

Leo's New Lease on Life



Taryn Gotham, United Cerebral Palsy of Philadelphia and Vicinity Communications Associate and Sally Shalitta.

For the past five years, Sally Shalitta has been living with and taking care of her 55-year-old nephew Leo, who has cerebral palsy and other health concerns. In the past three months, though, Leo has made incredible progress that few thought was possible.

It was actually three months ago that Sally first came to United Cerebral Palsy. She had been looking for support for Leo for some time. Growing up, Leo's parents tried a few programs, and together, Sally and Leo explored other options. None seemed right. "Some I wanted to run from, not walk from," said Sally. But on the recommendation of Jovita Corace, a friend at North Hills Country Club and a UCP volunteer, Sally found United Cerebral Palsy.

"I can't tell you how good this program is," said Sally. "Before Leo was very introverted, but he's becoming more extroverted and more independent, too. He wants to be on his own some day he tells me. It breaks my heart to hear that, but I know that ultimately it's in Leo's best interests."

Empowering Leo to live more independently is a shared long-term goal of both Sally and Leo. Currently, Leo is participating only in the Weekend/Evening (WE) program at UCP, but the plan is to get Leo enrolled in a waiver program that will allow him to come to United Cerebral Palsy five days

a week and provide him with greater support and services, especially as he transitions to a more independent lifestyle.

"What would be ideal for Leo is to find a place he can share with his friends. He needs care and support, but he can be independent. We're working toward that," said Sally. For right now, however, Leo, Sally and his support team at United Cerebral Palsy are doing what they can to improve Leo's life and opportunities. "He's making connections here now that he never had the chance to make before," said Joe Scullin, UCP Director of Community Social Services, "And they're evolving naturally."

Through United Cerebral Palsy, Leo is also enjoying new experiences like using vending machines, playing Nintendo Wii and developing many new friendships. "I always wanted him to discover new things," said Sally, "And he's finding those things because of the great people here at UCP."

Continued on Page 2

UPCOMING EVENTS



SUNDAY, APRIL 3, 2011

1 – 5 PM

La Salle University's Tom Gola Arena



THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 2011

By the Philadelphia Art Museum

Team registrations will begin

in early January. Event Begins at 7 pm.

CONNOR'S CREW 2011

May 7, 2011

Maggie's Waterfront Café

UCP Fantasy Auction

Life Without Limits ... Realizing Life's Possibilities



Robert Mongeluzzi, Janet Fasy, Justice Russell M. Nigro, Stephen Sheridan, Karen and Stewart Cohen.

his decades of service to the citizens of Pennsylvania and his generous support of children and adults living with disabilities.

The evening began with a silent auction where guests bid on hundreds of items carefully displayed around the Hilton's ballroom. Gift certificates to Philadelphia's acclaimed restaurants, tickets to its best arts and entertainment venues, and a variety of hometown sports memorabilia were available to the highest bidders. The evening's highlight was the Live Auction featuring a number of items including the chance to throw out the first pitch at a Phillies home game, a Fantasy Weekend in New York City and a trip to tropical St. Maarten.

Steve Highsmith, PHL17's Director of Community Relations, returned as the Master of Ceremonies and auctioneer. The evening's soundtrack was provided by CTO Tribeca.

UCP wishes to thank the guests, volunteers and sponsors for making the 22nd Fantasy Auction such a wonderful and memorable event!

On Saturday, November 6, 270 guests took part in an evening dedicated to realizing life's possibilities and achieving life without limits. Held at Hilton Philadelphia on City Line Avenue, the 22nd Annual UCP Fantasy Auction raised over \$200,000 to support United Cerebral Palsy's programs and services. The evening honored Retired Pennsylvania Supreme Court Justice Russell M. Nigro for



Connor's Crew

Champions for United Cerebral Palsy of Philadelphia & Vicinity



Connor Pell is a ten-year-old boy with cerebral palsy who benefits not just from UCP, but from the "crew" that surrounds him. His parents, siblings, aunts, uncles, grandparents and friends all work together to provide him with support. Since 2006, "Connor's Crew" has been providing support for UCP, too. Every year they hold an annual benefit to raise money for UCP and its services. To date, Connor's Crew has raised nearly \$50,000 for UCP.

