



Visions & VICTORIES

UCP of Central Arizona Newsletter

Fall 2019 Edition

A WELL DESERVED SPOTLIGHT!

When Jack recently spoke about his journey with cerebral palsy at The Storytellers Project, he received a standing ovation from the Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts crowd. Poised, articulate, engaging and downright funny, few can imagine the difficulties Jack has had to overcome to reach this shining moment in his young life.

Jack has been receiving therapy services at UCP since he was four. The brain injury or malformation that causes his cerebral palsy also causes issues with impaired motor control and coordination. His UCP occupational therapist understood that while Jack's CP and motor planning difficulties presented serious challenges, he was also smart, had a great sense of humor, and he loved Star Wars. This wonderful combination became key to Jack's willingness to participate in therapy. Before long, Jack's therapist became the master Jedi and the therapy clinic morphed into a starship. Learning skills like dressing and tying shoes became part of what he learned as a Padawan or Jedi in training.

Over the years, there have been times when it might have become easy for Jack to become discouraged. He realized he might never play soccer as well as his friends. Adaptive equipment was necessary for things that his friends did easily. Even with adaptations, he struggled in school because he did not have the motor ability to form numbers when doing timed math tests. When Jack was nine years old, he seemed reflective and did not want to talk about Star Wars. As he walked down the sidewalk to the UCP Therapy Clinic, his therapist Valerie Pieraccini said, ***"You know this is a long path that we are walking,"*** and Jack softly replied, ***"Sometimes it's kind of hard to walk it, but I'm able to do it."***



A doctor once told Jack's parents that he might never walk on his own. Now visualize a self-assured 13-year-old standing in front of an audience of 600. He is a storyteller in every sense and the audience is following along with every word spoken. The Padawan has become the master Jedi and through his hard work, and the dedication of his therapists and loving parents, Jack is living a life of growing independence.

As for that doctor's prognosis, Jack not only proved him wrong, he runs on his middle school cross-country team. Jack is teaching all of us what it truly means to live a life without limits.

WE ARE *more* THAN OUR NAME...

Dear Friends of UCP,

When UCP of Central Arizona began almost 70 years ago, our founding parents held a deep desire to create a more accepting community for individuals with cerebral palsy. At that time, there were limited resources to help people with disabilities lead healthy, productive lives. Even more heartbreaking was the practice of institutionalizing children and adults with certain types of disabilities for the rest of their lives. This was unacceptable to UCP's early families; and before long, our expertise and compassionate care drew other families seeking help for disabilities and delays with similar treatment needs.

Which brings us to our phrase, **"We are more than our name."** Many of the individuals receiving services at UCP have intellectual disabilities and delays that were undiagnosed or even unknown in prior years. As research and medicine advance, so too does the ability to detect brain injuries or abnormalities, genetic conditions, sensory processing disorders and many other diagnoses affecting development. What they all hold in common is the need for expertise, uncompromised quality of care, and an organization made up of individuals who provide hope through an unwavering focus on abilities, not disabilities. This compassionate work has always been at the core of UCP's work.

Our future is bright. All of our programs are poised for expansion and we are strategizing new and innovating ways to provide our services. What will never change is our focus on bringing hope, expertise and support one person at a time, one family at a time.

As we move toward the season of Thanksgiving, I simply want to say, "Thank you!" Our work could not continue without the generous support from the community. The lives of thousands of families served by UCP are better because the community cared about children and adults with physical and developmental disabilities. From our 36-year relationship with Circle K and with other faithful corporate and foundation supporters, to the individuals who send annual gifts or remember UCP in their estates, your gifts make it possible. We can never thank you enough.

Sincerely,



Brenda Hanserd,
Chief Executive Officer



Prenatal Substance Exposure **Down Syndrome**
SENSORY PROCESSING DISORDERS **PREMATURITY**
AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS Genetic Syndromes
70 YEARS STRONG
CEREBRAL PALSY **BIRTH DEFECTS** **Attention Disorders** **DEVELOPMENTAL DELAYS**
WE ARE **TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURIES**
MORE THAN **Feeding Disorders**
OUR NAME **Orthopedic Disabilities**
INTELLECTUAL DELAYS
Many other disabilities, diagnoses and challenges which affect development

2020 LAURA DOZER AWARD

Randall M. Howe, Judge, Arizona Court of Appeals,
Division 1



In nominating Judge Howe for the 2020 Laura Dozer Award, UCP Board Chair, Manny Cairo, and CEO, Brenda Hanserd, said, “Judge Randall Howe’s exceptional career and the continuation of his mom’s legacy as a tireless disability advocate exemplifies in every possible way that life for people with disabilities should be without limits.”

