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*Margaret "Maggie" Kimmel, Anthony Alfonsi, Rabbi Sharyn Henry, Gary Decker, Shannon Malley, and Marc Cherna were this year's award recipients.*

## A Rabbi, a Teacher, a Leader, a Professor, a Volunteer and a Radio Station Executive Walk into a Room...

What do all these people have in common? They are simply people who are passionate about helping others and as a result have made a difference in their community or in the life of someone they know.

On October 20, 2010, UCP/CLASS held their 18th Annual Community Heroes Awards Dinner. The night was a success on many levels, but nothing could quite compare to the impact the six awardees made on the people who were in attendance. Their stories of commitment and dedication to their respective causes gave way to standing ovations, tears, laughter, and a sense of privilege to be a spectator at the event.

As Dr. Wes Rohrer so eloquently said in his invocation, "Almighty God of all people of faith, we ask for your blessings upon this celebration of our Community Heroes who have chosen the narrow, challenging but rewarding path of faithful service to, and advocacy for, those with disabilities; among our family and loved ones, in the workplace and our own neighborhoods. By the commitment of our community heroes and others who are making similar contributions to

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# Season's Greetings

*Dear Friends,*

*The Holidays offer a wonderful time for all of us to pause, and take stock of how our year has gone, things that have worked, things to be thankful for, and resolutions to build on for the New Year.*

*As you take time to reflect, I would like to underscore how our organization, UCP/CLASS, continues to be recognized as one of the premiere community based service systems for folks with all kinds of disabilities in Allegheny County. Founded in 1951, UCP/CLASS has grown from a small clinic for children with cerebral palsy to a multi-faceted support system touching some 4000 individuals (and their families) with all types of disabilities each year. Our services include residential options (including home ownership initiatives), skill building programs, supported employment, attendant care/ community supports, information and advocacy activities.*



*Many of the UCP/CLASS services are funded through contracts, but all of the new initiatives and services for those not eligible for contracts come from gifts and donations to our cause. We know there are many appeals you field during the holidays, but we are asking you not so much for a donation, but to help underwrite an opportunity for full community participation for some of your neighbors who have been left behind. A gift from you, no matter the amount, helps us to continue to build a community where everyone can belong.*

*And so, as you gather over these next weeks with the ones that you love to celebrate and give thanks, we hope you can also find a way to support UCP/CLASS. Any successful community needs the gifts and talents of all its citizens. Your gift will help strengthen our community to be better.*

*Thank you for any support you might offer, and may you and your families have the warmest Holiday Season.*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Al Condeluci', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

*Al Condeluci*  
CEO, UCP/CLASS

## Awards Dinner Continued...

assist in empowering and enabling those who are in need, we are building healthier, more vibrant communities and tearing down barriers: physical, societal and interpersonal.”

His words resonated with assurance and prepared the listeners for an evening of immense celebration. The six awardees displayed their character and gave varied and motivating depictions of how they arrived at that moment in their lives. Other commonalities witnessed were gratitude, humility, admiration for others, and recognition of someone else who they believed (knew) were instrumental in shaping their values.

The awardees, for who over 300 people gathered to honor, were:

### *Gertrude Labowitz Lifetime Achievement Award*

Margaret Mary (Maggie) Kimmel, Ph.D., Professor Emerita, School of Information Sciences - University of Pittsburgh 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 has also 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.

### *Community Hero Award*

Marc Cherna, Director of Allegheny County Department of Human Services, came to Pittsburgh fourteen years ago and has since 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 Association of Public Child Welfare Administrators.



Marc began his career in human services as a youth worker over 35 years ago. He received his B.A. degree from the State University of New York at Binghamton and an M.S.W. from the Hunter College School of Social Work in New York. He has three children and five grandchildren.

### *Advocacy and Awareness Award*

Gary Decker, middle school teacher from Conneaut Valley High School, has been teaching special education and social studies in the Conneaut School District for eleven years. He received a bachelor's degree in Sociology from Thiel College in Greenville, Pennsylvania and a master's in Special Education from Edinboro University of Pennsylvania while also completing his teaching certification.

Four years ago, Gary became involved with National Youth Service Day assisting students with service learning activities. He helps with the Annual Wheelchair



Basketball Game for National Youth Service Day where students plan and organize the fundraising event, to demonstrate the importance of a community where everyone belongs.

### *Humanitarian Award*

Rabbi Sharyn Henry, Associate Rabbi of the Rodef Shalom Congregation, joined the Rodef Shalom Congregation in 1999 as the Religious School Principal. She then assumed the position Director of Youth for 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 a 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, Missouri and Allison Park, Pennsylvania before coming to Pittsburgh.

*Benefactor Award*

WDVE is not only a set of call letters, it's a brand - "Made in Pittsburgh" like other Pittsburgh icons, Heinz Ketchup and the Pittsburgh Steelers. DVE is a legendary station maintaining its format since its inception where similar stations have since changed theirs. Listeners know and trust the station because of its unique style and presentation of original content.



Jim Krenn and Randy Baumann are the co-hosts of Pittsburgh's Top Rated Morning Show on DVE. They are the reason why DVE is rated #1 in their market. Jim and Randy's relaxed style enables them to go toe to toe with politicians, national celebrities, and local and national sports heroes while keeping their audience glued to the station. Jim and Randy and the other DVE on-air personalities are dedicated to the community.

Jim and Randy are the anchors of the station's community events. They have been instrumental in raising \$40,000 for UCP/CLASS with the annual "Jim and Randy's South Side Summer Open Miniature Golf Tournament."

*Volunteer Award*

Shannon Malley has been volunteering for UCP/CLASS since 2004. To date, she has logged over 4,300 hours. Shannon is a key member of the Centre Advocate team, helping those who require physical and cognitive assistance to complete daily tasks. Shannon's responsibilities include assisting with lunches, keeping the main area organized, escorting people to their classes, and helping people with preparing for their trip home at the end of the day by assisting with coats, backpacks, lunch boxes, and more.

Shannon enjoys volunteering as she believes she can make

a difference by helping others. In the past, Shannon has volunteered at Tender Care Day Care where she assisted the teacher in engaging the children in playtime activities. Shannon has also volunteered at Forbes Regional Hospital where she spent time completing clerical responsibilities and working in the gift shop.



UCP/CLASS gives thanks to these inspirational, greatly dedicated individuals who have committed their lives to helping others and educating their community about the possibilities of an inclusive society where we can all live, work, and play together. One in which we are Empowering People. Creating Communities.

Dr. Wes Rohrer, esteemed UCP/CLASS Board member summarizes it best, "And for our wonderfully diverse community; for the rich tapestry of different colors, tongues, perspectives, and gifts in which each of us is an interwoven and inseparable thread, Thank you".

The 19th Annual Community Heroes Awards Dinner will be held on Wednesday, October 19, 2011. There are many deserving people who should be recognized for their contributions, so please be thinking of people to nominate. For suggestions, questions or nominations, please contact Courtney Walker at 412.683.7100 x2153 or [cwalker@ucpclass.org](mailto:cwalker@ucpclass.org).



*Joe Massaro Jr., Carol Massaro, and the Massaro family served as the 2010 Honorable Chair.*

# Merging Classy Organizations Together

On Monday, June 21, 2010, UCP/CLASS held its 59th Annual Meeting which celebrated the mergers of Multiple Sclerosis Service Society (MSSS) and Alliance for Community Respite Care (ACRC) into UCP/CLASS. These mergers represent a collaborative effort on the part of all three organizations to continue to serve people with disabilities in the most effective manner by continuing to provide quality services. Our guest speaker, Diana Bucco, president of the Forbes Funds, outlined the benefits of nonprofit mergers and how these mergers strengthen UCP/CLASS, MSSS, and ACRC.

