

Unique in Every Way



Dear Friends of UCP,

During the past 55 years, UCP of Northwest Missouri has been committed to serving the unique needs of children and adults with developmental disabilities in our community.

We are passionate about our vision “all individuals with developmental disabilities will have every opportunity to live life to the fullest”. This year’s annual report shows how we work together to make this vision a reality!

UCP’S STAFF – UNIQUE IN EVERY WAY

This highly skilled and trained group of individuals are committed and passionate about supporting children and adults with disabilities. Each and every day they use their unique expertise and talents to provide quality services to those we serve. They, like other employees throughout the area, give to United Way to make our community better for all.

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Providing Leadership,
Guidance,
and Support**

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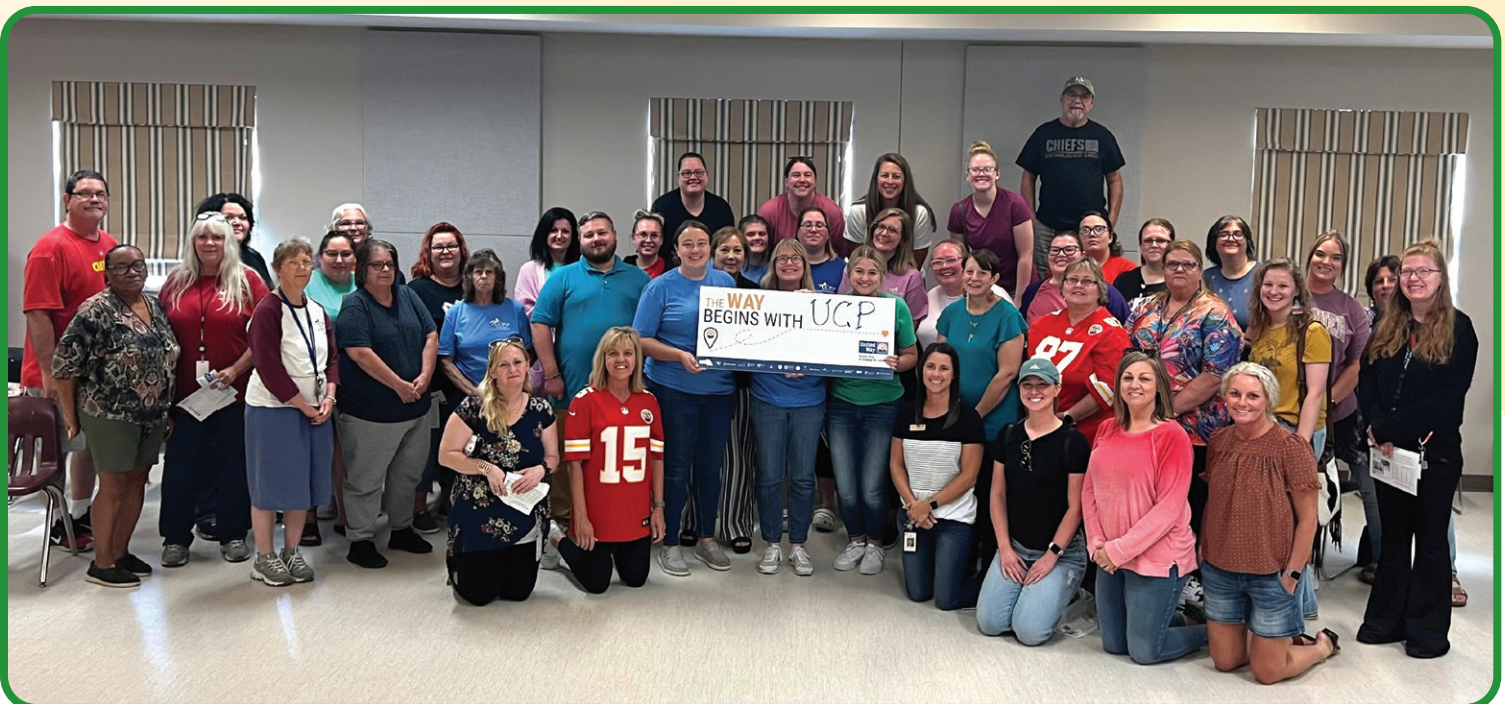
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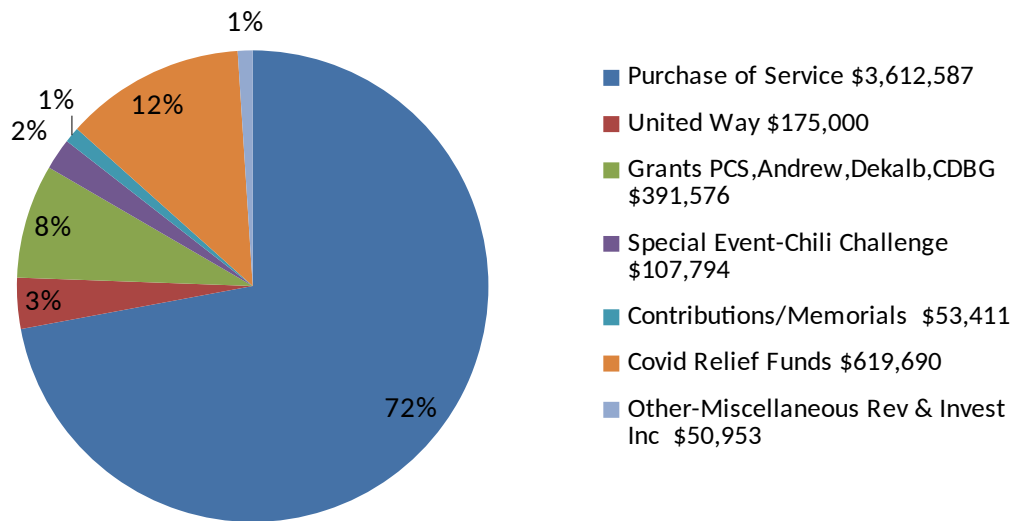
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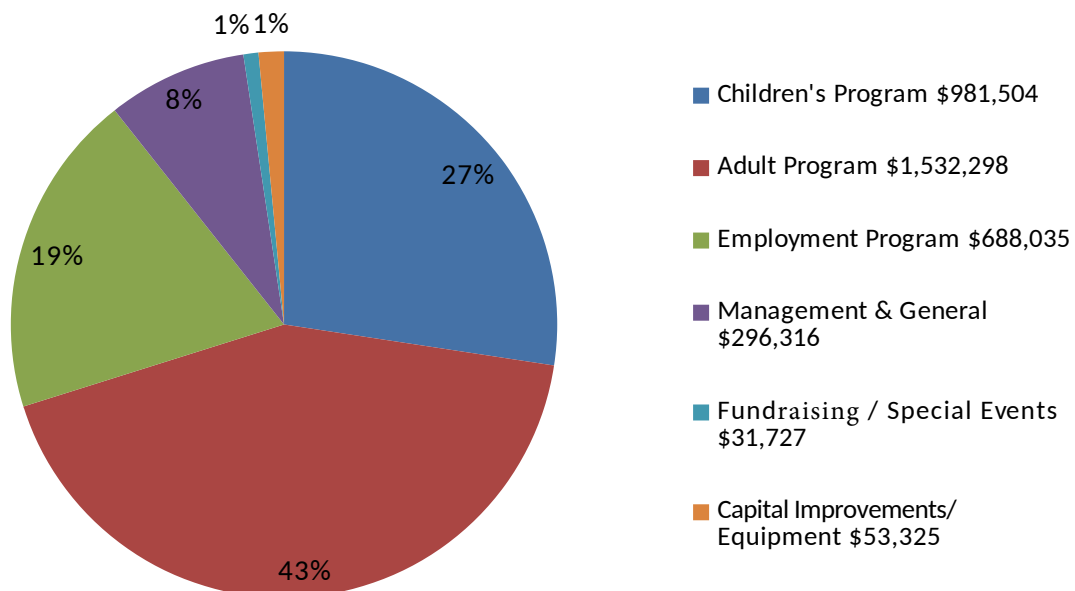
UCP 2022 - 2023

