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The Massaro Family and UCP/CLASS Recognizes Pittsburgh's Top Humanitarians
Celebrating Community Heroes at the 18th Annual Community Heroes Awards Dinner

Pittsburgh, PA – UCP/CLASS will hold its Eighteenth Annual Community Heroes Awards Dinner at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, October 20, 2010 at The Westin Convention Center Pittsburgh. United Cerebral Palsy (UCP) /CLASS will celebrate the work of Pittsburgh's top humanitarians with **Andrew Stockey, WTAE-TV**, emceeding the evening and **The Massaro Family**, serving as the Honorary Chair.

Margaret Mary (Maggie) Kimmel, PhD, Professor Emerita, School of Information Sciences - University of Pittsburgh will receive UCP/CLASS' **Gertrude Labowitz Lifetime Achievement Award**. "Maggie" has been a disability advocate since her childhood in Gary, Indiana, where she bravely confronted classmates who teased her about her disability. She has advocated for inclusion and is a stellar example of how a person with a disability can lead a full life, be gainfully employed, and give back to the community. Since her retirement Maggie has dedicated countless hours to improving access to healthcare for people with disabilities and seniors through her leadership as Chair of the Boards of both the UPMC Disability Resource Center Advisory Council and Canterbury Place (where she has been recognized as a Benevolent Care Champion), by serving on the boards of UPMC Health System and FISA Foundation, and participating on the Advisory Committee of the Magee-Womens Hospital Center for Women with Disabilities. Maggie also has donated countless hours to other organizations such as Beginning with Books, where she was the first recipient of the Friedbery-Siegel Early Literacy Champion Award.

Marc Cherna, Director of Allegheny County Department of Human Services will receive this year's **Community Hero Award**. When Marc Cherna came to Pittsburgh 14 years ago he changed the face of human services in Allegheny County for both service providers and people with disabilities. The many reforms he implemented received national recognition and were showcased twice by ABC World News Tonight as well as CNN's NewsNight. His innovative practice and leadership abilities have garnered him prestigious awards by numerous child welfare, humanitarian, and civic organizations. He serves on many boards and committees including the University of Pittsburgh's School of Social Work's Board of Visitors, the University of Pittsburgh's Institute of Politics Board of Fellows, and the Executive Committee of the National Assn. of Public Child Welfare Administrators.

Gary Decker, Middle School Teacher from Conneaut Valley High School will be honored with the **Advocacy and Awareness Award**. Gary Decker has been teaching in the Conneaut School District for 11 years, including special education and social studies. He received a bachelor's degree in Sociology from Thiel College in Greenville, Pennsylvania and received a master's in Special Education from Edinboro University of Pennsylvania while also completing his teaching certification. He became involved with National Youth Service Day four years ago assisting students with service learning activities. The Annual Wheelchair Basketball Game for National Youth Service Day involves the students with planning and organizing the fundraising event, and especially demonstrating that they value a community where everyone belongs.

Rabbi Sharyn Henry, Associate Rabbi, Rodef Shalom Congregation will receive the **Humanitarian Award**. Sharyn Henry joined Rodef Shalom Congregation in 1999 as the Religious School Principal. She then assumed the position Director of Youth, Education and Activities, and currently serves as Associate

Rabbi where she is passionate about worship, music, and social action and her close work with the B'nai Mitzvah and Confirmation students and families. Rabbi Henry grew up in Cleveland, Ohio, and earned B.A. in Psychology from the University of Wisconsin. She is a 1988 graduate of Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion in Cincinnati, Ohio. Upon receiving smicha, she served congregations in Kansas City, MO and Allison Park, PA.

WDVE has been selected as the recipient of UCP/CLASS' **Benefactor Award**. DVE has been hosting Jim and Randy's South Side Summer Open for the past four years. This event has raised over \$30,000 for the organization. Not only does DVE raise money for UCP/CLASS but they are known in the community for the many causes they champion.

Shannon Malley will be honored with the Norma J. Gianutsos, **Volunteer of the Year Award**. Shannon has been volunteering her time with the Centre Advocates for the past six years. During that time she has assisted many people with routine daily tasks that they are unable to complete themselves. Shannon has many responsibilities and is very helpful to the Centre Advocate staff and the Rehabilitation Specialists as she is able to assist them so they can provide care that is needed in other areas. Since 2004, Shannon has logged over 4,300 hours.

UCP/CLASS, is a 501c3 not for 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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