

# UCP The Connection

Dear UCP Team,

I had the opportunity to be in Washington DC the week of January 13, 2014 to represent UCP of Central Arizona. During that week, I met with Congressman Ed Pastor, Congressman Paul Gosar and Interim Deputy Secretary for Transportation, Victor Mendez. The discussions with these great leaders focused on the wonderful programs and services we provide at UCP. The Congressmen and Deputy Secretary expressed their praise and gratitude to all of you for your passion and commitment in serving children and adults with disabilities.



In addition, I would like to wish Peggi Peaslee the best in her new journey. Her last day at UCP is February 7, 2014. As many of you know, for the past 2.5 years, Peggi has served in different capacities here at UCP. She was hired as UCP's HR Director and was later promoted to her current position of Chief Operating Officer. During Peggi's tenure, she participated in the organization's restructuring, capacity building, and overseeing the programs. As part of the Executive Team, Peggi was also involved in the organization's strategic planning process, budget discussions, gap analysis and WIG planning, among other things. I would like to express my sincere gratitude for her service in advancing UCP's mission and vision, especially as it relates to the children and adults we serve. I wish her the best of luck in her future endeavors. Thanks Peggi!

Sincerely,

Armando Contreras



## Employee Spotlight

How does someone with a music scholarship decide to pursue a career working with individuals with disabilities? That is the question asked to Laura Blalack, provider and driver in our DTT program.

Laura received a music scholarship and pursued her degree in elementary education with the thought of becoming a teacher but, along the way, she had a change to pursue a career in the medical field working as a CNA in assisted living facilities and also as a medical assistant in a clinic setting. Laura then shifted her priorities and was a stay at home mom to her two sons, now ages 14 and 10. When it was time for Laura to return to the workforce, she was seeking opportunities where she could work with children who have special needs. It was at that time, a year and a half ago, that she joined the UCP team.

"Having a son with Asperger's really helped me be more aware of the challenges parents face in regards to finding schools and programs that understand the needs of children diagnosed with Autism or Asperger's," stated Laura. "I wanted to share my personal experience and help the children and the families."

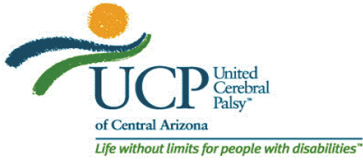
Laura feels that one of the best things about our DTT program is that our kids and their behaviors are understood. The kids are able to express themselves, there is no "judging" made. Unlike some experiences she faces with her son at times, in school or out in public. In her spare time she and her sons enjoy many activities including hiking, camping, watching football games, video games and cooking.  
Bucket List: Go to an NFL Game and just once, beat her son in a video game!





## Circle K Corner

Thanks to the dedication of Circle K customers and employees, over \$3,350,000 has been collected up to date for UCP of Central Arizona, Southern Arizona, and Opportunity Village of Nevada. This is an incredible amount for in-store canister collections and over \$217,000 more than last year at this time. The continuous support and dedication of Circle K employees, along with the generosity of their customers has made so many things possible for UCP and most importantly to the many children and adults that we serve. Thank you Circle K.



In collaboration with **AzTAP** ARIZONA Technology Access Program and **Ryan House** present....



# Art Without Limits

By: **Zot Artz**  
Arts For All

Saturday, March 29, 2014  
UCP, 1802 W. Parkside Lane, Phoenix, AZ 85027

**Workshop: 8:30am to 12:00pm** A hands-on learning experience where attendees will gain experience using adaptive art equipment, making large and small works of art. This workshop uses a library of adapted art tools that allow all individuals an opportunity for creative expression. Targeted for Occupational, Physical, Speech, Recreational, and Art Therapists, Educators, Art Teachers, Special Education Teachers, and Social Service Agencies. **Workshop Fee: \$25**

If you agree to participate and volunteer to help at the community event, the workshop fee of \$25 will be waived. Register today at <http://aztap.org/at-education/community-events/> or contact **Adi Kalika** at 602-728-9534 or [adi.kalika@nav.edu](mailto:adi.kalika@nav.edu)