UCP is committed to being a good steward of our resources for support services for the individuals we serve. Purchase of Service revenues are services we can bill to the State of Missouri through the Department of Mental Health, Vocational Rehabilitation and Missouri First Steps. Unique goals are being achieved for each individual served because of the ongoing community support including but not limited to: United Way, County Senate Bill 40 Boards (Buchanan: Progressive Community Services, Andrew: Sunshine Factory and DeKalb Counties), The Heart of America Chili Challenge and our generous donors.

Funding Sources



Funding Allocations



Children's Program

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 foster strengths within themselves and their peers.

UCP's Early Learning and Preschool sessions are for all children, with or without developmental delay. The Early Learning Experience is for 2-year-old children and preschool classrooms are available for children ages 3-5. Research evidence is very strong that all children benefit from education in integrated settings where children with and without developmental delay play, explore and learn together.



UCP teachers combine their knowledge of child development with research-based techniques and curriculum (Project Construct Curriculum and Emerging Language and Literacy Curriculum) to plan learning experiences and environments that are aligned with Missouri's Early Learning Standards and that encompass the needs of individual learners.

After discussing what we know about apples, the children took time to explore, touch, squeeze and play with the apples. While exploring the apples, they were encouraged to notice the details and paint the apples. This led to an in-depth conversation about the shape of apples and mixing colors to find the perfect apple color.

Physical Therapy promotes gross motor skills such as sitting, creeping and walking. Physical Therapists also are a resource for adaptive equipment to increase a child's independence.



Keith, who was born prematurely, started early intervention services after his four month stay in the NICU. When he began struggling to achieve milestones, such as sitting and holding his head up, he started physical therapy. Keith's first physical therapy sessions focused on turning his head to both sides, tolerating tummy time and head control. Eventually, therapy focused on tall knees to transition to pulling up to stand, cruising and using a walker for support and finally walking independently. Sarah, Keith's mom, stated, "UCP gave us the knowledge and tools to support Keith's development and help him move forward despite significant challenges"



Children's Program -242 Children Served

Children increased developmental skills by making progress on 98% of outcomes, 100% of families reported a successful transition to school, Satisfaction survey results were 3.89 on a scale of 1 to 4.

Malachi has been receiving early intervention speech and language therapy and occupational therapy with UCP for the past 2 years.

Occupational Therapy:

from building with blocks to writing and cutting, UCP's occupational therapists are knowledgeable in fine motor dysfunction and can develop activities to build strength and coordination as well as to adapt activities to increase independence and sensory awareness.



Malachi started occupational therapy to address visual motor integration, shoulder strength, hand strength and fine motor skills that impact overall motor skills. Malachi works on various hand strengthening activities and hand-eye coordination

to improve his play skills. These activities have increased his ability to perform daily tasks more independently such as pulling a cap off a marker/pen, hold a writing utensil and tracing letters of his name with visual cues.

Speech and Language Therapy:

targets overall communication skills, as well as the necessary prerequisite skills for communication. Our speech therapists and occupational therapists work closely together to evaluate and treat feeding & swallowing disorders.

Malachi did not have any true words to communicate his wants and needs, leading to increased frustration. He learned to use TouchChat on the communication device to make requests, greet others, request the continuation or cessation of an activity, and label objects. With the use of the communication device, Malachi is able to communicate with his teachers, peers, and participate in all aspects of the classroom more effectively. With the device, he has learned to verbally imitate and it has supported his overall speech and language development.



Malachi's mom, Krystin, shares that "UCP has been a tremendous blessing for Malachi and our family. We are so thankful for how UCP utilized many resources to find the best communication device that allowed Malachi to tap into his strengths and develop his communication skills through the use of Touch to Chat. We have seen Malachi's confidence soar through the speech and occupational therapy services he has received at UCP. We are cherishing his growth and excited to continue to watch him flourish."

Adult Program

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.

Life Skills:

Cooking and baking is a huge part of our Life Skills. There are numerous opportunities to learn to make snacks and easy-to-make meals.



Sam and Aenek working together on cooking skills.



Mike preparing a chosen snack.



Trenton enjoys painting.

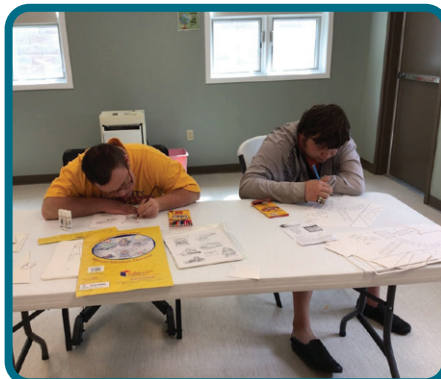
Creative Expression (Inspired Creations & Memory Makers):

Participants express themselves through the arts.

While working with a variety of mediums, individuals continue to develop fine motor skills and eye/hand coordination. In the same room at any given time, you might find an individual painting a seasonal art sheet with watercolors, someone else making jewelry, and another individual transforming a shoebox into a beautiful container for treasures.

Continuing Education:

Individuals are offered a wide variety of activities which encourage a desire to continue to learn. Research and Development provides participants the opportunity to research different topics of their choosing



Matt and Taylor are focused on increasing their knowledge on feelings.



Jessica and Terry are actively engaged in creating and displaying their work

Adult Program -72 Individuals Served

94% of individuals learned skills toward independence,
96% increased computer skills,
92% of individuals were involved in community volunteer projects.