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SAVE THE DATE FOR CONNOR'S CREW 2011

Connor's Crew 2011 is scheduled for May 7, 2011 at Maggie's Waterfront Café.

Learn more at www.connorscrew.org

Leo's New Lease on Life

cont. from cover

The things Leo's learned and the improvements he's made in his time with Sally and at UCP are quite impressive. He's learned numbers, and concerned about diabetes, he's also learned to manage his health and his weight. "I can't believe how far he's come, and how much farther he wants to go," said Sally.

She continued, "At the same time, I can only take him so far. If there's anything out there for him, I want him to have it. And this is what he wants. Every Friday afternoon Leo is outside waiting for the van to come pick him up. He can't wait to get to UCP and be with the friends he's made. He raves

about UCP. I can't keep him quiet about it," said Sally, "and before he hardly talked."

Allowing Leo to live independently would also mean a new level of independence for Sally. Joe Scullin commented, "Sally is making sacrifices to ensure that Leo has the care he needs, she's a large part of Leo's success story." Sally responded, "I only want what's best for Leo. The real story here is all the support that United Cerebral Palsy has provided for both Leo and me. I'll be fine on my own, and I know Leo will be fine because of United Cerebral Palsy and everything they're doing to help him."

Supporting Children, Families and Parents

UCP's Children's Services



UCP's Children's Services are essential to many of the children, families, and caregivers we serve. These services allow children to learn and grow at their own pace and to their full potential. We offer a variety of children's programs that are available at our campus in Mount Airy, clients' homes and classrooms throughout the region.

Our Early Intervention Program is where many are first introduced to UCP and its services. This program provides support, services and consultation to families, caregivers and children from birth to five years old. We provide services including occupational, physical and speech therapies at our campus, in clients' homes and at Head Start and other child care programs throughout the region.

Another program offered on our campus is our Center-Based Program. Offered in a classroom designed for children living with disabilities, UCP's Center-Based Program provides one-on-one support while allowing children to be served in an inclusive setting.

Inclusion guides as much of our work as possible, and our Best Friends Program is one of the few fully inclusive programs in Philadelphia. The Best Friends Program allows children with and without disabilities to learn together all day long. We work diligently to maintain Four Keystone Stars for this program and are currently pursuing NAEYC Accreditation.

For children who require services at home or in the community, we have two programs tailored to their needs. UCP's Home-Based Program provides services for children birth to three-years-of-age and older, whose medical needs keep them at home. Children who are able to participate more fully in community programming, often find the physical and learning supports they need to thrive in our Community-Based programming, which is open to children ages three to five.

We know that children aren't the only ones who need support, though. We also offer free, monthly Support Groups for parents, caregivers and siblings of children with disabilities. The Groups include childcare for children living with disabilities to ensure that families are able to fully benefit from the group discussions.

If you or someone you know might benefit from UCP's Children's Programs, please contact Jodi Miscannon, Children's Services Director at jmiscannon@ucpphila.org or call (215) 248-7605.

Annual Justin Scarpello Memorial

Golf Classic Benefits UCP

United Cerebral Palsy of Philadelphia & Vicinity would like to thank the Scarpello Family for its ongoing commitment to our programs and services. Each year the Scarpellos host a golf outing in memory of Justin, a beloved brother and son. With the support of family and friends, the event has grown every year since its inception. This year's tournament enjoyed a record-breaking 72 golfers and raised more than \$10,000 for UCP.

Motor Cars Under the Stars



Ken Catanella, Lola Bungeroth, Sabrina Tamburino Thorne, Michael Furman.

The seventh annual UBS Motor Cars Under the Stars, presented by UBS Financial Services, was held on June 23 in the historic Samuel M.V. Hamilton Building of the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts (PAFA).