UCP 2019-2020 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Nicole Almond-Anderson, Sandra Day
O’Conner College of Law, ASU

Phil Barber, Walmart

Gary Brennan, Brennan-Grey Consulting

Manuel Cairo, Midwestern University

Brett Heising, brettapproved.com

Hon. Randall M. Howe, AZ Court
of Appeals

Michael Kruer, M.D., Phoenix
Children’s Hospital

Son Yong Pak, Care1st Health
Plan Arizona

Suzy Peel, Circle K Stores, Arizona

Dan Williams, Fenix Financial Forensics

A 1969 letter written by Randall Howe’s mom to the County Superintendent of Schools in Brighton, Colorado typified her advocacy for her son. Marie believed six-year-old Randy had the same right to attend the neighborhood elementary school as every other child. Diagnosed with cerebral palsy as an infant, administrators questioned if Randy was intellectually competent and required mental and psychological testing prior to admitting him to school. He passed the tests. Four days after beginning first grade, the school refused to provide the physical assistance he needed. Marie did not give up until she found an elementary school across town willing to educate him.

Reflecting on his life and legal career, Judge Howe said, **“My mother’s efforts demonstrate the effect – in my case, the profound effect – one individual can have on the life of another. Her crusade to get me an education changed the course of my life.”** As Randy grew older, high school teacher, Steve Payne, and Arizona Supreme Court Justice Rebecca Berch and her husband, Michael, also played significant roles in Randy’s ability to experience an exceptional career.

Appointed in 2012 to the Arizona Court of Appeals by Governor, Jan Brewer, Judge Howe had previously served in the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the District of Arizona, and in the Arizona Attorney General’s Office in the Criminal Appeals and Liability Management sections. He has personally represented the state and federal governments in more than 400 appeals and habeas actions, and argued 84 cases in the Arizona Supreme Court, the Arizona Court of Appeals, and the Ninth Circuit of the United States Court of Appeals.

Judge Howe has been involved in the disability community since 1988. He served as Chair of the Governor’s Council on Developmental Disabilities 2004-05. In 2005, he received the Mayor’s Award from the City of Phoenix Mayor’s Commission on Disability Issues for his leadership in public awareness about issues affecting people with disabilities. He chaired the Committee on Persons with Disabilities in the Legal Profession 2005-07, and the Executive Council of the State Bar’s Appellate Practice Section 2011-12. He served as President of the Board of Directors of the Arizona Center for Disability Law and Chair of the nonprofit Board of Directors of Ability360 2010-12. Judge Howe has also served on United Cerebral Palsy of Central Arizona’s Board of Directors since November 2015.

WHEN PEDIATRIC THERAPY IS THE BEST SOLUTION

Empowering families to assist in their child's development



UCP of Central Arizona has been a leader in pediatric therapy for children for more than 20+ years. **“Our goal is to meet families where they are and address their primary concerns for their child,”** said Artemis Saxton, lead therapist for UCP’s Laura Dozer Clinic and north valley community-based pediatric therapy program. “Our professional team empowers parents with the tools and skills needed to assist their child’s development, so their child can meet developmental milestones.”

UCP offers families the convenience of two therapy clinics and a home-based therapy program. The Laura Dozer Center Therapy Clinic provides physical, occupational, speech and feeding therapies to families in the north valley, as well as LIFE skills groups for 7 to 9 and 10 to 14 year olds. The UCP Downtown Clinic offers

SIGNS YOUR CHILD MAY NEED PEDIATRIC THERAPIES

- Does not like to be comforted or snuggled by parents
- Does not calm self, or sleep well
- Prefers to turn head only to one side
- Does not smile or interact with others
- Does not babble by 7 months
- Makes only a few sounds or gestures, like pointing by 12 months
- Does not understand what others say by 15 months
- Says only a few words by 18 months
- Is not putting two words together by 2 years
- Is not bearing weight on legs by 6 months
- Is not sitting by 8 months
- Is not crawling by 12 months
- Is not walking by 18 months
- Is very picky when touching/eating different textures or foods

speech/language and feeding, physical and occupational therapy in central Phoenix. Our Community-Based Therapy Program is a wonderful solution for families when their children have medical complexities, transportation difficulties, multiple young children at home, or when it benefits the child more to utilize the home environment.

“When your child is experiencing a delay and you are referred for therapy, it is essential to find a professional group skilled with children and children’s developmental milestones,” explains Artemis. She went on to share, “Recently, one family was referred by their pediatrician for therapy for their infant daughter and told they could go to any clinic that accepted their insurance. Eleven months of therapy later, their daughter still could not roll over. After two visits with our pediatric physical therapist, their daughter successfully rolled over! In addition, because of our therapist’s expertise with children, she understood the need to add sensory-based occupational therapy. The little one’s skewed sensory processing was limiting her development.”