Community Integration:

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. UCP's Adult Program community integration activities provide individuals the opportunity to belong to their community through participation in a wide variety of recreational and volunteer activities.



Jamin, Christian, and Jimmy enjoying their time out in the community. In addition to community activities, individuals have the opportunity to socialize and develop meaningful relationships.



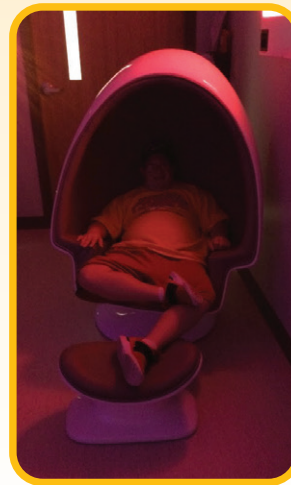
Justin enjoying shooting baskets.

Above all, we like to have fun!

From petting zoo on site, feeding the birds/squirrels, to wearing matching t-shirts.

Sensory:

Everyone occasionally needs some time to themselves to decompress. Here at UCP, individuals have access to sensory rooms with different items to meet their sensory needs.



Employment Program

UCP'S EMPLOYMENT Program helps individuals with disabilities get competitive jobs, these individuals are seen for their abilities, not disabilities. They can do just as everyone else and they want to!

Services are person-led; from the job search to the UCP supports given. Employment isn't just getting a job. Our team carries out many tasks to support our participants, from interview prep, to filling out applications to help with figuring out transportation, plus active, ongoing support once they have secured a job. This includes soft skills, too, such as communicating at work. Once participants are independent in their job we stay in contact as needed to insure long-term employment.



Chris at Brother's Market (St. Joseph)



Anna and Nichole at Country Cookie



Kaylee at Mosaic LifeCare

Summer Work Experience is a 6-week program for high school students in Special Education entering their final 2 years of high school. Students have the support of a job trainer and the opportunity for their first job where they can develop job skills, soft skills and earn their first paycheck. UCP partners with businesses all over St. Joseph as well as 2 businesses in Savannah. Some students are offered competitive employment upon completion of the program.

All Students Achieve (ASA) is a partnership between, UCP, Progressive Community Services (PCS), St. Joseph School District (SJSD), Mosaic Life Care and Vocational Rehabilitation (VR). It is a one-year internship for SJSD seniors with developmental disabilities. Students receive work experience in Environmental Services, Dietary, Distribution and other departments at Mosaic Life Care.



This is Kensley! He is a 2021-2022 ASA intern who also participated in Summer Work Experience in 2021. With all the skills he gained during both programs, Kensley was able to secure employment quickly upon graduation from high school at Albrecht Kemper Museum of Art (AKMA) as a janitorial assistant. Kensley is responsible for the daily maintenance of the museum which includes cleaning restrooms, emptying trash, dusting, vacuuming, and mopping, etc. Job Placement services were utilized to assist him with finding/obtaining this employment as well as Job Supports to learn his job. Kensley is currently in follow along services. UCP staff checks in on him 1-2 times per week to provide any assistance needed in order to maintain employment. Kensley recently completed a survey for UCP where he gave a double thumbs up regarding satisfaction of services provided to him.

Elijah, a 2022-2023 ASA intern, received Pre-Vocational Services during his internship at Mosaic Life Care to develop skills needed to be successful in competitive employment upon graduation from high school.



Employment Program- 155 Individuals Served

87% obtained a job in a timely manner, 98% satisfaction on surveys,
2 new businesses hired through the Program



Exploration for **Morgun** as he experiences first-hand the job tasks required and the skills necessary to be a table attendant at Pizza Ranch. Discovery and Exploration helps individuals learn more about themselves, their interests and shaping a direction for their job search.

Madison, a 2023 high school graduate working on independence in task completion in Apparel at Walmart Supercenter North. Madison is a former Summer Work Experience student who then utilized Supported Employment Services. While in Job Placement, Madison worked with UCP staff applying for employment and readying herself for interviews. She is currently receiving on the Job Supports to assist her with learning her job tasks and acclimating to her new working environment.



Markus participated in Summer Work Experience in 2022 with Saint Joseph School District at Central High School. He enjoyed the experience so much he expressed interest in employment with SJSD. With the support of UCP in filling out an application, preparing for an interview, support through his interview, and some behind the scenes work, Markus was offered employment in March 2023. Job Supports were provided to assist him with learning job tasks and developing a daily routine. Markus is currently in follow along services where UCP staff checks in on him 1-2 times per week to provide any additional assistance needed.