More than 360 people attended, helping to raise over \$200,000 for United Cerebral Palsy of Philadelphia & Vicinity. By presenting a curated collection of privately owned classic cars and motorcycles inside PAFA, Motor Cars Under the Stars marked the first time that vehicles were displayed inside an art museum in Philadelphia.

Guests enjoyed cocktails and dinner among the cars. All guests had the opportunity to view PAFA's exhibitions, including The Vogel Collection of Fifty Works for Fifty States and Andy Warhol Polaroids and B&W Prints. Attendees received a collector's poster autographed by world-renowned photographer Michael Furman.

UCP Best Friends Graduate



On Wednesday, June 23, the class of 2010 graduated from the UCP Best Friends program surrounded by family, friends, teachers and staff.

Jodi Miscannon, Director of Children's Services, called

each graduate up to receive a diploma. The graduates also sang several songs, led by music teacher Linda Regan of Crescendo Music Program. The ceremony ended with a slide show, featuring the graduates learning and playing over the course of the school year.

UCP Best Friends graduates are typically developing children and children with disabilities who have been in the classroom learning together side-by-side. In addition to a nurturing early childhood foundation, they have experienced the importance of understanding, tolerance and respect for each other.

Join us in wishing them all the best of luck as they embark on the next step in their education!

United Cerebral Palsy Receives Gift from the Bock Foundation



Clockwise: Joe Scullin, Joe McGrath, and Ernie Bock

On September 17, the Bock Foundation hosted its 18th Annual Charity Golf Classic at Five Ponds Golf Club in Warminster, PA. Held in memory of Jean M. and Ernest F. Bock, the event raised \$15,000 with all proceeds benefiting United Cerebral Palsy of Philadelphia & Vicinity.

The tournament was a Team Scramble Format, with the best ball being played. Prizes were

awarded to the top three teams and the most honest team. Individual awards were also given out for a variety of contests. Ernie Bock, President of The Bock Foundation, presented United Cerebral Palsy with a \$15,000 check.

Ernest Bock & Sons, Inc. is a 61-year-old general construction and construction management firm based in the Greater Northeast section of Philadelphia. They specialize in new construction, custom rehabilitation and restoration. Completed projects include restaurants, hotels, hospitals, assisted living and elderly housing, townhouses, commercial buildings, schools and country clubs.

Celebrating Life's Possibilities

Pictures from the past year



Grateful for Our Supporters

We would not be able to help as many people live a life without limits if not for the generous contributions of our donors and supporters.

If you would like to support United Cerebral Palsy of Philadelphia, and Vicinity, you can do so online at www.ucpphila.org/support or by contacting Lola Bungeroth at (215)248-7609.

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Connor's Crew

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*United Cerebral Palsy Of Philadelphia & Vicinity
Wishes You A Happy Holiday
Season And A Joyful And Healthy New Year.*

UCP's Got Talent 2010

We see incredible things here every day. But on Friday, September 24, many of our stars really shined at our 2010 UCP's Got Talent Show. The show featured 17 acts in total, with more than 40 adult service clients participating plus several staff members. Every act was spectacular, but "Wheels in Motion" a choreographed wheelchair dance; the Cupid Steppers dancing to "Cupid Shuffle;" and Jaime Bryan's rendition of Michael Jackson's "You Are Not Alone" were real showstoppers. Thanks to Brian Fitz, a staff member for serving as Master of Ceremonies and Howard Ayre, whose commercial breaks kept everyone entertained between performances.

UCP Benefit Golf Tournament

The United Cerebral Palsy (UCP) of Philadelphia & Vicinity Benefit Golf Tournament was held on June 28, 2010 at the North Hills Country Club in North Hills, PA. It was a great day of golf for more than 100 golfers who took on the course after enjoying lunch and before coming in for cocktails and dinner. Guests also enjoyed listening to guest speaker Fran Dunphy, coach of the Temple Men's Basketball team. The event raised \$75,000 for UCP's services in the Delaware Valley. Foursomes included representative from local businesses, many of whom were also event sponsors.