**Community Event: 1pm to 5pm** Art Without limits will offer a fun day for individuals with disabilities to express themselves through art, using adaptive art tools. **Open Invitation, Free for everyone!** Register today at <http://aztap.org/at-education/community-events/> or contact **Adi Kalika** at 602-728-9534 or [adi.kalika@nav.edu](mailto:adi.kalika@nav.edu)

## Moving the WIG forward

The EI and Therapy teams were hard at work on January 13<sup>th</sup> as they dug deeper into the Four Disciplines of Execution. The focus of the training was to create a functioning scoreboard and also to really grasp a feel of what a WIG session and huddle look like. The teams worked as a group to create five total scoreboards; one for each AZEIP region, one for the clinic therapists, and one for admin staff. The Leadership team will be creating their own scoreboard as well. Please stop by to see all the works of art to be inspired!





# Chili Cook-Off Success!!

A BIG thank you for all those that participated and made the Chili Cook off a success. We got to interact with one another, show our UCP team spirit, and most importantly, support our co-workers, the Ellis Family. Thank you Fun Committee for your efforts in making UCP a fun place to work!



Winners of the contest:  
1st Place: Dallas Myers  
2nd Place: Tom Smith  
3rd Place: Yahaira Jauregui



A successful WIG's Kick off Celebration took place January 28th. Thank you to all in attendance. UCP is encouraged by the enthusiasm the staff is giving in contributing to move our goal of increasing therapy services in our community. In order to continue effective communication agency wide, we will soon be announcing the dates of our upcoming Champions' Summits/ Town Hall meetings. Stay tuned...

## Paychex Corner

W-2's from Paychex have been sent out. If you did not have the correct address in Paychex, please take the time to update. If it has been returned undeliverable at that time, we can forward to your updated address. W-2's are also available in Paychex in the Human Resources Tab. Click on Compensation, Print Tax Forms. These are also usable for tax purposes.

Now is a good time to review that all your personal information in Paychex is accurate including address, phone numbers, emergency contacts. Every employee has the ability to change this information themselves.

If you have any questions, please contact Payroll or Human Resources.

## New IT Ticket System

Just a reminder that we have a new IT ticket system. The website is as follows: <http://support.ucpof.az.com>.

Click on that link to pull up on your web browser, hold down the "Ctrl" key and press D to save it as a bookmark for later use. If you have not yet registered, please email the IT email group and let them know. This new ticketing system is in place already. Please use it when you encounter any problems. And when your ticket is complete, don't forget to rate the work of the IT group.

## How to donate to UCP and earn a tax credit

The Arizona Charitable Tax credit allows you to donate to UCP and you will get a dollar-for-dollar tax credit. Up to \$200 filing single, or \$400 if filing a joint return on your state income tax. What does this mean? You won't be spending a dime, and you will be helping children and adults with disabilities in need. Please help us spread the word about this wonderful opportunity!

# Get Ready for Bondurant!!!



How exciting to say its that time again. Let's get ready for the 10th Annual, yes 10th Annual Bondurant Cup. UCP is thrilled to say that Walmart has agreed to be our presenting sponsor once again! This year's Bondurant Cup will bring so much more excitement to our guests beginning with our special guest speaker, Nick Lowery, Hall of Fame Athlete, and a group of his football colleagues who will be present throughout the event. A new Community Resource Fair will be open to the public, along with a petting zoo, face painting, and not to mention some exciting racing. So come out and join us for a fun day and support UCP.



UCP of Central Arizona was proud to take action in the "Wheelchairs for Humanity" campaign that assisted with purchasing 200 wheelchairs that were shipped over to the Philippines. The 200 wheelchairs were given to typhoon survivors that lost their wheelchairs during the tragedy.

Thank you Southwest Gas and its employees for pledging \$4,601.49 to UCP from their 2013 workplace giving campaign, "Fuel for Life"

## Job Openings

- Medical Director
- Teacher- ELC
- Teacher and Driver (ELC & DTT programs)
- Occupational Therapist
- Physical Therapist
- DTT Program Aid & Driver full/ part-time
- HCBS Provider
- ELC Admin assistant part-time

To learn more about the job opportunities listed above, please visit UCP's company profile at [www.jobing.com](http://www.jobing.com)

## In the Community

UCP Is out there, making our community aware of our great programs and services. We are very excited to have been chosen as the charity of benefit for Kendra Scott Jewelers, "**Kendra Gives Back**" event, where 20% of the profits raised that day will come back to UCP. Thank you Brittani Roberts and Erin Jansma for representing us in the event and making it all happen!



