

## Life Without Limits

### OUR MISSION

*To maximize independence and opportunities for full participation in the community for individuals with cerebral palsy or other disabilities, and their families, by raising the standard for quality programs, service and advocacy.*

### 27th Blue Chip Gala

On April 21st at the Springfield Hilton a great turnout of UCP Land of Lincoln supporters gathered to enjoy the 27th annual Blue Chip Gala. UCP's wonderful guests and sponsors helped to raise over \$80,000 for the children's programs! All the money raised stays right here in Central Illinois to assist families through UCP's support services.



Mary Anne Holloway with her SoHo Chic table

The auction included trips to Florida, San Francisco & Las Vegas, catered parties, and other great items donated to this event. In addition to the great auction items offered this year everyone was able to have fun playing casino games and dancing to the music of the Debbie Ross Band.



Jill Egizii with her Hollywood themed "unforgettable" table

UCP Land of Lincoln would like to thank the many businesses and individuals who donated goods and services to help reach the goal! A very special thank you to

the 2007 Blue Chip Committee: Jill Egizii, Mary Anne Holloway, Dr. Sherry Simmons, Steve Brune, Drew Davis, Jim Hillestad & Lisa Nardi.

Thank you to everyone who supported this successful event!

### Thank you to our sponsors:

#### Diamond Sponsors:

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#### Special Thanks to:

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## Message From The President

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*Life Without Limits*  
is published quarterly by  
*UCP Land of Lincoln.*

**UCP Land of Lincoln,  
101 N. Sixteenth Street  
Springfield, IL 62703**

**Visit our website  
[www.ucpll.org](http://www.ucpll.org)**

The leadership of United Cerebral Palsy Land of Lincoln has been engaged in eliciting input from all of our key stakeholders during the past year. We have done this through advisory groups from the community, the adult services council, surveys and conversations. We have learned a great deal about what people think we do well and areas where we need to expand or improve services. This has been a very informative process as well as useful as we plan for the future direction of the organization.

The work of the organization has been guided by annual and long-term goals in the past, and while useful, the best of plans have often been sidelined because of the lack of funding or a change in state priorities to implement those goals. During the planning cycle the leadership has elected to shift from the concept of goals to strategic vision. Although this is a change, the process just makes more sense in the constantly shifting framework of funding at the local, state and national levels.

The guiding vision statement adopted by the board of directors is **“Through visionary leadership, UCP provides innovative strategies to connect people with disabilities with their community”**. This vision is supported by four strategic vision areas that include: **Financial Stability and Strong Infrastructure, Strategic Growth, Quality Outcomes and Community**. We are very excited about the direction of our vision and the impact this will have on the services that UCP offers for children and adults with disabilities. I hope that you will visit our website in July at [www.ucpll.org](http://www.ucpll.org) to see the complete plan.

Thank you for your continued support,



Brenda L. Yarnell, Ph.D.  
President/CEO

### Life Without Limits TV Show

UCP has a weekly television program which airs on Insight's Channel 4. *Life Without Limits* is hosted by board member Jill Egizii. You can watch our show on Wednesdays at 3:30 am, 11:30 am and 8:30 pm.

### White Glove Cleaning Professionals

White Glove Professionals, a division of UCP, offers a wide variety of commercial cleaning services to meet the needs of local businesses. Daily, weekly, monthly, seasonal & annual services can be performed during the day, after business hours or on weekends. Contact Bill Dye at 525-6522.

UCP began a job training site for students and recent graduates with disabilities two years ago at the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT). The “Student Professionals with Disabilities” program started in the IDOT cafeteria and soon grew to other departments within the agency. The program continues to flourish as students began training in eight more departments this year including District 6, District 4, the Bureau of Aeronautics, Bureau of Civil Rights, Bureau of Bridges and Structures, the Bureau of Budget and Accounting, the Office of Labor Relations, and the Bureau of Computer Services.



Recognition of the program at IDOT

This unique program is a collaborative effort between UCP, IDOT, the Division of Rehabilitation Services and Springfield Public Schools. Individuals involved in the program have the opportunity to learn real work skills and to be more prepared for their future. UCP provides Job Coaches to work with the individuals and to provide them with hands on training. Students in high school receive class credit for attending the training program.

During the first year 13 students came to IDOT for training, both in the cafeteria and in the offices. Of these 13 individuals, 11 of them have successfully obtained competitive employment in the community. This year IDOT hired seven out of ten trainees for Summer Tech positions. UCP and IDOT have been recognized by the National Rehabilitation Association on both the state and national level for their work in this outstanding program. On May 10, 2007, the program was recognized at the IDOT Diversity Council Summit of State Employees.

