Dear Friends of UCP,

Last year UCP celebrated our 50th Anniversary of providing services for individuals with disabilities in our community. We have moved forward in many ways, building on our strong history and foundation.

Connecting the individuals we serve to the community is so important! The generous donation of an accessible van in memory of Marvin Moose by Gwen Moose (Ameri-Pac) was a surprise that made a big impact on our Adult Program. Thanks to a grant from United Way's Community Investment Fund we have been able to add advanced training and consultation for our staff in the area of Autism. This has resulted in our Employment Program being able to add Autism specialty to the employment services offered. Our youngest participants in the Children’s Program are being given the opportunity of power mobility to keep up with their friends.

All this would not be possible without the incredible support our community provides. This year’s annual report highlights how we are moving forward to provide the best services possible for children and adults with disabilities.

Teresa Gagliano
Executive Director
UCP of Northwest Missouri

MISSION STATEMENT

To positively affect the quality of life of individuals with cerebral palsy and other developmental disabilities through the provision of direct services, community education and by empowering self-advocacy.

2017-2018 BOARD MEMBERS

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In January 2018 UCP went through our CARF accreditation. Going through the CARF accreditation process certifies that we are committed to continuous performance improvement, responsive to feedback and accountable to the community and our stakeholders. During the on-site survey, nationals standards in the areas of business practice and programs are applied. UCP received a three year accreditation, the best possible.

Some of the findings were:

- UCP benefits from dedicated leadership and well-trained staff members who provide quality services on a daily basis.
- UCP uses an energetic and innovative approach to services.
- UCP benefits from a very active and diverse governing body that is well informed.
- The staff member’s impressive levels of knowledge and training enable them to provide services of the highest caliber.
- It is apparent upon entering the organization’s facility that the employees truly enjoy their jobs.
- The motivation to excel is a hallmark of the corporate culture of UCP that is reflected across all facets of the organization.

### Funding Sources

- 76% Purchase of Service $2,183,963
- 2% Other – Miscellaneous Rev & Invest Inc $62,667
- 4% Contributions/Memorials $101,723
- 4% Special Event – Chili Challenge $118,400
- 7% Grants PCS, Dekalb, CDBG $209,213
- 7% United Way $190,615

### Funding Allocations

- 33% Children’s Program $874,969
- 6% Capital Improvements/Equipment $151,035
- 1% Fund Raising/Special Events $20,126
- 10% Management & General $254,245
- 10% Employment Program $260,095
- 40% Adult Program $1,062,183
UCP’s Adult Program helps individuals with developmental disabilities continue to learn new skills towards greater independence through a variety of center and community-based activities. We believe that belonging to the community in which you live means much more than just living there. It means being involved in the activities and events that interest you and giving back to that community through volunteerism.

**Outcomes**

- 99% of individuals learned skills toward independence
- 97% increased computer skills
- 99% increased life skills
- 90% of individuals were involved in community volunteer projects

**UCP’s goal is to provide solid community activities designed to help program participants stay physically active, learn new skills, and develop relationships. We consistently see individuals who want to come to UCP knowing that their day will be filled with meaningful and challenging life experiences.**
Ameri-Pac Owner’s Generous Gift

The grief that comes after losing someone close to you can be overpowering and all-consuming. Often, this heartache can cause survivors to withdraw from others and to simply focus on self-preservation. This defense mechanism is quite understandable, but Gwenda (Gwen) Moose recently found another way to move forward and to honor her late husband's memory.

Marvin and Gwen Moose took their life savings and founded Ameri-Pac in 1985 with the vision of creating a company that enhanced the well-being of animals. Marvin worked so hard over the years manufacturing animal nutrition products that his family teased him by calling Ameri-Pac his 3rd and favorite child. Marvin enjoyed life to the fullest and he generously gave to others through his humor, talents and financial support. Several years ago, spinal stenosis caused Marvin to lose much of his mobility and he and his family became very familiar with power chairs and accessible vehicles.