We were also pleased to have been able to make a presence in the event "**Creciendo Unidos**" (Growing Together) which targets our Hispanic community. Thank you Sandra Caudillo and Sandra Bernal for your representation.



# It's All About You

## New Hires

Margaret Meyer, HCBS  
Jody Biedenbender, HCBS  
Grant Lokken, HCBS  
Beth Hansen, HCBS  
Mary "Susie" Wills, TX  
Tracy Sobers, TX  
Amber Oswald, TX

## February Birthdays

Chase Jonah, DTA  
Olivia Hernandez, ELC  
Carol Proch, ELC  
Sandra Bernal, Fundraising  
Vira Bohannon, HCBS

Vivian Frazee, HCBS  
Adelita Gordon, HCBS  
Beth Hansen, HCBS  
Judith Lyon, HCBS  
Rebecca Nair, HCBS  
Laura Poush, HCBS  
Dalton Settlemire, HCBS  
Brenda Ray Smith, HCBS  
Patricia Stacey Harrigan, HCBS  
Nydia Torres, HCBS  
Mellissa Bayles, TX  
Terrie Biesemeyer, TX  
Dolores Keech, TX

## February Anniversaries

### 1 Year

James Butinski, DTA  
Heather Smallcanyon, DTA  
Sharon Main, HCBS  
Daniel Scott, HCBS  
Jennifer Rachi, TX  
Laura Smith, TX  
Tina Mwanzo, HCBS  
Susan Damewood, TX  
Tatum Hemmeger, TX

### 3 Years

Dianna May, HCBS  
Loretta Keegan, HCBS

### 4 Years

Jennifer Corkin, HCBS

### 5 Years

Josephine Norie, HCBS

### 6 Years

Thomas Smith Jr., Tech. Fac.

Susan Jankowski, DTA

Lynn Kretchmar, HCBS

Janet Proch, TX

### 10 Years

Douglas Fromm, HCBS

### 11 Years

Wendy Gage, HCBS

### 16 Years

Vira Bohannon, HCBS

## Training Opportunities

REGISTER THROUGH [MYPAYCHEX.COM](http://MYPAYCHEX.COM) FOR ANY OF THE FOLLOWING

### Computer trainings for January: Conducted by Kim Milton

#### Laura Dozer Center

Feb 12th 9:00– 12:00pm Access Database  
1:00– 4:00pm Securing Technology  
Feb 19th 9:00- 12:00pm Database layout (Access)  
1:00– 4:00pm Formats and Functions (Excel)

### CPR & First Aid:

#### Conducted by Ernesto Castro

Feb 7th Fri CPR 8:30am – 10:30am  
1<sup>st</sup> Aid 10:30am – 1:00pm  
Feb 22nd Sat CPR 8:30am – 10:30am  
1<sup>st</sup> Aid 10:30am – 1:00pm

### Lifting & Wheelchair Safety, Medication

### Policies & Procedures, Bloodborne Pathogens:

#### Conducted by Ernesto Castro

Feb 5th Wed Bloodborne Pathogens 1:00pm – 2:30pm  
Medications 2:30pm – 3:30pm  
Lift/Wheelchair Safety 3:30pm – 4:30pm  
Feb 21st Fri **BBP Recertification 1:30pm – 2:15pm**  
Feb 25th Tue Bloodborne Pathogens 8:30am – 10:00am  
Medications 10:00am – 11:00am  
Lift/Wheelchair Safety 11:00am – 12:00pm

### Article 9: Conducted by Ernesto Castro

To register for training, you now have to do it by email. Its easy. Email Ernesto Castro at [ecastro@ucofcentraaz.org](mailto:ecastro@ucofcentraaz.org) tell him which training and what time, and you're done!

UCP will be closed on February 17th in observance of Presidents' Day

*Happy Valentines Day!*

