

## Affiliate Profile: Music to Their Ears UCP of Greater Birmingham Music Therapy Program



MATTHEW LEONG WITH TEACHER'S ASSISTANT JENISE BRUCE

Every day at United Cerebral Palsy of Greater Birmingham's Hand In Hand early learning program is full of singing, music, and fun.

The 41,000 square foot learning center for children of all abilities, ages 6 weeks to 4 years, is one of the few schools in the state of Alabama that counts music therapy as part of its curriculum. Along with physical, occupational, and speech therapists, **Hand In Hand** has its very own music therapist—Rochelle Loney.

Loney says music therapy works in many ways. For example, it encourages a child with developmental disabilities to communicate, while holding and playing an instrument promotes motor control.

"If one side of the brain is affected you can definitely start teaching the person through music how to use things that have been damaged on that side of the brain and somehow it just starts connecting again," Loney.

Dr. Murray Goldstein, Director of the United Cerebral Palsy Research and Educational Foundation, agrees.

"While there is little experimental evidence that music therapy is more helpful than other stimulatory therapies such as hippotherapy or aquatherapy, the more you stimulate a child with a developmental disability the higher the probability the child will interact with his environment," said Dr. Goldstein.

"And we believe stimulatory therapies, like music therapy, can support plasticity, or the ability of the brain to substitute for lost function."

Former **Hand In Hand** student Matthew Leong was born four months early, weighing just less than one pound. Though Matthew has disabilities that affect his vision and speech development, the

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## UCP Launches One-Stop Resource Guides

Available on UCP Web Site, Guides for People with Any Disability

United Cerebral Palsy (UCP) recently announced it has published the most complete resource guides available for people with disabilities on the Internet.

By visiting the UCP Web site, individuals with disabilities and their families can now easily access contact information for organizations, nonprofit service providers, and state government offices in every state in the nation.

People with disabilities, parents of young children with a

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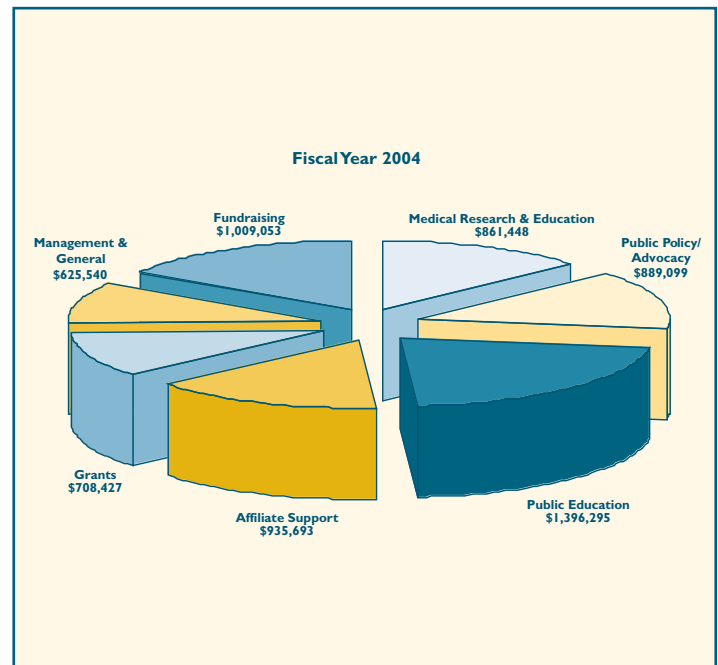
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## Message from the President



As in years past, United Cerebral Palsy is committed to working with the administration and Members of Congress to advance the full citizenship of Americans with disabilities.

One of the key issues we are currently exploring with our nation's leaders is changing the "institutional bias" of federal programs like Medicaid to support community-based supports and services.

We strongly believe that people with disabilities should have the choice to live at home or in their communities, where they can be productive participants of society.

This belief in community is why United Cerebral Palsy is one of the principal providers of affordable accessible housing in the United States.

From the Texas Home of Your Own (HOYO) homeownership program to affordable apartment complexes run by United Cerebral Palsy of Rhode Island, local UCP affiliates are creating community-living options for tens of thousands of Americans with disabilities.

Yet, there are so many more people who need our help.

Your continued support is critical to helping United Cerebral Palsy create inclusive communities, and to launch new national homeownership and housing initiatives.

On behalf of all the Americans with disabilities we serve, thank you for your generosity.