If your pediatrician recommends therapy for your child, reach out to UCP.



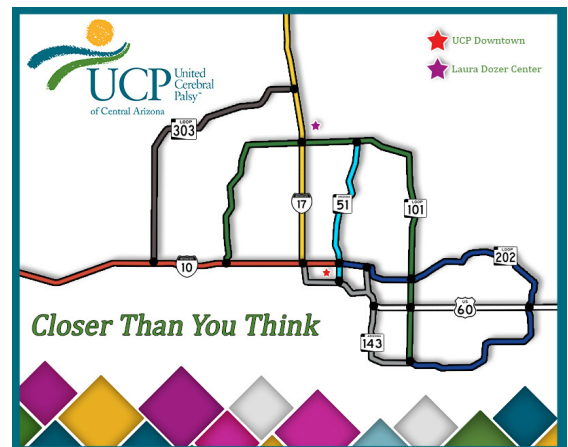
602.682.1844



TherapyReferrals@
UCPofCentralAZ.org



UCPofCentralAZ.org



DAY TREATMENT AND TRAINING FOR ADULTS



Andy became the shadow of Direct Support Care professional, Carol Crittenden, when he came to UCP's DTA program three years ago. Because Carol provides his transportation to and from DTA, and serves as his program staff lead, their genuine friendship grew quickly and remains strong today.

An important component of the DTA program is working with members to enhance their communication skills. While Andy is always ready with a warm smile, he is a man of few words. **Every day, Carol encourages Andy to use spoken language first** and if words are not readily available, to use American Sign Language. Andy can now proudly tell you his address and his mom's cell phone number. In addition to more clearly communicating his needs and wants Andy is always ready to tell you his favorite food, "chicken" and his favorite drink, "Coke Zero."

Carol is proud of Andy and recently shared, "In addition to absorbing everything going on around him, Andy is now making more choices about the program activities he would like to do. He enjoys the "Let's Move" morning exercise program and is a valued member of the Café without Limits team, where he helps with stocking, inventory, sweeping the floors and greeting customers."

For more information on UCP's DTA Program, contact Tony Cephas, Program Manager
ACephas@UCPofCentralAZ.org
602.622.5305.

Andy's mom, Lynn said, "UCP has been so good for Andy. We have seen so much progress in so many areas over the years and he loves the people he is with. Every day, just watching how excited he gets when Carol drives up, I know this is the right place for him."

HOME & COMMUNITY BASED SERVICES

Josephine's response to a question about her work providing respite services for 25-year-old Seth was to immediately share, **"When my husband died in 2012, I died with him. Then, I got Seth and my life came back."** Everyday, Josephine picks up Seth from the UCP DTA program and brings him to her home until his mom gets off work. The fun begins as soon as the two see each other because Seth and Josephine share so much more than a care provider relationship. Seth and Josephine are genuine friends!

Seth does not use spoken language, but his dark, twinkling eyes and instant smile convey more than words can express. "You need to teach adults like Seth how to become more independent," Josephine says. "We play cards to practice numbers and match symbols and we work on a puzzle every day to develop memory skills." Seth turns to Josephine and makes an L-shaped gesture with his thumb and pointer finger to ask her to play cards. "Seth's telling me that I'm going to lose," Josephine laughs, "but I know he cheats if I give him the opportunity, so I stay on top of the game the whole time."



The one-on-one time Seth and Josephine spend together is precious to both of them. In a world where everyone is in a rush, simply being present for another human being fills our most basic need – the need to be loved and needed by others. For more information on UCP's Home and Community Based Services, contact Mary Kellogg, HCBS Program Manager at MKellogg@UCPofCentralAZ.org or by phone at 602.622.8871.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT CHANGES LIVES...

Thank you to our community partners whose funding supports UCP of Central Arizona's commitment to change and progress for people with disabilities, ensuring their inclusion into every facet of society.

Arizona Cardinals Charities supports programs designed to improve the quality of life and enhance opportunities for children, women, and minorities in the state of Arizona. The funding received helped ensure that every child referred to our Early Intervention program benefitted from the Coaching Model for Parents, teaching the family to support the child's needs.

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona (BCBS) is committed to helping Arizonans get healthier faster and stay healthier longer. The funding received for UCP's Feeding Program will ensure that every child referred to the Feeding Therapy Program will be able to get the therapy needed even if their state insurance does not cover it.

Employees Community Fund of Boeing awarded UCP the Crystal Vision Award for the new UCP LIFE (Learning Independence for Everyday) Program. This program is designed to help older children develop everyday life skills that apply to real life challenges, allowing them to be successful in the community and at home.

