

THE UNLIMITED

United Cerebral Palsy of West Alabama, Inc.'s Life Without Limit's quarterly newsletter

Announcing the First Ever All-Inclusive Park in West Alabama

This is so exciting! Where do children and families of children with disabilities go to play and to have fun on a playground in our community? What do they do when they want to spend a day outside or have a cook-out or just want to enjoy nature in a safe and friendly environment? With your support, next year they will be going to UCP! The **Kiwanis Club of Tuscaloosa** and **United Cerebral Palsy of West Alabama** are proud to announce a joint effort in bringing the first ever all-inclusive, fully accessible playground for children with disabilities that is open to the public in West Alabama. The playground will have adapted swings, an elevated sandbox, wheelchair accessible play equipment and picnic tables plus a walking track among other fun and exciting things to do. Check out the artist's rendering below. The partnership between UCPWA and Kiwanis is one that is destined to succeed with the help and support of our community. UCPWA approached the Kiwanis Club to aid in this endeavor since they truly serve the children of the world and are dedicated to helping children with disabilities. Kiwanis is acting as the Volunteer Coordinator and has pledged to raise \$40,000 towards completing the pavilion. Board members **Steve Smith** (Project Manager) and **Melanie**

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Baird (Fundraising Coordinator) are heading up the project. The plan also calls for the purchase of additional property to provide the needed parking space for the playground. The total project goal is to raise \$300,000 in cash or pledges by April 1, 2007. Our annual telethon, "**Starfest**," which will be held on March 25, 2007 on **WVUA-7 TV** from 1-5 PM, will highlight this project and it will be the goal for this year's telethon. Won't you be a part of this incredible dream for our community? You can take advantage of this wonderful opportunity by making your contribution now. Please see the **Opportunity to Give** section in this newsletter and make your donation today.



Latest Fundraisers

No-Limits Kustoms auto club partners with UCPWA. No-Limits Kustoms is one of West Alabama's most involved auto clubs. They travel to various shows throughout the southeast and have joined with the **Tuscaloosa Hooter's** restaurant to raise funds with their "Fall Bash" Auto/Motorcycle Show. They recently presented UCPWA with a check for \$540 with more to come. Join them at their next meeting at the weekly **Hooters Cruise Night** at Hooters. You can call 205-242-8657 or email nolimitskustoms@yahoo.com for more information.



No Limits Kustoms members at their Fall Bash

Northridge HS Tennis Team Raises Funds for UCPWA

Once again, our local high school student community has gone to work supporting UCPWA. The **Northridge High School** tennis team held a tournament to benefit the **Start on Success Alabama (SOSAL)** program in which we are a collaborating partner. SOSAL is a program that prepares students with disabilities to graduate into the real world of finding a job, paying bills and many other living skills. Becci Hauser coordinates the program at Northridge and is very proud of her students. The tennis team raised over \$2,800. Great work Northridge!

Fright Factory a Huge Gruesome Success

Did we mention high school students? Well, they topped themselves this year with our Fright Factory fundraiser. **Cody Minor** and his awesome crew of volunteers from **Tuscaloosa County High, Northridge High, Bryant High, Holy Spirit, Hillcrest High** and other teens and young adults in the community came together and made this year's house spookier, creepier and groovier than ever! They created a twisted maze of scares in two houses; The Druid City School of Education and Scream Acres. The old **Tuscaloosa Motor Company** at the dead end of Greensboro Avenue on the river donated their facilities and let the crew turn the building into two haunted houses. There was fun and scares had for all on the nights leading up to Halloween. Also, during game weekends at UA, the owners let us operate **Riverview RV Park**, an RV park

which helped the bottom line of the Fright Factory. The fundraiser is one of our largest and grossed over \$80,000 towards the operating costs of UCPWA. Thanks go out to all the actors, builders, ticket sellers and other supporters of the event. A special thank you goes out to **Lowe's** for providing all the building supplies at a significant savings to UCPWA plus **Sealy Management Company** and **MailSouth** for their support. Additional gratitude goes out to the gang at DCH and the volunteers that managed the RV Park. Of special note are the Fright Factory Actor Awards who are:

Monster of the Year- Miranda Wilson (Northridge)
Actor of the Year- Clayton Nance
Actress of the Year- Gillian West (Northridge)
Mr. Fright Factory- Beau Burchfield
Miss Fright Factory- Ariel Carmichael (Bryant)
Rookie of the Year- Lincoln Eason (Northridge)
Creepiest Monster- Katelyn and Kara Pate (County High)
Director's Choice- Chris Patterson (County High)
Scott Cockrell Memorial Award- Michael Kernan (Northridge)

UCP Vision: We envision a community where all people are valued and encouraged to contribute to society. UCPWA will be a leading provider of resources and the leading advocate for this vision.