As part of the mergers, eight new board members joined the UCP/CLASS Family of Corporations Board. Those new members are Sally J. Balogh, William A. Goyette, Linda R. Lewis, Alan F. Mandel, Philip F. Muck, Alby Oxenreiter, Mark Rotella, and Donna Salovay. We look forward to the contributions these new members will bring to the current board.

Board members and guests alike were motivated by the presentation of the Eugene Cohen & Frank Bolden Meritorious Service Award that was bestowed upon Thomas Kearney. Mr. Kearney has been involved with the UCP/CLASS Board of Directors since 1975. His service to the board has given him a platform to advocate for people with disabilities and to share his story of living with cerebral palsy during a time when discrimination was more prevalent. Mr. Kearney shared his life experiences with the guests, even including humorous stories about a few of his adventures with UCP/CLASS CEO Al Condeluci.

The award to Mr. Kearney was presented by Douglass Dick, son of the late E. Paul Dick. E. Paul Dick was the previous recipient of the Eugene Cohen & Frank Bolden Meritorious Service Award that celebrated his years of service as President of UCP/CLASS Board of Directors during the capital campaign to renovate the Community Service Centre in 2000. To honor this distinguished board member's contributions, a moment of silence was held.

Current board president, Maggie Guzzo, presented the State of the Agency address that highlighted the many accomplishments of the past year. She also shared the news of the purchase of a new building to be renovated as a second headquarters for UCP/CLASS.



*Diana Bucco, Dee Delaney, Jeff Parker, and Diane Collins prepare for the presentations to begin.*



*Courtney Walker, Steve Wirth, Gayle Wieseckel, and Melwa Gooden-Ledbetter enjoy some refreshments.*



*Sue Love, Dan Long, Darla Lynn, and Jack Snook wait for the meeting to start.*

# Leadership from a Different Perspective

by Don Jones

*“A friend is someone who understands your past, believes in your future, and accepts you just the way you are.”*

When asked to write a paper on leadership and how it pertained to a good friend of mine, Jim Prentice, pictured below, I was taken back to my first experience with leadership. It was in the fall of 1959 when I joined the Boy Scouts and I was just 11 years old. The troop had been in existence for about eighteen months when I read about it in the newspaper. I joined because the



troop was comprised of boys who were presented with physical disabilities.

During this time I met John Campbell, the patrol leader, who was only two years older than me. John's rank was considerably higher than most of the other scouts; he was a life scout whereas most of the other troop members were either second or first class scouts. John wasn't bigger or older than most of the other members but had a presence about him. When he spoke, everybody in the patrol gave him their rapt attention. I don't remember him

having to explain anything more than once. The scouts in his patrol seemed to be able to grasp everything he was teaching them easily. Eventually John made Eagle Scout and was offered the opportunity to become a troop advisor, an opportunity few scouts obtain. As a result, I was nominated to take John's place. I wondered, however, why they wanted me when there were others who had joined the patrol long before I did. It was then that I had a conversation with John about the manner in which he initially became the patrol leader. John shared that when they had their first meeting, everyone was asked to raise their hand to vote for a leader. He said, "When it came to Patrol Leader, I guess I got more hands than anybody else." I had always viewed him as a natural born leader; I found it odd that his position as Patrol Leader was given to him for no other reason than having the most hands raised when they called his name. I learned that leaders have some quality within them that allows others to put their trust in them to accomplish goals even if the individual does not necessarily see the traits within himself.

As the years passed John and I attended the same high school and he eventually matriculated to the University of Pittsburgh where he obtained a doctorate in history. For a person with a disability to advance this far educationally in the 1960's, was almost unheard of. The last time I heard from John, he was doing historical research for various organizations throughout the United States. When I last saw him I remember thinking I would probably never meet anybody with his type of fortitude. A few years later, however, I met Jim Prentice who proved me wrong.

James William Prentice was born with the inability to move under his own power and without the ability to

speaking. He was also born in the 1950's; a time when people with severe physical disabilities were still not thought of as people who would accomplish very much, and would probably live in an institution most of their lives where they would be cared for by others. With all that was going against him it would have been understandable if he wanted to give up on life and pursue the limited pleasures he may have had to enjoy.

He, however, wanted to make something of himself. The first step in doing that was finding a way to communicate with the people around him. In the 1950's the only method for people with speaking difficulties to communicate with others was called the letter boards. Those who had movement in their hands, arms, legs, feet or head could point to various letters to spell messages. Eventually techniques were devised to group these letters into phrases and paragraphs. However, even in their most advanced and efficient state, these boards were tedious. Jim took one of these letter boards and utilized it to acquire an elementary education at a Special Education Center and subsequently a Degree in Business Administration from a community college. Over the years the communication devices Jim possessed became more useful and efficient as assistive technology progressed and new technology enterprises came on the market. Jim ascended from a letter board to an advanced version of that device known as the ELKOMI TM, made by Thorn Automation in the Netherlands and distributed by Prentke Romich, a new electronics company which was establishing itself. Over time Prentke Romich provided Jim with a Liberator and then a Pathfinder which were both state of the art devices when they debuted. These communication devices would be the foundation for the beginning of my friendship with Jim Prentice.

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After graduating from Edinboro University and before beginning employment with the Three Rivers Center for Independent Living, I was encouraged to take classes at United Cerebral Palsy, now known as UCP/CLASS. UCP/CLASS not only taught me how to live on my own and how to be an integrated, productive member of society, but also taught me the skills to promote my talents within the job market. When I explained that I wanted to increase my independence even more by researching communication devices, UCP/CLASS said that they would assist me. They called my house a few days later and I was told that I had been scheduled for classes starting the following week. It was there that I was introduced to Jim Prentice.

I distinctly remember walking into the room and seeing Jim for the first time. He was conversing with another person and using a device that I'd never seen before. I asked him what the device was called and told him that I was trying to obtain a communication device for myself. He replied, "Yes. I know. I am your new mentor". I must have looked bewildered because he added with a smile, "Whatever that means".

During the next several months Jim and I became good friends. If there was a major difference between Jim and my boyhood friend, John Campbell, it was that John had no speaking difficulty and Jim wasn't able to speak at all. In spite of that difference they were both equally good communicators and teachers. They both had to begin with the presumption that they knew more about the subject they were teaching than their pupils, which in my case, they most certainly did. They came across, however, not as a more intelligent person trying to communicate with a less intelligent person but as one intelligent person conveying

information to another intelligent person so that they might be equally informed. In my opinion, this is what separates the real teachers and the real leaders from the rest of the pack. True leaders instigate their students' desire to learn. Jim was instrumental in my ability to communicate more effectively and subsequently leading to my independence. I feel Jim's mentoring helped me get to where I am today.

On the morning of Friday, August 3, 2007, I had arrived to the Pittsburgh Employment Conference (PEC) when I overheard that somebody had to be rushed to the hospital. A few minutes later I became aware that that somebody



in question was Jim Prentice. At the end of the conference I realized that Jim had more of an impact on my life than I had realized.

Potential leaders don't attain success by taking on a project all by themselves. Their success is measured by how much enthusiasm they can create in people and assist them in whatever their interests might be. In Jim's case the people who surrounded him were his father, mother and two sisters. Together they began a printing business.

Jim would solicit potential customers by advertising the printing business on the back of his power chair. He tried and often succeeded in attracting patrons. One night Jim sold his services

to a customer who would change his life considerably and give him opportunities he never dreamt possible.