### United Way of Central Illinois

UCP Land of Lincoln will receive \$63,488.30 from the United Way of Central Illinois to fund both new and existing programs in fiscal year 2008. The UCP Children’s Assistive Technology program has been awarded \$31,601.52 with UCP Camps receiving \$8,357.65.

Bridges, a new program for high school students, will receive first time funding of \$10,270.43. In addition, UCP will receive \$13,258.70 in donor designated gifts. These programs for children and youth with disabilities do not receive government funding and would not be possible without the support of United Way of Central Illinois.

The UCP Children’s Assistive Technology and Computer Loan Program is the only program of its kind in Central Illinois. The program offers children with disabilities and their families the opportunity to borrow equipment before making a financial investment. The AT Specialist is available to provide training and ongoing support to the family.

The Camping Program at UCP includes a summer long series of residential and day camps along with playgroups and recreational activities throughout the year. Due to their special need, campers are not eligible for other camps or day care. While parents are at work campers are busy with field trips and activities that are educational, provide recreation or allow the students the opportunity to express their artistic talents. All the while, the campers are learning through a variety of hands on experiences.

The UCP Bridges program will address the needs of students with disabilities as they prepare to transition from high school to employment or post-secondary education and living in the community. The Bridges program includes outreach and education as well as an after school program focusing on educational, employment, leadership and life skills. The goals of the Bridges program are to increase graduation and employment rates for students with disabilities.

On behalf of all the children and families who benefit from these programs, UCP Land of Lincoln would like to thank the individuals and businesses who donated to United Way of Central Illinois for their continued support of UCP’s services.

Trivia Nights at Blocks

Every Thursday during June & July at Blocks in Decatur there will be a trivia night to support UCP! Teams of four can sign-up from 7 to 8pm the night of for \$40. For more information contact Brandy Short at 428-5033.

Summer Camp in Decatur

Camp activities include field trips to Bloomington Zoo, New Salem State Park, the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum, horseback riding at Starr Stables, pottery classes at Decatur Arts Council, fishing clinics at Fairview park and a show at Sullivan's Little Theater on the Square.

The three one-week sessions of the camp will be held June 18th to 22nd, July 23rd to 27th and August 13th to 17th. Camp hours are 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The Camp is for youth with all types of disabilities ages 6 to 21.

There is a fee based on a sliding scale to attend each session. However, there are various scholarships available for individuals as needed, as well as differing payment options. Space is limited and admissions is on a first-come, first-serve basis. For more information contact LeAnne Shoemaker at 428-5033.

Special thanks to our Summer Camp sponsors, Refreshment Services—PEPSI, Lincolnland AMBUCS and the Lee Robinson Foundation.

Memorials to UCP Land of Lincoln

*In memory of Walter N. Miller  
Linda Baumgartner*

United Way of Decatur

UCP Land of Lincoln is pleased to announce that the Youth Development/Employment and Medical Support Programs were awarded United Way funding for the upcoming fiscal year. The Youth Development/Employment program will receive \$37,017 with Medical Supports funded for \$12,721. In addition, UCP will receive \$2,605.60 in donor designated funds for a total of \$52,343.60. Funding from United Way of Decatur is especially important to individuals with disabilities in Macon County as it is used as a match for the Title XX Donated Funds Initiative grant from the Illinois Department of Human Services.

The UCP Youth Development and Employment program includes supports for children from early childhood through the age of 22 in Lekotek, assistive technology and computer loans, educational skill development, playgroups, crisis intervention, transition training, employment skills training and supported employment. Youth Development and Employment is that fastest growing program offered by UCP. The program serves an average of 180 children and families per year; however, with the additional funding from United Way of Decatur, UCP expects to serve 225 children and youth.

The UCP Medical Support Services program works to ensure that individuals with disabilities in our community have access to primary medical care, medical specialists, therapy, mental health and dental services including access to specialized equipment. For individuals with disabilities, access to healthcare means more than finding a healthcare provider. Transportation is a significant barrier to obtaining healthcare. Through United Way funding, UCP expects to support 150 individuals in this program.

UCP Land of Lincoln would like to thank everyone involved with the United Way of Decatur including staff, volunteers and donors for your support of these programs.

Bradley

At UCP Land of Lincoln we are grateful to be a part of many success stories of individuals in our community. This month we are highlighting the star of one of those success stories - Bradley Hermann.