Thanks gang and see you next year!

Guess What Cynthia and Vicki Won?

Congratulations go out to our employees **Cynthia White** and **Vicki Sievering**. Cynthia won tickets to the Kentucky Festival of the Arts just for being a valued part of UCPWA. Employee names were placed in a hat for the drawing and Cynthia won! She was very excited and said she never won a thing before- plus it was her birthday! Vicki Sievering won a \$50 gift card to Wal-Mart in the drawing that was held for all the employees who contributed to the recent United Way campaign as an incentive to get involved. The tickets and gift card were donated anonymously. Vicki then turned around and used her winnings to "pay it forward." More on that later!

Alabama's Southern Miss Adopts UCPWA

The newest pageant winners of the **Alabama Southern Miss** contest held December 2, 2006 have adopted UCPWA as their charity of choice. They presented UCPWA with a big box of craft and cleaning supplies with promises of more to come. The young ladies stopped by the center with beautiful crowns on their heads and smiles on their faces. The group is meeting with **Governor Riley** in March and will participate in an autism walk in April. Thanks girls and keep up the great work!

Latest Grants & Awards

Community Foundations of West Alabama (CFWA) awarded a grant in the amount of \$900 to purchase two recliners for our adult home living area at the center.

The **United Way of West Alabama** Board of Directors has approved continued funding for UCPWA. Thank you United Way!

UCP of Huntsville/Tennessee Valley awarded a grant for the continuation of the Child Care Enhancement with a Purpose Program.

The Children's Trust Fund awarded a grant to continue our HEARTS Respite program to provide temporary respite to families of children with disabilities under the age of 18.

*"It is hard to fail, but it is worse never to have tried to succeed."
-Theodore Roosevelt*

Welcome to Our New Board Members

Please welcome the latest additions to the UCPWA Board of Directors. They are:

Melanie Baird, Realtor, H.A. Edwards
Michele Boyd, DCH Foundation
Tim Bowen, Alabama Power Company
Chuck Turner, Tennis Jackson Electric/Jackson Security Services
Donnie Grill, Johnson Controls
Dan Tidwell, Randall-Reilly, Inc.



Lauren Corley, Rachel Corley, Program Director Dee Miller-Rodgers, Savannah Angeloff and Savana Marshall.

Meet the Newest Addition to the UCPWA Family



Eric McIntyre is our new HSP Program Coordinator/QMRP. Eric was previously a valued employee with our Hourly Support Program and has recently been promoted to serve as the programs Qualified Mental Retardation Professional (QMRP). He has been with UCPWA since December of 2005 and enjoys working with the clients and employees of the program. He holds a BS degree in social work from Jackson State and has proved to be indispensable in his new role. He and his wife Robyn have four children and he is a die-hard Steelers fan. Stop by UCPWA and say hello to Eric anytime.



CFWA board member Bill Tate presents Toni Franklin with a grant to purchase recliners for our day program.

UCPWA Board of Directors

President: **David Kelly**
 President-Elect: **Steven Smith**
 Secretary: **Kimberly Payne**
 Treasurer: **Cheryl Arnold**
 Immediate Past President: **Mike Carroll**
 Executive Director: **Toni Franklin**
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Michele Z. Boyd
Patricia Goggans
Kellie Golden
Donnie S. Grill
LaTonya Hanible
Sidney Hannah
Mack Hitt
David Hood
Fred Hughes
Sandra Junkin
Jimmy Osmore
Gene Smith
Gloria Hamner Stewart
Dan Tidwell
Chuck Turner
Crissi Key Waters
Alan Wood

"Quality is not defined by certification. It is what happens every day."

Corporate Sponsors

Platinum:
Four Points Sheraton Hotel
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Gold:
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Tennis Jackson Electric/
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Supreme Beverage Co

Bronze:
Buffalo Rock/Pepsi
Tuscaloosa Toyota, Inc

Want to join our magnificent corporate sponsors? Here is the opportunity you have been waiting for... your company can be a corporate sponsor of UCPWA. We offer four levels of sponsorship.

Platinum (\$5,001 or more)

Gold (\$2,501-\$5,000)

Silver (\$1,001-\$2,500)

Bronze (\$500-\$1,000)

Do not let this opportunity pass you by. Sponsor now and be involved in a growing non-profit that is making a difference in West Alabama. A Corporate Sponsor can provide these amounts in either monetary, in-kind services or a combination of both. For more information please contact Toni Franklin at the UCPWA office (205) 345-3031, extension 11. We love our Corporate Sponsors!



Board member Jimmy Osmore, staffer Marcus Williams and CARE participant Jennifer Duff enjoy Christmas party.