Attending a public meeting at UCP/CLASS, Jim met Bruce Baker who, among other professions, was a software specialist working for Westinghouse as a consultant. Westinghouse wanted to know whether any of the products they were developing could serve people with speaking disabilities. When Mr. Baker received the business cards he had ordered from Jim, he encouraged him to submit his resume to Westinghouse. Westinghouse selected Jim's application from several other augmentative communication device users because of his educational background and his positive experiences within a business environment. Westinghouse didn't give Jim a job because they thought he was a nice man; they gave him a job because they thought he could help them sell their products to people with physical disabilities. Being an employee of Westinghouse earned Jim notoriety. In 1986 Jim's name appeared in the Wall Street Journal within an article titled "The Westinghouse Project" written by Brian Burroughs.

Sadly, at the age of 57, Jim suffered a Brain Stem Stroke. There is a saying that goes, "They don't make 'em like they used to". In Jim's case, they are right. Polio which afflicted my former Boy Scout patrol leader and good friend, John Campbell, has all but been eradicated. Birth defects, the primary cause of Cerebral Palsy, which afflicted Jim Prentice and me, are still much a part of our society. People like John Campbell and Jim Prentice should be greatly thanked for taking risks in order to blaze a trail for their peers; anyone who had the privilege to meet either of these men will certainly agree they define leadership.

# HIGHMARK WALK FOR A HEALTHY COMMUNITY



On Saturday, May 22, 2010 UCP/CLASS participated in the 8th Annual Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield Walk for a Healthy Community- an annual fundraiser that benefits 59 local nonprofit health and human service agencies in Western Pennsylvania.

Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield underwrites the cost of the walk and handles the logistical planning for the walk. Because of Highmark's commitment, 100% of the money raised by walkers goes to the participating organizations.

The primary goal of the walk is to help participating organizations raise money for their individual missions. The secondary goal of the walk is to energize participants to have a greater hand in their own health. The Highmark Walk for a Healthy Community provides an outlet for active individuals to continue their exercise routines and provides motivation to encourage inactive individuals to become more physically active.

Thanks to the many people who participated, UCP/CLASS was able to raise over \$13,000. UCP/CLASS was the lead organization in terms of people registered for the walk with 280 registrants for the event.

Our friends from K & S Real Estate, MobilityWorks, and Tanner's Troopers were all in attendance to walk for the cause and donated generously through fundraising efforts of their own. Residential staff and participants took part in the day's events along with staff from our newly merged partners from the Alliance for Community Respite Care (ACRC).

The 9th Annual Highmark Walk for a Healthy Community will return to Heinz Field. This is an accessible and inclusive event that is well attended by the nonprofit community and their stakeholders. Attending the event is a great way to network with other organizations while building social capital.

## Thank you to all walkers and their sponsors!

Sheila Allan  
JC Anama  
Dale Anderson  
Michael Andrews  
Kathleen Bauer  
Renee Beeson  
Jude Blank  
Leslie Blaustein  
Patricia Bogdewic  
Kathy Bouch  
Lorraine Brewer  
Shonns Burden

Rosina Beeson  
Rosina Caputo  
Regina Camp  
Kathy Chich family & friends  
Joseph & Shirley Clevenger  
Beverly Colcombe  
Al Condeluci  
Santino Condeluci  
Helen Condron  
Barbara & Kevin Connors  
Tim Converse  
Kevin Courtoy

Jan Harangozo  
Linda Hegner  
Ruth Hereda  
Darla Hilliard  
Jonathon Hobaugh  
Sherry Johnson  
Melodie Jones  
Doug Kramer  
Corina & David Keller  
Ruth Killeen  
Cindy Kimmel  
Anthony Koch  
David Kowalski  
Deborah Lanzo  
Maggie Larter  
Melva Gooden Ledbetter  
Tina Lehosky & friends  
Gary Loutsenhizer  
Amelia Lodovico  
Neal Lutz  
Darla & Robert Lynn  
Shannon Malley  
Bill McDowell  
David, Mary Ann & Nicole McGuirk  
Cheryl McKenna  
Linda McLellan  
Susan McMullen  
Judy McNamara  
James McNamara  
William McNamara

Robert & Lori Davis  
Rasheda Davis  
Jennifer & Justin Dean  
Dennis Demicheli  
Rose DeStout  
Tess Eggert  
Jeff Ehrenreich  
Ashley Engel  
Toots Ernst  
Janet Evans  
Martin "Pat" Foley  
Jeff Fromneckt  
Jeanne Gelik  
Ann George  
Donna & Miron Giordano  
Alla Gorodetsky  
Sean Green  
Marcia Grupp



*Stefania, Antonella, Tina, and Matthew Lorusso were part of Stefania's Team for UCP/CLASS.*

Barbara Meachem  
 Afra Migliorette  
 Crystal, Dominic & Dennis Mancini  
 MobilityWorks  
 Carlene Munro  
 Linda Nelson  
 Roy Noble  
 Marie Orlando  
 Dori & Brian Ortman  
 Stephanie & Louis Otricelli  
 Dolly Pallay  
 Jeff & Katie Parker  
 Kristy Pavlik  
 Mark Pavlik  
 Michael, Mindy & Adrienne Payne  
 Linda Polen  
 Judy Porro  
 Shirlee Porro  
 Stella Quear  
 Amber Radaker  
 Char Raynovich  
 Joe Repack  
 Robert & Rita Repack  
 Joyce Redmerski  
 Katherine Reim  
 Pat Rider & Friends  
 Angel Rich  
 Sean Rider  
 Linda Rhodes  
 Grady Roberts, Jr.  
 Julie Robeson  
 Renee Romutis  
 Karl Roxberry  
 Ron Ruppen  
 Donna Salovay  
 Mary Lou Saunders  
 Ken Service  
 Shults Ford  
 Lucy Spruill  
 Cheyenne Tatters

Chuck Taylor  
 Vivian Taylor  
 Karl Thoma  
 Lauren Turin  
 Sally & Robert Vinson  
 Debra Washington  
 Ginny Weise  
 Gayle Wieseckel  
 Dottie Wilson  
 Rita Woods  
 Lisa Young

**WPBSC**  
 David Schoenewolf

**McSnooky Wedding**  
 Catherine Britsch  
 Liz Graswick  
 Rachel Maloney  
 MaryAnn McCarty  
 Caitlin McCarty  
 Ryan & Shannon McCarty  
 Jacob Minton  
 Anna Minton  
 Jennifer Noel  
 Nate Remlinger  
 Dan Schetley  
 Lindsay Shook  
 Jack & Lee Snook  
 Mary Westwood

**Fantastic Four**  
 Nicole & Joseph Shuber  
 Gavin Shuber  
 Kylie Shuber

**Slane Family**  
 Cathy Slane  
 Marissa Slane  
 Dianne Means

**Geekdom**  
 Karen Hines  
 Michelle Hines  
 Monica Tomaszewski

**Stefania Team**  
 Stefania, Antonella, Tina, &  
 Matthew Lorusso

**Friends of K&S Real Estate**  
 DBA Babbies Handyman  
 Services  
 James & Sandra Babbie  
 Helen Chupinka  
 K & S Real Estate, Steve &  
 Kim Chupinka & friends  
 Brett Chupinka