Marvin passed away shortly after he and Gwen celebrated their 63rd wedding anniversary. At his prior request, his family and friends did not attend his funeral. Instead, they went to a party in his honor and an incredible number of hilarious stories were told about the great jokester, “Marv.” Along with the funny stories, there was also much talk about how many people learned from him how to live generously. He taught others how to use butter generously, pour gas on fires generously, pour drinks generously, laugh generously, give generously, and LOVE generously.

Realizing that she did not need their accessible van any longer, Gwen decided to donate the Pacifica to a local agency and carry on Marvin's legacy of living generously. “The St. Joseph community has been so good to us, I just wanted to share what we have,” she said. “We worked hard and we were rewarded. We are grateful for what we had, and Marv would have wanted to give the van away.”

Nearly every day, Gwen drove down Frederick Ave and often glanced towards UCP. Although she had no direct connection she began hearing about UCP and was impressed with all the available services. Imagine the excitement that ensued when she called to tell us that she was giving the van to UCP! We were so excited that the van was a beautiful color of deep maroon with all kinds of extra features! It was quickly dubbed “The purple plum,” and Gwen laughs as she exclaims how much Marvin would have loved that.

The purple plum will open the door for more individuals and will give them the chance to participate in community activities. We simply cannot thank Gwen Moose enough for thinking of UCP and giving generously so that others have the chance to live generously.....in colorful style!
UCP's Children's Program provides a wide range of services to promote the development and learning of children with special needs from birth to five years of age. Early intervention services focus on all areas of development and children served are encouraged to embrace differences and to foster strengths within themselves and their peers.

**Outcomes**

- 94% of children served increased developmental skills
- 100% of children and families reported a successful transition
- 3.86 Satisfaction survey results on a scale of 1 to 4

Adilynn's (Addy) family was looking for just the right pre-school for her. “One thing that really got me,” shared her mother, April Helfrey, “is that UCP is a program where children with and without disabilities learn together. I wanted Addy in an inclusive program. I also liked that classes were smaller at UCP. Addy can also receive her needed therapy services while attending UCP Preschool. If we had not found UCP, we would have had to drive to Kansas City to get therapy.” Addy is a social three year old with spina bifida who is always on the go. Addy greets classmates and teachers with an exclamation of “Hi!” and a huge smile.

Addy was getting around in a manual wheelchair when she started at UCP. Although she could get where she wanted to go, she did not have the energy for long distance and her shoulder joints were at risk of break down due to overuse and overextension. To increase Addy’s independence in play and to protect her shoulder joints, UCP recommended a power chair. “Getting her power chair ended up being a huge deal,” said April. “I don’t think we would have gotten it so early without the guidance and support of the UCP team. At home, her manual chair would get stuck coming in and out of the house. Now she can go out and roam. We have a lot of yard. She just runs everywhere and she loves it. She is just ear to ear grinning. We added a ramp, so she can just come and go. She’s got herself a little attitude. ‘I’m going outside!’ she shouts as she plays with her brother Cale.”

**More alike than different!**

At UCP’s preschool, children of all abilities play and learn together. At such a young age, children do not see the wheelchair, they just see their friend. Having opportunities to play together is the foundation for development.
Not only does the Children’s Program provide an integrated pre-school, physical therapy, speech therapy and occupational therapy, it also connects families. Through this connection families share experiences, equipment and resources. All this together gets the children ready to move forward to start school and be ready to learn and play!

All kinds of preschool skills are important. Having access to everything, even the sink, is important at such a young age. Developing good habits early on leads to self-sufficiency.

Strengthening my fingers while having fun with my friend!

Future artist!

