

When they're not busy raising funds and awareness, Hank and his brother, Justin (age 9), enjoy playing with their brother and sister. Hank also likes playing harmonica and participating in *Fighters with Courage and Power*, a martial arts program for children with CP.

"I'm in a band that plays Beatles music," says Hank. "My band liked the idea of selling bracelets, too."

## Teens Find Summer Jobs With Help From UCP

When school lets out for summer, 15 to 20 teens from St. Louis and St. Charles counties will find themselves gainfully employed thanks to SWEP and STEP.

Administered as part of UCP's Employment Resources program, SWEP (summer work experience program) and STEP (summer teen employment program) are twin sisters that help youth with disabilities transition from school to work.

"This is the perfect opportunity for teens with disabilities to test their skills and decide what they like and dislike in terms of future employment," says Kristi Weaver, UCP's Employment Resources Director. "They learn to adhere to a schedule, to work independently and as part of a team, and to value the importance of earning a wage. For many of our participants, SWEP and STEP lay the foundation for future success."

"Our goal in working with adults or teens with disabilities is to create a win-win situation where both the needs of the individual and their employers are well met," Weaver says.

## Glow-In-The-Dark

**Abilities Not Disabilities bracelets are on sale now!**

**Get yours today by calling (314) 994-1600, ext. 319.**


**Just \$2 each!**



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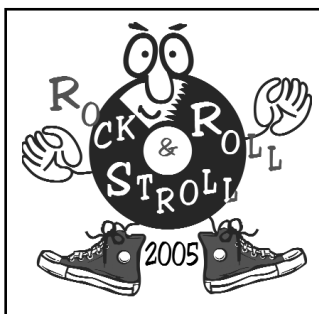


## Join Us For The 2nd Annual Rock, Roll & Stroll May 7, 2005 ♦ Kirkwood Park

This is your chance to gather friends, family and co-workers for a great cause! It's as easy as:

**1) Register** by calling (314) 994-1600, ext. 319 or online at [www.ucpstl.org](http://www.ucpstl.org).

**2) Gather donations.** Registration requires a donation of \$25 or more for walkers age 6 and older. Children age 5 and younger may participate for free; however, t-shirts will be given only to walkers with a paid registration.



**3) Set a Goal!** Prizes will be awarded to the individual or team who raises the most money in four categories:

- ♦ Top Money Adult
- ♦ Top Money Kid
- ♦ Top Money Family
- ♦ Top Money Team.

**Registration will begin at 9am.**

For the safety of all participants, "roll" means wheelchairs, strollers and wagons

only. Skateboards, skates and bikes are prohibited. **Hope to see you on May 7th in the park!**

## With Special Guest Host SMASH of KTVI-Fox2 and 97.1 FM Talk

### Marlborough, Continued from Page 2

more age-appropriate activities and improved interactions between the consumers and staff are making the respite experience more rewarding. Recently, a **Women Only Weekend** was planned with coordinated activities that promoted a little extra pampering. The weekend was a wonderful success and the ladies are ready to do it again."

In addition to planned respite, Marlborough Hall also provides Emergency Residential Services. For more information, please call (314) 962-0015.



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United Cerebral Palsy of Greater St. Louis is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit charitable organization. Donations to UCP may be tax-deductible per the provisions of current law. *The Pulse* is edited by the UCP Development Office: Kate Boemeke, Director, Erin Wheeler Boyle, Assistant Director.

Richard Forkosh, UCP Executive Director