

THE UCP PULSE

A Publication by UCP of Central Arizona.



Dear Team,

I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone for all their efforts throughout the 2019 fiscal year. The success of our agency is built on the efforts of our employees and, in this past year, we have enjoyed many successes.

We've come through a year that was filled with both challenges and victories.

On behalf of UCP, please allow me to extend my gratitude to each one of you for your valuable contributions to changing the lives of the individuals we serve. Working with you this past year and watching you do your magic has been a pleasure!

In this new fiscal year, here we are again standing at a crossroad with the loss of one of our contracts. Despite this challenge, we've only just begun to refocus our full potential and purpose: Our mission, "to provide comprehensive services to individuals with disabilities and their families by providing physical and developmental support as well as educational growth..." is alive and well. And our vision that, "Individuals with disabilities will achieve their potential and "experience equality in the community" is how we define "Life without Limits." Our resolve has not changed!

Today's environment has changed and is requiring us to be more creative with how we provide services to our community, and we are up for the challenge. No matter what you're feeling now, give yourself some time to process our new landscape. You might feel a sense of sadness, fear, excitement, or some combination of all those emotions. Regardless of the ups and downs, the Executive Team and I are planning to come out the other side stronger and impacting more lives.

Thank you for all the ways you inspire "Life without Limits."

Respectfully,

Brenda Hanserd

Chief Executive Officer

IMPORTANT NEWS & UPDATES

- **UCP Closed July 4th & 5th**
- **All Employee Meeting:
August 21st 10am-11am**



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Farewell Early Intervention Team!

Written by: Valerie Pieraccini MS OTR, Director of EI, Therapy, & ELC

It may not be obvious at first glance, but Champions are everywhere at UCP. Champions aren't always somebody who has received a medal on a podium; in fact, some of our Champions may never even know what it feels like to receive a round of applause. Champions aren't always somebody who has won a title; their name may never be recognized among strangers. Some of our Champions are the quietest of victors, those that have accomplished something momentous through nothing but their own sheer determination and hard work. Their only applause is the steady rhythm of [a child] placing one foot in front of the other – always moving forward, always working harder.

In June of this year, UCP had to say goodbye to a team of Champions that have worked together to change the lives of infants and toddlers and their families down the years in our early intervention program. Our early intervention teams could be found all throughout the northern part of Maricopa County in the homes and communities of young children. Intense heat, apartment stairs, wrong addresses and dirty floors did not ever keep them from carrying out UCP's mission to help children achieve their potential. Their passion and commitment to children and families was very tangible, but unable to be measured. It was a great honor to be their director and I always felt very proud when I spoke of this team. I would tell people they were the best even if it sounded like bragging. It was the truth. For now, our hearts are broken to say goodbye to this team but I have no doubt that their work done at UCP with the children will remain for eternity. I will miss you Region 1, Region 2 and Region 4. May God bless your work wherever you go.

"Go Team."



El Caro Apartments & UCP Partnership



Written by: Adrienne Diga, Director of Human Resources

El Caro is a low-income senior and disability community located off of Northern and 21st Avenue. UCP has been designated as their community partner to provide services to the residents that include transportation, wellness classes, food bank access, and social service connections based on the personal needs of the individuals. Bianca Rodriguez of HCBS who reports to Jeffrey Tourdot, Director of HCBS & Day Programs, splits her time as the El Caro Service Coordinator and HCBS Bilingual Program Support Specialist.

On June 20, 2019, the HCBS Team hosted an Open House informative breakfast meeting, which was well received by the 40+ residents in attendance. Jeffrey and Bianca had the opportunity to introduce UCP and provide information about the services UCP will be providing. There was active community conversation where residents shared their knowledge of local resources that are available to others in the community. The residents of El Caro are very excited for UCP to begin services and they enjoyed meeting their neighbors at the event.



Pictured: Jeffrey Tourdot, & community members



Pictured from Left to Right: Brenda Hanserd, Bianca Rodriguez, Mary Kellogg, Jeffrey Tourdot, & Delia Chavez



IMPORTANT REMINDER!

As of July 1st, in an effort to provide an additional layer of security for the Laura Dozer Center and uniformity across all UCP locations, the Laura Dozer Center "Main Entrance Doors" have been secured.

Employees are now required to use their badge to enter the Laura Dozer Center. Simply place your ID badge directly on the upper part of the badge reader and wait for the green LED light. Then proceed through the doors as usual.

If you don't have your badge with you, please ring the doorbell and our amazing reception desk will buzz you in.

Please direct any questions to **Wayne Esposito**, Facilities Manager at ext. 1814

Special Recognition



Diana Thies

El Occupational Therapist

Commended for "Outstanding teamwork and compassion," by Artemis Saxton, El Program Manager

The UCP Pulse full edition will be released in August 2019

Stay tuned for....



Where you can get some training pointers from our Senior Trainer, Daniela Bonilla.



Where we shine a "Spotlight" on one of our AMAZING employees.

Where you find important safety tips from Wayne Esposito, Facilities Manager.



Where you will find Employee pet pictures, pet friendly events/restaurants, and yummy pet treat recipes by Dionne Hackett, Talent Acquisition Manager.

4 Fun 4th of July Facts

- John Hancock was the only member of the Continental Congress to formally sign the Declaration of Independence on Jul 4th
- Around 150million hot dogs are consumed on 4th of July
- In one year, \$600 million is spent on fireworks in the U.S.A.
- Macy's 4th of July fireworks display is the largest in the U.S.A.

Submit your newsletter ideas to
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