*Destiny was excited to walk with her UCP/CLASS Workout Towel*

Lindsey & Stephanie Oleksa  
 Helen Prince

**Courtney Friends & Family**  
 Stephanie & Gary Adkins  
 Ginger Bauer  
 Kenneth & Mary Lou Busby  
 Paul & Elaine Buttenfield  
 Justin Chimka  
 Robert & Marilyn Chimka  
 Tom & Elizabeth Cloherty  
 Leila Croskey  
 Katherine and William Gillies  
 Sabrina Gillis  
 Ellen & Bill Green  
 James & Janet Greene  
 Kathleen Gibson  
 Megan & D. Patrick Jones  
 Roger & Lori Kennedy  
 Barbara Kenney  
 John & Colby Kosecki  
 John & Kelley Mansour  
 Charlene McMahon  
 Erin Miller Merhaut  
 Eric & Suzanne Miazga  
 Nicole Miller  
 Michelle & Rob Moser  
 Luke & Jen Mutz  
 Susan Mutz  
 Norman & Shelley Neike  
 Matthew Neike  
 Dan Rossi

*Continued on page 10*



*Tanner's Troopers didn't let a little rain stop them; they showed up for the walk in full force.*

# HIGHMARK WALK FOR A HEALTHY COMMUNITY



# HIGHMARK WALK FOR A HEALTHY COMMUNITY



Brian & Karen Seger  
 John Tague, Jr.  
 Charles & Carol Talarico  
 Dean & Carolyn Walker  
 Courtney Walker

## ACRC

MaryJo Alimena  
 Donna Babjak  
 Jennifer Brander  
 Connor & Sophia Caruso  
 Kathi Robinson Dassel  
 Nilda Delerme  
 Sara Gildersleeve  
 Jon Hussier  
 Karan Kelly  
 Kathie Nelson  
 Shane Proviano & friends  
 Karen Rizzo  
 Donna Marie Salovay

## Blackshear

Cheryl, Noah, Denise, Chanterra & Teresa  
 Blackshear  
 Derek & Desiree Coleman  
 Nelse, Trenel & Melaney Dumas

## Tanner's Troopers & their sponsors in honor of Tanner Young

160 Degrees of O'Hara  
 William & Bonnie Allison  
 Nancy & Maurice Allsopp  
 Samuel Astorino  
 Jeffrey & Sandra Bandurski  
 Aldo Battaglia  
 Dave Beck  
 Bellevue Elementary  
 Patricia Bertelsen  
 Lawrence & Carol Bill  
 William & Stephanie Birkmeyer  
 James Bittner, DMD  
 Lynn Black  
 Patricia Black  
 Bill Blackburn, Jr  
 Hope Bonzani  
 Dawn & Kori Boozer  
 John Boozer, Jr.  
 John & Mollie Boozer, III  
 Justin & Dawn Boozer  
 Bryan Bozovich, State Farm  
 Adeline Brown  
 Curt Bucher  
 Burket-Truby Funeral Home  
 Bobbi Caton  
 Karen Catullo  
 Mary Jo Chelosky  
 Bruce & Nancy Clements  
 Jill Ann & Patrick Coffman  
 Diane Collins

James & Mary Condron  
 William & Karen Conlin  
 Sarah Conroy  
 Neil & Joanne Cope  
 Dr Terry Coslic  
 Richard Cosnotti  
 Jim & Jean Darr  
 Joan & Dave Darr  
 Nancy Dehner  
 Doug & Kelly Deluca  
 Richard & Carol DiClaudio  
 Mr & Mrs Robert Doman  
 Christopher & Amy Donachy  
 Peggy Donahue  
 Laurie Douglas  
 Norma & John Doyle  
 Kathryn Dozzi  
 Sandra Drabicki Bell  
 Employees of UPS  
 Employees of Del Monte Food  
 Employees of Verner Elementary School  
 John & Sophia Facaros  
 Robert & Judy Fescemyer  
 Fetterolf Group  
 Edmond & Judith Fisher  
 Mulu Fissaha  
 Carolyn & Gary Fox  
 Kevin & Tracey Foy  
 Melissa George  
 Lawrence & Donna Jean George  
 Scott & Michelle Glessner  
 Kathy & Gilbert Glessner  
 Anne & Christian Gocke  
 G & G Enterprises, Rindy & Rich Grine  
 Hauger's Auto Sales & Body Shop  
 Lucas Heakins  
 Ruthanne Hill  
 Martha Hughes  
 Ida's Country Store-Rick King  
 Lynne Jesko  
 Jessie's Salon  
 Kathy Johnson  
 Bill & Amy Kanich  
 Joe & Sharon Kanich  
 James & Lisa Kelly  
 Megan Klamerus  
 William Kozorra  
 Darrin & Paula Krally  
 Nick & Jennifer Kutlenios  
 Deborah Lawther  
 Susan Lee  
 Thomas & Suzanne Likavec  
 Linda Smothers  
 Gina Lohr  
 Laura & Steven Lowe  
 Edward & Bonita Lukee  
 Madeline Lustri  
 Michael Lustri  
 Lyle Construction Corp.



*Dr. Grady Roberts sponsors Dennis Barbour every year for the Highmark Walk for a Healthy Community.*

Tim & Judy Mahler  
 Richard & Melinda Malsch  
 Mark & Stacy Mankamyer  
 Stephanie Marburger  
 Kathy & David Martin & friends  
 Gary Matassa & Leigh Baxter  
 Kellie & Dennis McCambridge  
 Thomas & Maureen McKenney  
 Marcy McKenney  
 Gary & Julie Miller  
 JJ Miller  
 Michael Miller  
 Julie & Christopher Mollica  
 Daniel Morgan  
 Morocco Welding, LLC  
 Dennis & Linda Mullen  
 Mary Katherine Murray  
 Timothy Murray  
 Alyssa Myers  
 Neighbors of Shawnee Ridge Housing Plan  
 Thomas & Christi Niggel  
 Andrew & Katherine Novelli  
 Mary O'Farrell  
 Mary Oglevee  
 Mary Ann Owens  
 Patricia & Stanley Palko  
 Albert & Nancy Pater  
 Paul Patrick  
 Elaine & Jerome Pettigrew  
 Pit Stop Beverage  
 Terry & Gretch Preece  
 Vincent & Mary Ann Provenza  
 Albert & Linda Raimondi  
 Mr & Mrs Robert Rami  
 Marc & Eileen Ranalli  
 Dr. Patrick & Mrs. Lisa Reilly  
 Dennis & Sandra Renaldi  
 Fred & Kathy Rhoads  
 Linda Rhodes  
 Karen & John Ritchey

*Continued on page 11*

Riverview Jr.-Sr. High School  
 Paul & Barbara Rocchini  
 Louis & Susan Rocchini  
 John & Paulette Rock  
 Rick & Terry Rosenberger  
 Keith & Linda Rosenstock  
 Janet Ruffolo & Lynne Naelitz  
 Todd & Lori Ruggiero  
 Andrea Sanders  
 Sandra & Richard Savinda  
 Jeffrey Savinda & Lauren George  
 Lindsay & Gregory Savinda  
 Ron Scott  
 Jason & Leigh Ann Scheponik  
 Marcia Semper  
 Alisa Shaffer  
 Anne & Grant Shepherd  
 Scott & Diann Sinclair  
 George Skylling  
 John Slowey  
 Gail Smith  
 Linda & Edward Smothers  
 Robert & Wendy Spohn  
 F. Patrick & Roberta Sullivan

Eric & Melissa Trent  
 Melissa Tweardy  
 Marc & Lisa Vivian  
 Doug, Tracie, Zachary,  
 Maggie & Ty Walker &  
 many friends  
 Greg & Barb Walker  
 Thomas & Janet Walsh  
 Karen Webb  
 Nancy Weighley  
 Kathy Wildenmann  
 Laurie Williams  
 Pat Woltjen  
 Kellie & William Yewic  
 Scott, Nicole, Tanner &  
 Mia Young  
 Karen & Allan Young  
 Young Designs  
 Jay & Karen Zangrille  
 Lorraine Zebrine  
 Cheryl & Robert Zentgraf  
 Strongstown's B&K Enterprises, Kenneth &  
 Gloria Zimmerman  
 Craig & Christine Zmenkowski



*Mary Lou Saunders and Mike take a break from the 5k to pose for a picture.*

## Pit Stop in Pittsburgh

Each June anticipation builds among UCP/CLASS staff and participants; they know that with the beginning of summer brings with it, the Journey of Hope. During the Journey of Hope, members of the Pi Kappa Phi fraternity from colleges and universities all over the United States ride their bicycles across the United States commencing in San Francisco and finishing in Washington D.C. To make sure their hard work does not go unrecognized, participants and staff alike select a pen pal to write to throughout the summer. Classes familiarize themselves with a rider by reading their profiles found on the Push America website. This year, UCP/CLASS also sent the riders a large picnic themed care package filled with games, snacks, and notes to keep them entertained during their days off from cycling.