Warm regards,

Stephen Bennett, President and CEO, United Cerebral Palsy

# UCP of New York City Pioneers Health Services for Women with Physical Disabilities

United Cerebral Palsy of New York City (UCP/NYC) provides a unique service - access to high quality mammography and breast health services for women with physical disabilities.

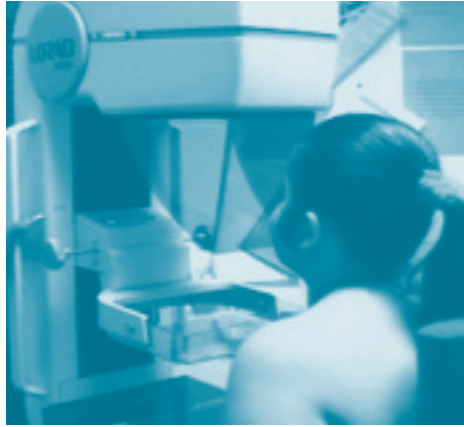
Early detection is pivotal to the successful treatment of breast cancer, yet for many women with physical disabilities mammography is simply out of reach. Numerous barriers unique to their physical limitations hinder access to this potentially lifesaving service.

As a result, they are at increased risk for delayed diagnosis, posing serious threats to their survival if a malignancy is discovered.

Key features of the program include health advocates, who provide crucial emotional, physical and logistical support to each woman before, during and after the mammogram.

Advocates also coordinate with a local breast-imaging center that provides wheelchair-accessible mammography.

The UCP/NYC program also led to the recent release of an



informational video titled Removing Barriers to Mammography for Women with Physical Disabilities.

Funded by a grant from the Greater New York City Affiliate of the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation, the groundbreaking video highlights the pressing need for accessible breast health services for women with physical and developmental disabilities.

Using the unique breast health program at UCP/NYC as a backdrop, the video provides information to consumers, staff, and health care professionals on how to clear the barriers to quality breast health services for women with physical disabilities.

The video features many of the women who participated in the program.

“Through their contributions, we discovered a great deal about what works and what does not work,” says Kathy Kelly, Director of Clinical Services at UCP/NYC. “Thanks to these women and their insights, we continue to find innovative ways of providing high quality health services to women with physical disabilities.”

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## Music to Their Ears

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comprehensive curriculum at **Hand In Hand** helped him grow, learn, and interact.

When Loney first started working with him, Matthew was quiet and shy. He would sit in his chair, while the rest of his class moved about the classroom. But after one year of school that included music therapy, Matthew was dancing and singing with the other students.

“All of a sudden, you couldn’t shut him up! He just started talking,” said Matthew’s father David Leong.

“I can’t say for sure music therapy is the one that started him talking, but I think it certainly helped.”

According to UCP of Greater Birmingham, only 20% of music therapists like Rochelle Loney receive third party reimbursement for their services. While states like Arizona, Minnesota, and Michigan authorize Medicaid funds for music therapy, most states do not.

However, today there are more than 70 college programs around the country that offer advanced degrees in music therapy.

# Isabelle Goldenson Dies at 84

## Philanthropist and Wife of ABC Chairman Leonard H. Goldenson Co-Founded United Cerebral Palsy and UCP Research and Educational Foundation



ISABELLE CHARLOTTE WEINSTEIN GOLDENSON

**W**ith great sadness, United Cerebral Palsy has announced the death of founder Isabelle Charlotte Weinstein Goldenson.

Mrs. Goldenson died at age 84 of natural causes at her home in Sarasota, Florida, on Monday, February 21. She was the wife of Leonard H. Goldenson, founder and chairman of American Broadcasting Companies (ABC).

“Mrs. Goldenson was a role model of one person making a difference. She wasn’t just the mother of a daughter with cerebral palsy, but of a movement for all children with any disability,” said Stephen Bennett, President and CEO of United Cerebral Palsy.

After their first daughter - Genise - was born with cerebral palsy, Mr. and Mrs. Goldenson founded United Cerebral Palsy, with Jack and Ethel Hausman. They oversaw the fledgling organization as it took root across the nation and became a

force for people with disabilities.

More than fifty years later, United Cerebral Palsy is one of the largest health charities in the United States, providing direct services to 30,000 people daily and advocating for the independence and full citizenship of 54 million Americans with disabilities.

Mrs. Goldenson also co-founded the United Cerebral Palsy Research and Educational Foundation, which is the principal non-government agency in the United States sponsoring research to prevent cerebral palsy and to improve the quality of life of individuals with cerebral palsy and related developmental disabilities.

