



## Annual Report 2012

## United Cerebral Palsy of Georgia



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The mission of United Cerebral Palsy of Georgia is to positively support and impact the achievement of a *Life Without Limits* for people with disabilities.



### Our Mission and Vision

United Cerebral Palsy of Georgia was founded in 1962, when a group of parents, health care professionals and civic leaders in the Atlanta area came together to advocate for the establishment of community based services for children and adults with disabilities.

Today, UCP serves over 500 individuals and families daily, offering customized supports designed to enable individuals to maximize their potential, and discover talents and skills to achieve personal goals.

UCP supports individuals with a wide range of disabilities, including cerebral palsy, autism spectrum disorder, spina bifida, traumatic brain injury, physical and intellectual disabilities, and more. We believe that each person, regardless of the challenges they face, possesses unique talents and abilities, and can make significant progress when appropriate supports are made available to them.

Our guiding philosophy is to promote the physical and emotional well being of the people we serve; to encourage them to explore their aspirations and dreams, and support their life choices; to help them become fully participating and valued members of their communities; and to offer them ongoing support as they continue a lifelong journey of personal development and growth.

Together, our UCP of Georgia Family - staff members, volunteers, and caring members of the community, are working to realize our mission to positively support and impact the achievement of a *Life Without Limits* for people with disabilities.

# Community Living Supports

Community living supports offer adults with disabilities the opportunity to fully experience community life in a home or apartment of their choice, with ongoing supports in a nurturing, expansive environment.

UCP offers more than 60 homes in safe, stable neighborhoods across Georgia. Four peers share each home, with skilled and supportive staff members providing 24 hour support and guidance as they assist individuals to achieve personal goals. Homes have a life changing impact as individuals establish friendships, participate in social activities, and become active, contributing community members, many for the first time in their lives.

When people with disabilities live with loved ones, it can be a rewarding and challenging experience for all involved. The realities of daily care can place tremendous strains on loving families. For these families, UCP provides trained staff members to help care for a child or adult with disabilities in their family home, assisting individuals with activities of daily living and

The supported living program serves individuals who have the desire and skill level for independent living in apartments or homes of their own, with periodic staff support designed to meet their particular needs and preferences.

UCP provides quality assurance oversight, monitoring and support for families who are subject to background screenings, home inspections and special training. These homes offer a small family setting for one or two individuals, and are often a good option for those who prefer living in a smaller home environment.

UCP is committed to providing as many community living options as possible to meet the needs of our members, and to afford them every opportunity for a full and rewarding life.



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# Adult Day Supports

unique combination of vocational experience, exploration of skills and talents, and a wide variety of community experiences.

The program offers learning and exploration opportunities in important areas of life - work, leisure, communication, social interaction, self-advocacy and community involvement.

Supports are offered in a fashion which aids in expanding participants interest in and exposure to the arts, music, volunteerism and their larger communities. UCP of Georgia works to foster natural supports for individuals, and provide them with necessary tools and skills for managing events of daily life as actively engaged community members.

A variety of special services, including medical support and behavior management are also offered. These supports are designed to enable them to reach their fullest potential and achieve an optimum quality of life.

Adult day supports are offered for individuals 18 years of age and above Monday through Friday, at seven Georgia locations - in Atlanta, Augusta, Conyers, Mableton, Macon, Manassas and Savannah.



*Is giving up on being perfect and beginning the work*  
*Anna Olufsen*

# Out of School Child Care

This program is a critical resource for families, offering daily after school care and full day care during the summer months for children up to 21 years of age.

Typical out of school programs are not equipped with sufficient staffing ratios or specialized training to care for children who have significant physical or intellectual challenges, or medical needs such as seizure disorders or respiratory conditions, and who may need help with feeding, toileting, or taking medications.

UCP gives parents a vital lifeline, enabling them to go to work confident that their children are receiving quality care in their absence. Without the program their only options would be to seek costly home care, or leave work to care for their child. The program offers lower rates than traditional afterschool programs, and works to accommodate low income families to help ease the extraordinary financial burdens parents of children with disabilities face.

Staff members receive specialized training in the care and instruction of children with disabilities, and are equipped to manage tube feeding; positioning; range of motion issues; special dietary needs; assistance with toileting and personal hygiene; administering medications; CPR; first aid and more.