On August 9, 2010, day 62 of their adventure, Push America's Journey of Hope made its annual trip through the city of Pittsburgh. Lead by crew chief Drayton Perkins, the team rolled into the Centre and were greeted by UCP/CLASS staff and participants who wore their favorite black and gold

attire. A traditional Pittsburgh tailgate welcomed them. The meal donated and prepared by staff consisted of Isaly's Chipped Ham barbecues, pierogies, haluski, kielbasa and sauerkraut. While some of the food was new for the riders, all seemed to enjoy the Pittsburgh flavor. Several riders walked away with some fabulous Pittsburgh prizes including UCP/CLASS t-shirts, terrible towels, and Sarris Candy. It was a wonderful day complete with great food and conversation.

In order to participate in the Journey of Hope, riders must secure sponsors. The money raised is then offered by PUSH America through grant opportunities to deserving organizations. This year, UCP/CLASS received a grant for their adaptive art classes; money awarded will be used to produce this year's calendar and to defray the costs

associated with next year's art show.

Thank you to Push America for all of your support. Plans for next year's team, scheduled to arrive on August 8, 2011, are already being made. To learn more about Push America, visit [www.pushamerica.org](http://www.pushamerica.org).

# 4th Annual Jim and Randy's South Side Summer Open

On Saturday, June 19, 2010 WDVE(DVE) and BUD LIGHT sponsored the 4th Annual (Jim and Randy's) South Side Summer Open. The morning began with a 10:00 am registration at the Double Wide with a live band, Gene the Werewolf, to motivate the nearly 600 golfers. This one day event comprised of foursomes who traveled the South Side to shoot rounds of golf at 14 different establishments. The holes that were designed by each location proved to be unique, challenging, and creative. This was the first year the event completely sold out with over 150 teams registered. The evening concluded at Mullen's, where prizes were awarded for the best score at each hole by DVE's own Jim Krenn and Randy Bauman.



UCP/CLASS is extremely appreciative of DVE and BUD LIGHT for their sponsorship of this event. Over the past four years the South Side Summer Open has raised approximately \$40,000. DVE received this year's Benefactor Award at the 18th Annual Community Heroes Awards Dinner held on Wednesday October 20, 2010 at the Westin Convention Center Pittsburgh.



The following businesses participated in this year's event: Mullen's, Archie's, Folino's, The Jaggerbush, Double Wide Grill, Tiki Lounge, Cupka's Café II, Mario's South Side Saloon, Lava Lounge, The Town Tavern, the Bar at 2132, Diesel, Bee Hive, and Pregame. Over 50 volunteers served as Course Marshalls and Hole Captains to solidify a South Side success.

Anthony Alfonsi and Mark Spagnolo from DVE deserve recognition for their planning of this event. Anthony and Mark, for the past four years, have kindly solicited all the bars, designed and ordered the t-shirts, provided the score cards, and advertised the event on 102.5 WDVE. UCP/CLASS has gained much recognition with DVE's loyal fan base as a result of their continued interest in the South Side Summer Open.

This annual event is another opportunity for UCP/CLASS to tell their story. As a result of DVE's continued support, the story is heard by many.



*Teams sported their best golf gear to take part in the mini golf tournament.*



*Several teams take a break from the tournament to pose for a photo.*

# Thank You!

## 2010 ANNUAL BOARD CAMPAIGN

Lane Maggio Cigna  
Chaz Kellem  
Ken Service  
Evelyn Stypula

## FUNDRAISERS

4th Annual Jim and Randy's South Side Summer Open with WDVE, UCP and the following establishments:

Mullen's  
Archie's  
Folino's  
The Jaggerbush  
Double Wide Grille  
Tiki Lounge  
Cupka's Café II  
Mario's South Side Salon  
Lava Lounge  
The Town Tavern  
Bar at 2132  
Diesel  
Bee Hive  
Pregame

## GRANTS GRANTED

Pittsburgh Gives Charitable Gift Card Program of the Pittsburgh Foundation  
Robert and Mary Weisbrod Foundation  
United Way of Allegheny County

## DONATIONS UP TO \$99

Philip & Brook Brautigam  
Gazelle  
Diane Krause

## DONATIONS \$100 - \$499

April's "Hold Music Contest" created by the Technology Dept.  
May's "Hold Music Contest" created by the

Technology Dept.  
Mario & Cynthia Chiodo  
Raymond Kerston  
Julian & Bonnie Marturano  
Dan and Jennifer McNemar  
Larry Ostrowski  
David Zak

## DONATIONS OVER \$500

Push America

## DONATIONS OVER \$5999

Dr. Mark H. & Mrs. Patricia Sanders



Ken Karpa meets with his pen pal at the Push America luncheon.

## UNITED WAY OF SOUTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA

Patricia Gempe  
Russell Smart  
Joseph Zoffel

## VALLEY OF THE SUN UNITED WAY

Robert McCollough

## AT&T UNITED WAY EMPLOYEE GIVING CAMPAIGN

Judith Cochran

## AMERICAN EXPRESS EMPLOYEE GIVING

Paul Irvine

## THE BANK of NEW YORK MELLON COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

David Babich  
Susan Hollingsworth  
Robert Pack

## IN HONOR

**Rigby Walls** from Henry & Ellen Walls

**Douglas Sherratt** from Samuel Landman

**William Causgrove** "Papa" from 13 Causgrove grandchildren

## IN MEMORY

**E. Paul Dick** from Joseph & Kathryn Wassermann, C.Raymond & M.Susan Werner, Barbara & William Millar

**Nancy Shiley** from Barbara Maksin  
**Catherine McKinniss** from Kevin &

Margaret Lacek, Bill & Lonna Hogan, Alexis & William Raible,  
Robert & Violet Gallo

**Robert Coleman** from Debby & Henry Zander, Emmie Belak & Linda Comperatore, Kevin & Colleen Girts, Frank & Cecelia Jaworowski,

James & Julie Sadowski, Mary & Gary Gottschalk, June & George Devinney  
**Parents** from Eugene & Ruth Ann Klein

**Charles Dean Tillotson** from Nick & Thelma Martino, Warren & Betty Cooley

## UCP/CLASS 18TH ANNUAL COMMUNITY HEROES AWARDS DINNER

### HONORARY CHAIR \$7500

Massaro Family

### COMMUNITY CHAMPION SPONSOR \$5000

Enscoe Long Insurance Group

### COMMUNITY SPONSOR \$2500

BNY Mellon  
Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield  
MobilityWorks  
PNC Bank  
synergIT

### BEST FRIEND SPONSOR \$2000

UPMC Community Provider Services

### PARTNER SPONSOR \$1500

AMCOM OFFICE SYSTEMS  
Harry S. Cohen & Associates  
Jendoco Construction Corporation  
La Roche College



(Left to right) Al Condeluci, Douglass Dick, and Ken Service at the Annual Meeting.