Funds raised by the UCP Research and Educational Foundation, under the hands-on leadership of the Goldenson family, directly led to the discovery of the vaccine against Rubella (German Measles), phototherapy—placing infants under strong lights to treat jaundice and prevent brain damage, the standard fetal heart monitor used by obstetricians worldwide, and innovative imaging technology which diagnoses developmental brain injuries, offering significant information for the prognosis and immediate intervention where there is evidence of birth defects.

Shortly after the first moon landing in 1969, Mrs. Goldenson organized a meeting with NASA scientists and engineers, officials from the National Institute of Health and the Veterans Administration, along with medical professionals to find practical applications of space technology for people with disabilities.

The historic gathering led to the development of a lightweight wheelchair, multi-directional conveyances that could climb stairs, remote control limbs, and sensory devices to assist people who are blind.

## Isabelle Goldenson Continued

Almost 20 years before the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) was passed, Mrs. Goldenson and her husband lobbied and led a movement for the 1973 amendments to the Rehabilitation Act, Section 504, which for the first time prohibited discrimination on the basis of disability.

Section 504, recognized as the predecessor to the historic ADA, led communities around the country to take steps towards greater accessibility for people with disabilities. Such improvements included wheelchair accessible public sidewalk crossings, phone booths, restroom cubicles, buildings, and transportation.

“The entire UCP family feels a profound loss today, and we offer our sincere condolences to Mrs. Goldenson’s entire family, especially UCP Trustee Loreen Arbus,” added Bennett. “Through her work on behalf of United Cerebral Palsy and the

United Cerebral Palsy Research and Educational Foundation, Ms. Arbus affirms her parents’ legacy everyday.”

The Goldenson family asks that condolences and contributions in the name of Mrs. Isabelle Goldenson be sent to:

United Cerebral Palsy Research and Educational Foundation  
c/o Dr. Murray Goldstein, Director  
1660 L Street, NW, Suite 700  
Washington, DC 20036

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## UCP Launches One-Stop Resource Guides

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new diagnosis, caregivers, and advocacy organizations can use these resources to locate information about early intervention, assistive technology, employment, housing, transportation, and many more topics.

Though UCP and its nationwide affiliate network will continue to offer free one-to-one information and referral services to the public, anyone with access to the Internet now can find information on their own with this easily accessible resource.

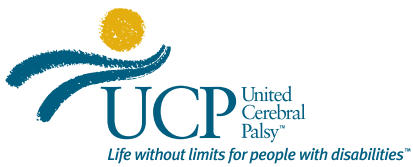
Each one-stop resource guide is free and can be downloaded as a Microsoft Word® or Adobe® PDF document. Information and referral resources listed in each guide are organized in alphabetical categories with complete contact information, so anyone can find the information and services they need.

“Staying informed and knowing where to find help are huge steps towards achieving full independence,” said Margaret “Muffi” Lavigne, UCP Information and Referral Coordinator.

“These guides are some of the most complete community-based resource listings for people with disabilities available today,” Lavigne added.

To access the one-stop resource guides, visit the Parenting and Families Channel on the UCP Web site at [www.ucp.org/parenting](http://www.ucp.org/parenting).

Information seekers who need one-to-one information and referral service can contact Muffi Lavigne at (800) 872-5827 or [mlavigne@ucp.org](mailto:mlavigne@ucp.org)



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## UCP Texas Announces Integrated Housing Project with Private Developer

**U**nited Cerebral Palsy of Texas and Tekoa Partners, Ltd., unveiled Austin's first fully integrated Section 811 housing project for people with disabilities on March 5.

The UCP of Texas partnership will purchase units in The Boulevard, an existing condominium development in Austin, and lease them to very-low income people with disabilities and their families at affordable rates.

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Section 811 Supportive Housing for Persons with Disabilities program provided \$413,000 to support the project, and the City of Austin Neighborhood Housing and Community Development Department contributed more than \$180,000.

The units purchased by UCP of Texas are scattered throughout the development, enabling residents with disabilities to be fully integrated in their neighborhood rather than segregated in their own "special" location.

"People thrive when they are truly a part of the community," said UCP of Texas Executive Director Jean Langendorf.

## How Can You Help UCP?

**By remembering to include us in your will. For more information, please contact the Development Department.**

**United Cerebral Palsy  
1660 L Street, NW  
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**(800) 872-5827  
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