Rob & Melani Walton Foundation awarded funding for augmentative communication devices, which offer a "voice" for individuals who cannot speak or speak clearly enough for other people to understand what they are saying.

State Farm Insurance helps protect the people and property that matter most. Their funding supported UCP's Early Intervention Program; supporting life changing coaching to families of infants and toddlers.

Sundt Foundation is committed to making a meaningful impact on the lives of disadvantaged children and adults. Their funding allowed the purchase of a life-saving AED device for our Day Training for Adults program.

The Kroger Company Foundation awarded funding for UCP's healthy eating focus. This funding helps UCP to continue providing healthy food choices to the children enrolled in the Early Learning Center and those participating in our Feeding Clinic.

Walmart Store #5190 and #4233 awarded funding to support the Thanksgiving Celebration for the Early Learning Center. This is a time for families to come together to support children of all development levels as they grow their developmental skills and learn acceptance and understanding of others who are different from themselves.



BHHS Legacy Foundation helps community organizations improve the health and quality of life of citizens in need. Their funding will support UCP's Interpretation Services by providing language translation expertise. This allows UCP to serve children and families with language barriers so they can experience full participation in UCP's community-based or clinic-based therapies.

THUNDERBIRDS CHARITIES LEND LOVING CARE



Thunderbirds Charities, the charitable arm of the Thunderbirds, recently donated \$50,000 to support necessary renovations at the Laura Dozer Center. One of the original contributors in building the \$4.1M campus, the 15-year-old facility was in need of some tender loving care. Several projects were completed with the generous funding including replacing the original carpeting in the family waiting room, Early Learning Center, Preschool, and the Therapy Clinic treatment rooms with eco flooring, and the install of a child-sized handwashing sink in the Therapy Clinic. Renovations in the Joan and Jerry Colangelo building at the Laura Dozer Center will allow for the expansion of our Quality First, 5-star preschool program. At our Day Training for Adults program, the funding allowed the purchase of a commercial refrigerator, replacement of worn out kitchen countertops, and addition of food prep tables for the nutrition program. At our pediatric therapy Downtown Clinic, Thunderbirds Charities funding purchased a life-saving AED device.

“We’re extremely proud to support UCP and help this valuable organization make a difference in these vulnerable children’s lives,” said Thunderbirds Charities President Carlos Sugich.



CIRCLE K POWER OF CHANGE

On average, 1 Million Arizona residents frequent their local Circle K every day. What if every one of those one million residents dropped a penny into the UCP canister at the register? Can you imagine how much money would be available to help children and adults with disabilities! Small change really does make a difference! Be a part of the power of change by visiting and donating your change at Circle K.

Last March, 340 of Circle K Arizona supply partners and employees took over the Wigwam Golf Course to raise greatly needed funds for the families of UCP. By the day’s end, Circle K presented us with an \$814,558 check! We couldn’t be more thankful for this enormous gesture from Circle K and its amazing supply partners.

THANK YOU!



5 GREAT WAYS TO SUPPORT UCP!

- 1 Arizona Tax Credit for a Qualifying Charitable Organization gift
- 2 IRA Charitable Rollover gift
- 3 Donor-Advised Fund Grant
- 4 Gift through your Will or Trust
- 5 Workplace Employee Giving Campaign gift

Donate Today

ONLINE: www.UCPofCentralAZ.org/tax-credit/
 MAIL: use the enclosed envelope
 PHONE: 602.943.5472



1802 W. Parkside Lane
Phoenix, Arizona 85027

Providing *hope* for people with ALL disabilities.

UCPofCentralAZ.org

Wine, Women & Horses

Join the Fun
Sat, February 29, 2020
11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Turf Paradise

Tickets on sale now via
EventBrite for \$80



ABOUT US

At UCP of Central Arizona, we serve people with cerebral palsy, as well as children and adults with a variety of other developmental disabilities and delays. Our programs and services include pediatric speech/language, feeding, occupational and physical therapies, early childhood education, life-skills program for teens, day treatment and training for adults, and home and community-based respite, attendant care and habilitation services for individuals with disabilities of all ages.

Call us to schedule a tour. We look forward to meeting you!

UCP LAURA DOZER 1802 W. Parkside Ln. Phoenix, AZ 85027 602.943.5472
UCP DOWNTOWN 1007 N. 7th Street Phoenix, AZ 85006 602.313.8999

Unstoppable A CELEBRATION OF CHAMPIONS

Saturday, May 2, 2020
5:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Mountain Shadows • Paradise Valley

For more information 602.943.5472
UCPofCentralAZ.org/Champions/

Be Social with us!



Follow us
[@UCPofCentralAZ](https://www.instagram.com/UCPofCentralAZ)