Continued on page 14

Mahe Duessel, CPAs  
Wagner Agency, Inc

## GOOD NEIGHBOR SPONSORS

**\$1000**

Bender Consulting Services, Inc  
DTI Development, Inc.  
JOHN A. CAPUTO

## AWARDS DINNER SUPPORTERS

Alex's Flowers  
Andrew Stockey  
Zachary Salopek, Specialized Media Intern  
Barry Zwibel, Sir Speedy  
Tammy Crawford, photographer  
David Seman, Sr. Art Director of MARC USA  
Dr. Grady Roberts, Jr.  
Jerome Bettis' Grille 36  
Dan Long  
MARC USA  
Lindsay Shook  
Pittsburgh Trophy  
Westin Convention Center-Pittsburgh  
Terry Lane  
Hilary Brown  
Chris Benton  
Volunteers from PNC Bank

## AWARDS DINNER DONATIONS

Diane Collins  
Cost Company  
DBA Zak Rehab, David Zak  
William & Katherine Gillies  
Donna & Miron Giordano  
Janet & Gary Grysiak  
Gary Friedman, Trust-Franklin Press Co  
Colby & John Kosecki  
Joseph Lagana  
Linda Lewis  
Marsula Electric  
Julian Marturano  
Norman & Shelley Neike  
Network Emergency Alert Systems  
Mark Rotella  
Massaro Industries



*Ryan and Shannon McCarty, Lindsay Shook, and Nate Remlinger wait for the walk to start.*

The Women's Club of Overbrook  
Chris Pavone  
Elizabeth Segel  
Three Rivers Community Foundation  
TRI-STATE LOCKERS AND  
SHELVING, INC  
Christine Tyndall

## SILENT AUCTION DONORS

Alex's Flowers  
Arnold Palmer Enterprises  
Assurant Employee Benefits  
Backrubs and Bodyworks  
Bella Frutteto Restaurant  
Bruegger's Baked Fresh  
Bruster's Real Ice Cream  
Café Sam  
Carnegie Science Center  
Carson Home Accents  
Charles McLaughlin, University of Pittsburgh  
Cisco Systems  
Clover Hill Golf Course  
ConnecTEL, Inc.  
Dave and Busters of Pittsburgh  
Dean of Shadyside Salon  
DeLallo's Fort Couch Café  
Del's Italian Restaurant & Bar  
Dana Collins  
Diane Collins  
Dinette  
DTI Development, Inc.  
Eat' n Park  
Glengarry Golf Links  
Harris Grill  
Heather Baranowski  
Jimmy Wan's Taipai Restaurant  
Jerome Bettis' Grille 36  
Kathy Gibson, Kathleen's Creations  
Ken Service  
Kentuck Knob  
Larrimor's  
Laurel Caverns Geological Park  
Laurel Highlands River Tours  
LeMont Restaurant  
Linda Barnicott  
Maggie Guzzo  
MaryAnn McGuirk  
MCG Jazz  
McGinnis Sisters  
Michelle Hines  
MixStirs Cafe  
Moio's Italian Pastry Shop  
Morning Glory Inn  
Mt. Lebanon Office Equipment Co.  
Omni William Penn Hotel  
Patti Abraham  
Philip Pelusi  
Phipps Conservatory and Botanical  
Gardens, Inc.  
Pirates Charities  
Pittsburgh Musical Theater  
Pittsburgh Opera  
Pittsburgh Penguins



*Jeff Ehrenrich, Michelle Hines, Dan Rossi, and Melwa and Lamar Ledbetter were well equipped to walk in the rain.*

Pittsburgh Playhouse  
Pittsburgh Public Theater  
Pittsburgh Steelers  
Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra  
Pittsburgh Zoo & PPG Aquarium  
Renaissance Pittsburgh Hotel  
Rivers Club  
Senator Wayne Fontana  
Sheraton Station Square Hotel Pittsburgh  
Shirlee Porro  
Silky's Crow's Nest  
Soldiers and Sailors Military Museum and  
Memorial  
Southpointe Golf Club  
Stephen Szabo Salon  
synergIT  
Tambellini Restaurant  
The Capital Grille  
The Dannon Company  
The First Tee, Bob O'Connor Golf Course at  
Schenley Park  
The Primadonna Restaurant  
The Spaghetti Warehouse Restaurant  
The Westin Convention Center  
UCP/CLASS Events Committee  
Unique Factor  
Wood Street Frame Shop  
Zarra's

# Volunteer “Connection” with Providence Connections

As part of UCP/CLASS’ Centre Services, the Vocational Services Team places participants with a job coach to assist with volunteer opportunities throughout the Pittsburgh Area. One of these opportunities is through Providence Connections. Providence Connections’ main mission is to strengthen families and enrich lives through their two ministries, Providence Family Support Center and Amelia House.

In the fall edition of *Connections*, Providence Connections recognizes the different volunteers that help them to fulfill their mission. Dan Schillinger, who has been participating with the Centre Services Vocational Team since 2007, is one of the people recognized. “Dan has volunteered at Providence Connections since January 20, 2009, coming every Wednesday three to four hours. He has done a remarkable job in maintaining the first floor community room, the adult education and computer classrooms.”

Prior to Dan’s placement with Providence Connections, his areas of interest were assessed through a vocational interest survey. The results indicated that Dan would be best suited to do hands on work that involved cleaning and organizing. Dan also spent time in the classroom creating his resume, cover letter, developing interview skills, as well as searching for a job through a variety of employment based web sites, such as [pittsburghpostgazette.com](http://pittsburghpostgazette.com), [indeed.com](http://indeed.com) and [craigslist.org](http://craigslist.org).

Once Dan had completed his resume and became familiar with general workplace expectations and responsibilities, he was assisted with the job search process. Dan and the Vocational Services Team located volunteer opportunities through cold calls and doing online research. After

compiling a list of options, they weighed the benefits and concerns and prioritized their list. Dan’s next step was to attend an orientation with the Volunteer Coordinator, then to fill out a volunteer application. Once that was completed, Dan and his first job coach, Teresa Martuccio began volunteering three to four hours every Wednesday. Now, Dan continues to volunteer at the Providence Connections with his new job coach, Bill McMahon.

Of the experience, Dan says, “In order to reach my goal I have to take one step at a time to work with other individuals in order to achieve more independence in the community.”

To learn more about our Vocational Services, please contact Kristy Pavlik at [info@ucpclass.org](mailto:info@ucpclass.org) or 1.888.954.2424.



*Dan being congratulated by his job coach, Bill McMahon, for all of his hard work.*

## And Pittsburghers Gave...

UCP/CLASS would like to thank all of those who donated to UCP/CLASS on The Pittsburgh Foundation’s Day of Giving. In just 24 hours, over \$2.8 million was raised for over 400 nonprofit organizations. Thank you to The Pittsburgh Foundation for this wonderful opportunity. We are already looking forward to next year’s Day of Giving.



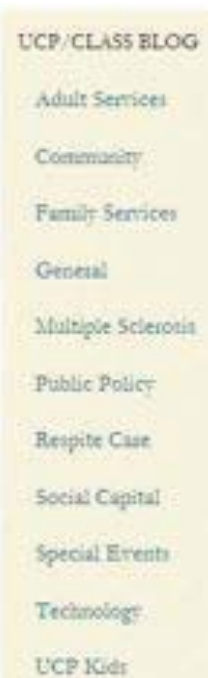
# Blogging and Posting and Tweets, Oh My!