Bradley first came to UCP as a camper. Three years ago



Bradley with Dr. Yarnell & Jill Egizii at the 2006 awards dinner

Bradley asked if he could be a volunteer to help other children have as much fun at summer camp as he did. The first year he served as an assistant to the camp director, and in subsequent summers he is one-on-one volunteer buddy taking on the responsibility of working with a camper. Last summer Bradley

volunteered over 150 hours during resident camp. He was awarded the 2006 UCP Camper Volunteer of the Year Award last November. Bradley is also involved with the annual Telethon and helped with State Fair Parking.

During the 2006 summer camp Bradley invited the campers to visit him at his place of employment, Monical's Pizza, to give them a tour and show the campers his job, and treated everyone to lunch. He emphasized to the manager that he was to be treated no differently due to his disability. Bradley excelled in his position of host and was given additional responsibilities as a cashier.

Bradley graduated from Southeast High School this year in the regular education program with some weighted courses. Bradley even served as the manager for the basketball team all four years. He is one of roughly 18% of individuals in UCP's programs who has a driver's license. He will be a student at Lincoln Land Community College this fall, working towards a degree in restaurant management.

When asked why he is so active in the community he said "I just like to show people what I can do". Bradley is an inspirational role model who personifies a life without limits.

Summer Camp

This year UCP staff and volunteers welcomed 50 campers to the annual overnight camp at Lake Springfield Christian Assembly Campground. In addition to swimming, crafts and the annual baseball game friendships were developed and renewed.

The campers created masterpieces using chalk, charcoal and paint with the help of local artist Shelley LaMantia. The students artwork will be on display at RMD Gallery in July. UCP will have an art walk on July 5th from 5 to 8 p.m. to open the gallery display. Please join us to see the work of our local artists!



Fundraising News

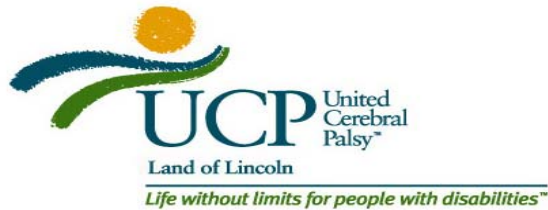
Raffle tickets are available at \$10.00 each for the LPGA State Farm Classic Pro Am Package worth \$1700.00! Please call Sarah at 525-6522 or check out our website (www.ucpll.org) to learn more!

Please remember to use www.goodsearch.com for searching the internet. Mark UCP Land of Lincoln as your charity of choice and we will receive a 1 cent donation for each search!

Every second Thursday of the month for the rest of the year the Park South Pizza Hut in Springfield will be contributing 20% of your purchase price to UCP! Please call Sarah at 525-6522 to request a voucher that needs to be turned in at the time of purchase to get the donation. The dates are: July 12th, Aug. 9th, Sept. 13th, Oct. 11th, Nov. 8th, & Dec. 13th.

## Upcoming Events

- **Thursday, July 5th** - Art Walk—Downtown Springfield 5 to 8 p.m.
- **Sunday, Aug. 12th** - State Fair Parking Day
- **Aug. 30th - Sept. 2nd** - LPGA State Farm Classic, Panther Creek in Springfield
- **Friday, Sept. 21st** - ABC Charity Open, Piper Glen Golf Course in Springfield
- **Friday, Sept. 27th** - UCP Annual Golf Outing, Scovill Golf Course in Decatur - your last chance to golf before winter!



101 N. 16th Street Springfield, IL 62703

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## Art Stars: Life Without Limits Art Exhibit

UCP Land of Lincoln is excited to be partnering with RMD Gallery & Framing Studio for the first *Art Stars: Life Without Limits* art exhibit. Each month RMD Gallery features the work of local artists and during July will showcase artwork created by adults and children with disabilities.

The *Art Stars: Life Without Limits* gallery opening will be a spotlight event during the Downtown Springfield Art Walk on Thursday, July 5<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. Please join us at RMD Gallery & Framing Studio, located at 210 South Sixth Street, for the reception honoring the UCP artists.

## *Volunteer Opportunities*

- **State Fair Parking:** August 12th - shifts of four hours from 6am to 10pm.
  - **LPGA State Farm Classic:** Panther Creek from August 29th to September 2nd, - morning & afternoon shifts are available
  - **Saddle Up!:** One and half to three hour shifts one evening a week.
  - **Summer Camp:** Volunteers donate a few days, mornings or afternoons throughout the summer months to assist campers.
- Please call Sarah or Aimee at 525-6522 for information!*