Addy has a lot to say. Speech Therapy helps Addy increase her vocabulary and express herself.
UCP’s Employment Program provides services to assist individuals with disabilities in obtaining and maintaining successful competitive employment. Services can start in high school where high school juniors have the opportunity to experience their first job. As seniors, career planning begins and we assist them in discovering their career goals and the chance to try out various jobs in the community. Landing the job is supported by our staff helping create resumes, complete applications and learn interviewing skills. Job coaches provide on-the-job training. Once the individual is working independently, we continue to “check in” periodically to support long-term employment. Services are not limited to high school students. Adults with disabilities of any age can benefit from employment services.

Outcomes

- 87% obtained employment in a timely manner
- 12 new businesses hired through the program
- 98% Satisfaction level

In January 2018, UCP’s Employment Program moved forward by adding Autism Specialty through Vocational Rehabilitation Employment Services Plus, which is specifically for individuals on the Autism Spectrum. Above-average intelligence and highly developed technical skills can make applicants on the spectrum strong job candidates for many positions; however, difficulty with social interactions can create significant barriers in the application process. Our staff assists these job seekers by focusing attention on career exploration, helping the individual understand their interviewer’s viewpoint, and organizing and executing their job search strategy. We recognize some employees on the autism spectrum offer unique strengths that many employers find valuable, including above average intelligences, attention to detail, tolerance of repetition and routine, encyclopedic memory, and pattern recognition abilities.

Stefan is a perfect example of an individual who benefited from this program. Through mock interviews, employer education, studying for the employers’ organization exam, waiting for a tax levy to pass, and countless soft skills discussions – Stefan landed his dream job. Stefan is now employed as a Page at the East Hills branch of St Joseph Public Library.

Stefan’s supervisor, Mark Zvolanek, discusses his experience as follows: “When first approached by UCP about giving Stefan the opportunity to work here at the library, I had my reservations. I had not yet met Stefan and wasn’t sure if the Library would be a good fit since it takes concentration, organizational skills, and an undying work ethic. However, during Stefan’s interview, I was blown away. Stefan holds the record for the highest score on our difficult organization test with a 100%! Stefan continues to inspire all other pages to be more like him - Fast, efficient, and always hard working. If not for the UCP Employment Program, we might not have had the chance to meet and hire Stefan. We hope that Stefan decides to continue working for us for many years to come, and we appreciate that he has set the bar very high for any future employment in his field.”

Today Stefan works at the St. Joseph Public Library, is involved in the community, and recently moved in to his own apartment. Stefan’s story of moving forward is inspiring, and his perseverance has paid off! Congratulations Stefan!
Paityn, Nicholas, Julia and Joshua feel good about their first paycheck for their summer job at Mosaic.

Chris showing off his new HyVee uniform with Jana, UCP Director of Employment.

Cameron was excited to pass Wal-Mart's required testing for employment.
Community support is key to the success of the Chili Challenge. Team members, sponsors, judges, bidders and chili samplers gather together each year for good food and friendly competition. The success of this event fuels UCP as we continue to “move forward”!

1st Place Missouri State Champion
Nestle Purina IV - Kelly Schenk, Team Captain

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2018 People’s Choice Winners

1st Place
Nestle Purina $50,778

2nd Place
Long Branch Crop Tours $7,645

3rd Place
Sisters Three $7,250

4th Place
The Boys Are Back $4,370

5th Place Knights of Columbus 5057, $869
6th Place CBIZ Insurance Services, $792
7th Place Team Gray, $673
8th Place American Family Insurance, $618
9th Place Heather Ball, $379
10th Place PJ’s & MJ’s, $270
11th Place Progressive Community Services, $262
12th Place Susie’s Place, $239
13th Place Precision Lawn Care, $230
14th Place Red Hot Chili Peppers, $147
15th Place Auto Pride Car Wash, $112

Thank you for your support. Your passion and hard work make this competition successful!
This year, we raised over $118,000.
2017-2018 DONATIONS

Individuals
Ken & Maggie Bray
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Jared & Cara Brooner
James Burnham
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Carroll & Patricia Cathey
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