The world has entered the digital age and UCP/CLASS is not too far behind. Every day as a society, we discuss what we have read on our social media sites or on the web. Some of us even share our stories, time, and experiences through blogs and other social media platforms. UCP/CLASS is proud to announce that we are joining the media masses by launching our very first blog.

The term “blog” is short for web log. Blogs are writings that are meant to be interactive with their readers and create discussion. The UCP/CLASS blog can be found in the UCP Community section of our website and will replace the discussion boards. In the hopes of building an online community, we have a number of blog topics planned including everything from “hot topics” by UCP Kids and social capital to technology tips and community opportunities. We invite you to join in on the discussions as well.

To make a comment on one of our blogs, simply click on login or register at the bottom of the blog and follow the directions on the screen. We would love to hear from you. Don't forget, along with the blogs UCP/CLASS is also on Facebook, LinkedIn, and Twitter. Visit [www.ucpclass.org](http://www.ucpclass.org) for links to these pages.

Please contact our technology department at [webteam@ucpclass.org](mailto:webteam@ucpclass.org) if you have any questions.



## We're Serving Up Savings

The only thing better than an enjoyable meal with the family, is getting it at a great value. We are pleased to offer friends of UCP/CLASS the 2011 Pittsburgh editions of the Enjoy® Coupon Book for the low price of \$27.00 (includes shipping and handling) and Entertainment Book for \$25.00.

UCP/CLASS will receive a portion of proceeds from each book purchased. Each time you take advantage of the money-saving coupons, you will be reminded that your purchase benefits UCP/CLASS.

They are filled with over 1,000 “two-for-one” and “50% off” discounts on fine and casual dining, sporting and cultural events, recreational activities and services (for a complete list visit [www.enjoycouponbook.com](http://www.enjoycouponbook.com) or [www.entertainment.com/ent2011](http://www.entertainment.com/ent2011)). There are many offers in your own neighborhood. The Enjoy® Coupon Book and Entertainment Book make a great gift for the holidays for family, friends, employees, or business associates.

If you are interested in ordering an Enjoy® Coupon Book or Entertainment Book (s) please call (412) 481-9460. Office hours are Monday-Friday from 9:00 am - 4:30 pm. Don't forget to mention code “UCPDIRECT”. This offer is available only by phone through December 31, 2011. There are Enjoy® Coupon Books and Entertainment Books available in the Development Office, you can contact Courtney at 412.683.7100X2153 or [cwalker@ucpclass.org](mailto:cwalker@ucpclass.org) to order directly from UCP/CLASS.



# Growing Strong and Moving Along

If you were to think about what defines success, more than likely, these three variables would play a fundamental role: 1) Longevity 2) Growth and 3) Reciprocity. UCP/CLASS established in 1951 will soon be celebrating its 60th anniversary. Impeccable timing would have the organization poised to move into a second property during the anniversary year. The move speaks volumes to the impact UCP/CLASS has made for the past 60 years and lends truth to the claim; UCP/CLASS is a successful organization.

UCP/CLASS is a nonprofit organization with a commitment and passion for full community opportunities for all people. UCP/CLASS prides itself on creativity, energy, and a deep spirit that recognizes that all people have gifts, talents, and a role to play in building community. For far too many years, people with disabilities have been outside of the mix of the full community. In order to address these issues and promote full community involvement, UCP/CLASS has created a cutting-edge support system designed to create “bridges to community.” As a result of this reciprocal approach, we have enjoyed great success.

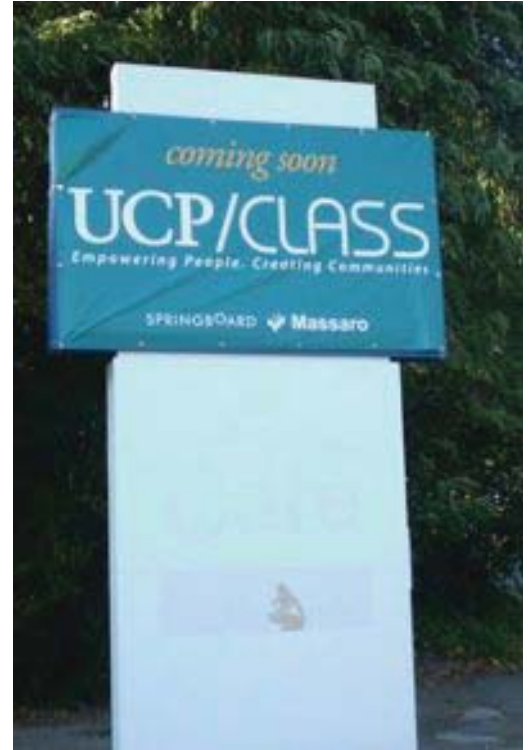
Today, UCP/CLASS is a strong, vibrant organization serving some 4,000 men, women, children and their families who have all types of disabilities in Allegheny and Erie Counties. The solid partnership of board, staff, and persons/families served, and community leaders have created a synergy and growth that created a viable foundation to continue our upward trajectory.

As UCP/CLASS has grown, our headquarters in Oakland (4638 Centre Avenue) which was acquired in 1980 (when our budget was \$740,000) and has 18,000 square feet, has been augmented with a number of satellite offices that house a number of programs and services. That is, we have enjoyed the strength and vibrancy that growth can promote, but the impact of our tight space caused us to explore ways we can create a more central approach for our future.

Some powerful comparisons to consider:

Category	1980	2000	2010
Budget	\$740,000	\$7,500,000	\$32,000,000
Employees	50	210	700
People Served	400	1,100	3,000
Outreach Programs	1	9	15

When we were introduced to the availability of the former Center for Creative Play (CCP) building at 1400 South Braddock in Edgewood, given its location, square footage, basic accessibility, and proximity to our Oakland property, we knew the building was the best option for a second centre that would address our present and future space needs. UCP/CLASS purchased the building in June of this year and has employed the contracting services of the Massaro Corporation who will be working in conjunction with architects from SPRINGBOARD. Massaro Corporation was founded by Joseph A. Massaro and has been providing construction services throughout the Pittsburgh region since 1967. Based on over 41 years of success, they have established a strong foundation and reputation for integrity, commitment, and teamwork.



*The future site of the new building at 1400 South Braddock Avenue in Edgewood.*

Founded in 2001 by Architect Paul Rosenblatt AIA, SPRINGBOARD is an award-winning nationwide architectural firm that has developed a reputation for excellence. SPRINGBOARD's museum architecture, exhibition, design and cultural facility planning are especially noteworthy. The hallmark of SPRINGBOARD projects is user interaction – SPRINGBOARD buildings and environments are truly engaging, fun, and exciting. SPRINGBOARD's service philosophy is embodied by their name: dedicated to 'springboarding' clients' visions for their projects. Staff is highly responsive to the details and nuances of verbal and visual communication.



The success of a nonprofit organization is woven with many strands. The elements of culture, communication, volunteerism, passion for mission, and pride in image, mix with greater needs in the community and are all key ingredients to success along with growth, longevity and reciprocity. This project will promote, maintain, and enhance all of these elements so that UCP/CLASS and its mission of a full and inclusive community can continue to grow and develop and serve the greater South Western Pennsylvania region.

## We've Got the Power

The Power of 32 that is. On Wednesday, September 22, UCP/CLASS hosted 45 participants from four different Pennsylvania counties to take part in a Power of 32 Community Conversation.