WER " r t q x k f g u " c " p w t v w t k p i . " u w r r q t v k x g " and development. Areas of focus are development of cognitive, language, communication and motor skills; development of social and emotional skills; and fostering of positive self image, capability, independence and self-esteem. Program evaluation utilizes Individual Service Plan (ISP) reviews and parent satisfaction surveys to assess the progress of goal achievement for each child.

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of the individuals the organization supports.

We believe that quality health and prevention activities are central to the well-being of all people. UCP provides nurse case managers (R.N. or L.P.N.) to work with individuals, their families, physicians and the UCP interdisciplinary team to assure ongoing access to community based medical and dental care.

Helping people with disabilities achieve a *Life Without Limits* begins with supporting the whole person. We engage a support team of friends, family and UCP staff members to work together to help each person reach his or her full potential. Individuals who may need behavioral supports to help them achieve success benefit from the support of UCP staff members skilled in person centered approaches.

instruments to conduct quality assurance reviews and analyze every aspect of our work, continually refining and improving operations to ensure service excellence. These efforts are further supported and validated by the Council on Accreditation.



lives of the individuals and families we serve. UCP is committed to certifying that all staff members have the essential skills and abilities needed to carry out their work responsibilities with confidence. Basic skills such as CPR, first aid and defensive driving, continuing role as a leader in quality service delivery.

# Supportive Services

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# Community Life

UCP envisions a world where people with disabilities are accepted as fully participating citizens. A world where they are welcomed into community life, and have the same access to social, recreational and cultural opportunities as other citizens. We believe in a world where a disability is just a characteristic - like the color of our eyes - and not a definition of who we are. UCP works to educate the public to embrace our vision of a *Life Without Limits* for all people, regardless of the challenges they face.

The people UCP exists to serve are making significant strides in their daily lives - becoming engaged and valued members of their communities - through work, school, volunteer service, participation in community activities, and demonstrating good citizenship by helping other neighbors. The pride and satisfaction they achieve as contributing community members reminds us that we all have a part to play in changing our world for the better.

As individuals with disabilities become more independent, they begin to give back to their communities rather than being dependent upon them. And when they are accepted into community life with dignity and respect, our State of Georgia becomes a more welcoming place for *all* people to live.



Willard Fuller



United Cerebral Palsy educates, advocates and provides quality supports to promote a *Life Without Limits* for people with disabilities. United Cerebral Palsy is also working to advance the independence, productivity and full citizenship of those with disabilities by serving as a leader in enacting real change - to revolutionize care, raise standards of living and create opportunities for personal and professional growth.

# Advocacy

UCP is dedicated to the inclusion of individuals with disabilities in every facet of our society. Together with parents, caregivers and concerned community leaders, UCP advocates for the social, legal and technological changes that increase accessibility and independence, allowing people with disabilities to dream their own dreams, and chart the course of their own lives.

United Cerebral Palsy of Georgia has been working to effect positive change since our establishment in 1962. We are committed to ensuring that individuals and families are able to receive the type of services they desire, with the amount and frequency needed. To that end, our UCP team assists individuals to navigate the service system, provides continuing education related to civil rights, and negotiates with funders to support individual needs.

This individualized advocacy work is complemented by a strong public policy and legislative advocacy agenda to support the work of our organization and other service providers, and to advocate on behalf of all individuals with disabilities in the State of Georgia.



Together, the members of our UCP family are working to make communities throughout Georgia more welcoming places for all people to live.

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# Community Support

**Our UCP of Georgia family is proud to partner with these caring individuals and organizations, whose support has a significant impact in advancing the independence, productivity and full citizenship of people with disabilities. Their efforts help make our State of Georgia a more welcoming place for all people to live, and we cannot thank them enough!**

Arno & Associates  
Atlanta Realty Associates  
Bryant Bateman  
Katherine Boerstler  
Minnie & Jerry Bowden  
William & Thea Chamberlain  
Ella B. Cleveland Trust  
Community Health Charities of Georgia  
Lewie J. & Nancy M. Darter  
DeKalb County School Employees  
Design Services of Florida  
Dixie Seal & Stamp  
Enterprise Rent A Car  
Glenda & Jack Floyd Foundation  
Fulton County School Employees  
Georgia United Credit Union  
Christopher & Stephanie Greene  
Gwinnett County Employees  
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Edward & Lisle Waits  
Wells Fargo Advisors  
Diane & Joseph Wilush  
Julia P. Wynne  
Julia W. Wynne  
Kathryn Zickert







**United Cerebral Palsy of Georgia is accredited by the Council on Accreditation**

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