Pay It Forward

Remember **Vicki Sievering** winning the \$50 gift card? She took a portion of those winnings and used it towards something wonderful. The **Management Team** of UCPWA wanted to do something special for the clients of the Adult Day Program and came up with the idea of providing each person with a hand made lap blanket for Christmas. We at UCPWA put our money where our mouth is and are usually the first to donate and contribute to our employer since we are all so committed to serving people with disabilities. We were able to purchase 25 different fleece patterned materials from **Hancock Fabrics** at a discount (thanks Hancock Fabrics!) Then those **County High** girls **Meaghan Lawlor** and **Jessica Howard** took over. They devoted a day to cutting and making the blankets and were able to get 11 done. **Meaghan** is so dedicated to UCPWA that she took the next few weekends and any time she had at night after school to finish the rest of them. Thanks **Meaghan**, **Jess** and **Managers** for making just a few Christmases in our world a little brighter and warmer.



Upcoming Events

“I Thee Wed” bridal show fundraiser is right around the corner. **Jester’s Florist, CKW Designs and Hudson-Poole Jewelers** are presenting this on January 14, 2007 at the **Sheraton Four Points** hotel at 2:00 PM. There will be a runway presentation and a calendar look at everything you’ll need for your wedding and your home. Ticket’s available beginning January 2 at Jester’s, Hudson-Poole Jewelers, various participating stores and the UCP office. Cost of tickets are \$15 each. Seating is limited and last year’s event was a huge success so get your tickets early. Hope to see you there.

Starfest Telethon- our main fundraiser is being held March 25, 2007 1-5 PM at WVUA 7 headquarters in Reese Phifer Hall on the beautiful University of Alabama campus. This year’s Honorary Spokesperson is **Roy Clem, General Manager of WVUA**. We are combining the telethon with the playground fundraiser and have a very exciting challenge ahead. Our goal is to raise \$300,000 which will provide for the playground/park and to meet the growing needs of UCPWA. Please plan on pledging your support and make your donation the largest amount you have ever given to a non-profit. For more information on how you can give, please see the **Opportunity to Give** section today.

Save the date. Taste of the Town will be August 7, 2007 at **Shelton State Community College**. This year’s theme is **“Dancing Under the Stars.”** Watch for more details later!

OPPORTUNITY TO GIVE

Your tax-deductible gift to United Cerebral Palsy of West Alabama will help provide comprehensive supports to over 450 infants, children and adults with cerebral palsy and other disabilities and their families in West Alabama. Receipts are mailed on all contributions or donations over \$25.00. **REMEMBER, 90 CENTS OF EVERY DOLLAR DIRECTLY BENEFITS THE PERSONS SERVED THROUGH THE SERVICES OF UCP OF WEST ALABAMA.** *Won’t you please make your pledge today for this facility to show your support for those with needs in our community?* Complete the tear-off section below and return to UCP of West Alabama, Inc., 1100 UCP Parkway, Northport, AL 35476. Or, visit www.ucpwa.org and click on “Donate Now” to pay with your Visa or MasterCard. Be sure to designate UCP of West Alabama!

You can make a donation in honor or memory of someone special. You can also make a donation to the park and we will recognize this contribution on a plaque prominently displayed in the Park.

In Honor/Memory of: _____ Is this for the park? _____

Send notice of honorarium/memorial to:

Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone #: _____

Donor Information:

Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____

*“The value of a man resides in what he gives and not in what he is capable of receiving.”
-Albert Einstein*



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Northport, AL 35476
(205) 345-3031

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Mission Statement:
United Cerebral Palsy of West Alabama, Inc serves the community by providing a full array of beneficial services and resources to individuals with disabilities and their families by advocating their full independence, productivity and citizenship. We also educate through public awareness, fund-raising efforts, dissemination of information, and acquisition of resources.

UCP of West Alabama
1100 UCP Parkway
Northport, AL 35476
Phone: (205) 345-3031 **Fax :**(205) 345-3035

Did you notice the new format and flavor of our newsletter? How about the new name? Let us know what you think and if you have any ideas for items to include in our next update!

We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

www.ucpwa.org

Who We Are

Without the valued dedication, work and commitment of an awesome staff, everything we do at UCPWA would not be possible. Should you need anything or would like to let us know how we are doing, please contact any of the following at (205)-345-3031:

Toni Franklin, Executive Director, ext. 11

Angela Green, CQI Director, ext. 17

Paula Peacock, Client Services Director, ext. 15

Maria Lawlor, Finance Director, ext. 19

Deirdre Miller-Rogers, Program Director, ext. 23

Eric McIntyre, QMRP/HSP Supervisor, ext. 13

Liz Elliott, Day Hab Supervisor, ext. 14

Vicki Sievering, Admin/HR Assistant, ext. 18

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