Stephane began her journey with UCP in 2018 with Discovery & Exploration. She was able to job shadow different positions in order to identify a vocational goal. She then participated in Pre-Vocational services to further develop skills needed for competitive employment. Near the end of Pre-Vocational services, a job opportunity presented right here at UCP as a need for a part time custodian had been identified. This was a Monday through Thursday position with daytime hours, which were preferences that were important to Stephane when discussing employment. Job Placement services were utilized in assisting Stephane to secure employment. Job Supports were provided to help her learn required job tasks and develop a routine that she would follow daily. UCP staff is able to work with Stephane each day through longer-term Job Supports to assist and support her in her employment.



UCP 37th Annual Chili Challenge Raises \$107,000

UCP's Heart of America Chili Challenge is truly a unique event. In 37 years, this special event has raised over 2.3 million dollars to provide services for children and adults with developmental disabilities.

We are grateful to every team, sponsor, vendor, volunteer and attendee at the March 5, 2023 UCP Chili Challenge. Your dedication and efforts support the work of UCP. Together we change the lives of local children and adults with disabilities.



**Save the date for the 38th Annual Chili Challenge –
March 3, 2024 Spread the word – to all Chili lovers who would
love to compete, judge and shop the silent auction!**



CHILI SPONSORS



**1st Place Missouri State Champion Axe
Factor Illuminate**



2nd Place Fletcher Contracting



3rd Place Randy Widener 22+2

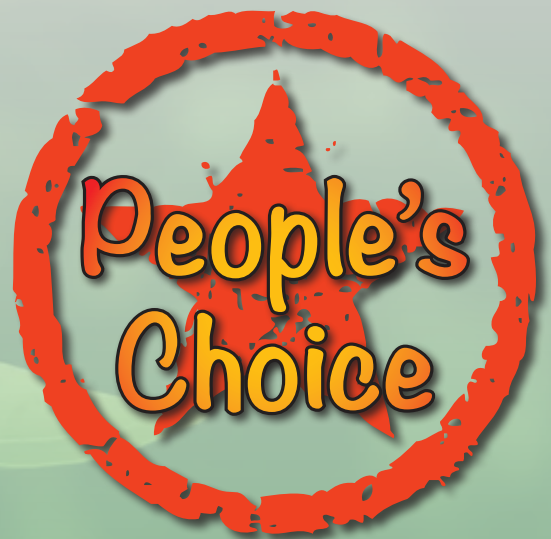


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1st Place People's Choice Purina • \$39,118.00
(\$758,832.00 – 15 year total)



2nd Place Sisters Three • \$18,014.00
(\$122,785.00 – 16 year total)

PEOPLE'S CHOICE

<u>Place</u>	<u>Team Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
5th	American Family Insurance	\$1,106.25
6th	Knights of Columbus II	\$1,027.00
7th	Going Green for CP	\$741.01
8th	Biggins Sports Bar&Grill	\$623.00
9th	Gray Manufacturing 2	\$526.85
10th	Downey & Bennett Chili Connection	\$465.00
11th	Choices of St. Joseph	\$196.00
12th	Zach's Secret Chili	\$146.00
13th	3 Gen Chili	\$144.00
14th	Leandra Coursen	\$96.00
15th	Joseph Kline	\$92.00



3rd Place The Boys Are Back • \$1,647.00
(\$175,295.00 – 22 year total)



4th Place Clarios • \$1,412.00

Thank You to Our Generous Donors 2022-2023

Memorials

Ashley Duncan

Don & Barbara Montgomery

Justin Gould

Curtis & Barbara Gould

Ron Gove

Audrey Gove

Dean & Denise Kerns

Welcome Wagon

Dick & Jeannine Hinkle, David Hinkle, & Michelle Hinkle

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Bill Mooney, Jr.

Todd & Heather Weddle

Ruth Mooney

Gerald "Sonny" Thompson

Anonymous

James Bowers

Nadine Burns

Jerry & Mary Grace

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Jane Mueller

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Chapter H.Y. PEO

CHS Class of 64

Memorials

Wendy Wilkerson

Jerry & Barbara Wilkerson

In Honor Of

Mallory Bray

Julie Ausmus

Jeffrey & Gratiana Blackburn

Larry & Dianne Dunham

Karen Fritz

Ann Hamlet

Karen Hamlet

Tom Hamlet

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Individuals

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Missouri State Council
Knights of Columbus
Welcome Wagon of St. Joseph

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

Vision: All individuals with development disabilities will have every opportunity to live life to the fullest.