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UCP / CLASS Honoring Thomas Kearney
Eugene Cohen & Frank Bolden Meritorious Service Award Presentation

Pittsburgh, PA – On June 21, 2010, UCP / CLASS will honor Thomas Kearney for meritorious service and advocacy during the 59th United Cerebral Palsy Association Annual Meeting. The Annual Meeting will take place at UCP/CLASS' Community Service Centre located at 4638 Centre Avenue, Pittsburgh, starting at 4:00 p.m.

Presented annually to a member of UCP's Board of Directors, the Prestigious Eugene Cohen & Frank Bolden Meritorious Service Award recognizes outstanding leadership and service. Previous honorees include Eugene Cohen, Frank Bolden, Frank Hoist, Shirlee Porro and Doug Sherratt, and the late E. Paul Dick.

Tom Kearney, of White Oak, PA, has been a disability advocate pioneer for over 60 years. As a man with cerebral palsy, Tom grew up in a time of powerful discrimination and difficulty in all walks of life. As a boy, he and his family had to fight for educational opportunities and other basic community options. Through all of this Tom continued his advocacy for all people with disabilities.

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He became active with UCP serving on the Pittsburgh affiliate Board of Directors (since 1975), the UCP of PA board of directors, and the national UCP Advisory Committee. Tom, in spite of challenges associated with his disability, has lived a full and independent life. He has been married, and living on his own since his young adult years. He is active with his church, community and neighborhood and is well known throughout White Oak and McKeesport. "Tom fully embodies the spirit of the Cohen/Bolden Award criteria, by offering his time, talent, and treasure to the UCP/CLASS board as we work toward a community where each belongs." said Al Condeluci, UCP/CLASS Executive Director.

In addition to the leadership award presentation, Annual Meeting attendees will hear from special guest speaker Diana Bucco, Diana Bucco is the President of The Forbes Funds, a Pittsburgh-based foundation that supports nonprofit capacity-building, research, and leadership development. Previously she was the founding director of the Coro Center for Civic Leadership and The Mentoring Partnership of Southwestern Pennsylvania. She is on numerous boards and advisory committees including YouthPlaces, the YWCA, and Advancing Academics and is a member of the Women's Funders Roundtable.

Nationally, she serves on the Independent Sector Public Policy Advisory Board and the National Council of Nonprofits Board of Directors. She has been recognized by Pittsburgh Magazine's 40 Under 40 and was the recipient of a German Marshall Fellowship. She was also recognized by the state as one of the top ten of the GenX generation. Ms. Bucco holds bachelor's degrees in Communications and Political Science from the University of Pittsburgh.

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UCP/CLASS is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization founded in 1951 with the mission of, "Working Toward a Community Where each Belongs". UCP/CLASS continually seeks innovative approaches that foster the independence of adults and children with disabilities and promote their full participation in communities and activities of their choice. For more information, visit www.ucpclass.org .

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