Power of 32 is a regional visioning project that engages residents, businesses, nonprofit organizations, and others who live, work, or do business in a 32 County region encompassing four states—Western Pennsylvania, Eastern Ohio, Northwestern Maryland, and Northern West Virginia. One of the goals of the Power of 32 is to create a shared vision of our region's future. The Community Conversations held by the Power of 32 are aimed to discuss the challenges to our region and our opportunities as we head toward the future in hopes to foster positive change. These forums allow for the public to share their views on the challenges, assets and opportunities in their region.

UCP/CLASS worked with the FISA Foundation and Power of 32 to host an intentionally accessible, cross-disability Community Conversation to assure that the voices of people with disabilities and their families, friends, and service providers would be included in this project.

Besides providing an accessible space, the afternoon featured sign language interpretation and handout materials in large print and Braille, all made possible by a grant from the FISA Foundation. We hope to make similar opportunities for inclusive community events available to UCP/CLASS staff and participants in the future.

For more information about the Power of 32 and how you can be involved, visit the Power of 32 website at [www.powerof32.org](http://www.powerof32.org).



# Creating Our Own Community

Sean Green is an individual that exemplifies the saying by Aristotle, “Pleasure in the job puts perfection in the work.” In his time with Residential Services, Sean has encountered a number of opportunities in the community. Sean leads a very busy, active life and he wouldn’t have it any other way. Each day, Sean demonstrates the heart of UCP/CLASS’ mission of “working toward a community where each belongs.”

Since April 2009, Sean has been working one to two days a week at the Cinemark Movie Theater at the Pittsburgh Mills Mall. Upon starting the position, Sean had to learn how to arrange his own transportation, learn procedures associated with his new job, and educate himself about the effects his employment would have on his Social Security benefits to include sending in his payroll stubs every month. All of these tasks were new and required flexibility and many adjustments to Sean’s schedule. With patience and practice, he now completes these tasks independently with ease. Besides working at the theater, Sean volunteers at the Sterling House, a residential home for seniors. Sean spends about two hours there each week socializing and playing table games with the residents. In the near future, Sean would like to educate interested, residents about computer basics, perhaps introducing them to Facebook or other social media outlets.

In addition to Sean’s busy work week, he actively takes part in community activities. Last year he helped to plan the Community Health Connections film festival which was held at Butler County Community College. Sean’s involvement began when he met several people from Community Health Connections as they were taking a tour of the Milestone facility (Milestone is another program that Sean participates in when he is not volunteering or working at the Movie Theater). He mentioned to one of the people touring the facility his involvement in acting classes at the Pittsburgh Civic Light Opera (CLO). It was suggested that he might be interested in helping them plan for their festival. Sean immediately agreed and began scheduling meetings to be held at Milestone. He also sent out advertising cards for film submissions. Sean attended the national ARC convention in Pittsburgh where a film festival was on the agenda so that he could see how it was put together. The night of the festival in Butler, Sean was a guest speaker and discussed his role in the festival and his activities at the CLO.

Sean is a loyal Pittsburgh Pirates fan and makes time to attend several Pirate home games every season. Sean’s dedication to volunteering and making a difference in his community is a great example of UCP/CLASS’ own commitment of Empowering People. Creating Communities.



*Sean and Residential Site Supervisor, Donna Beale, at the Community Health Connections film festival.*



*Sean taking tickets at the Cinemark Theater at the Pittsburgh Mills.*

# Bender Consulting: Opening the Doors of the American Workplace to People with Disabilities

On the 20th Anniversary of the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act, July 26, 2010, Barack Obama signed an Executive Order aimed to increase the federal employment of people with disabilities by 100,000 employees over the next five years. Further, the Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs (OFCCP) has expressed their intent to enforce Section 503 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, which requires Federal contractors of a certain size and revenue category to employ people with disabilities. This combination of events is great news and a great opportunity for people with disabilities to gain competitive employment. In an effort to comply with the mandates of the Executive Order and the proposed regulations of OFCCP, Federal Agencies, and companies that contract to these agencies are aggressively taking steps to recruit and hire people with disabilities. Many of these agencies and contractors are partnering with Bender Consulting Services, Inc. to meet their recruiting and hiring goals.

Bender Consulting Services is a Pittsburgh based, for-profit consulting company that hires people with disabilities for competitive jobs in the public and private sector. Bender has current positions available in fields including, but not limited to: information technology, finance, accounting, human resources, engineering, management analysis, contracts administration, law, aviation, logistics, research, language analysis, general business and other related fields. In addition to filling openings with Fortune 500 companies in 18 states and 2 provinces of Canada, Bender has also has secure contracts to recruit people with disabilities to fill open positions within federal agencies. The positions span a wide range of academic disciplines and geographic locations throughout the United States.

Bender Consulting Services, Inc. is on a crusade for competitive employment for people with disabilities. The founder, president, and chief executive officer, Joyce Bender, is herself a woman with epilepsy and a hearing loss. Ms. Bender is the current chair of the national Epilepsy Foundation of America, and she serves on the board of the American Association of People with Disabilities. Ms. Bender has been recognized with the New Freedom Initiative Award from the Bush Administration and the President's Award from President Clinton. In 2005, UCP of Pittsburgh honored Ms. Bender with the Gertrude Labowitz Lifetime Achievement Award. She is also the host of the weekly Internet radio show "Disability Matters with Joyce Bender," which airs Tuesdays at 2:00 p.m. ET.

In today's economic environment where employment is at a premium for everyone, especially people with disabilities, Bender Consulting Services, Inc. is hiring for competitive positions. If you are interested in being considered for these opportunities, please send your resume to [resume@benderconsult.com](mailto:resume@benderconsult.com) and someone from their recruitment staff will contact you. Further information on Bender Consulting Services, Inc. is available on the company's website [www.benderconsult.com](http://www.benderconsult.com).



*Be sure to tune into "Disability Matters with Joyce Bender" on Tuesdays at 2:00 pm.*



*Bender Consulting Services hires people with disabilities for competitive jobs.*

# Happy Anniversary!

## Celebrating 20 Years of the Americans with Disabilities Act



Lee Snook and Kathy Lang await the start of the ADA celebration.

*"I truly believe now that life is about getting the best out of it and not letting it get the best out of you. And I owe part of this to the Americans with Disabilities Act. For we all are somebody special."  
-Dale S. Anderson*



Members of the Community Skill Building Program enjoyed listening to the different speakers.

As a landmark legislation, the Americans with Disabilities Act gave way to a turn of events that shaped our future and the society that we are in today. As a major disability specific organization, many of UCP/CLASS' staff and stakeholders watched the turn of events that lead to the passage of the ADA and some even were driving forces in the movement.

On July 26, 2010, more than 250 people from neighborhoods in Pittsburgh and Allegheny County gathered at Station Square to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act. The event was planned and sponsored by UCP/CLASS, TRCIL, Allegheny County Disabilities Connection, Consumer Health Coalition, and the City-County Task Force on Disabilities.

Many staff and participants from UCP/CLASS were in attendance; CEO Al Condeluci gave a panel presentation on the ADA and full inclusion in community for people with disabilities, and Chief Operating Officer, Jeff Parker served as Master of Ceremonies for the afternoon Community Forum.

After the Forum, attendees moved their celebration to the streets where they enjoyed a street festival with delicious food from the Island Café and great music provided by Reggaematics. We also were very pleased that local media provided very informative and positive coverage of the 20th Anniversary of the ADA. Individuals wishing to view that coverage as well as President Obama's remarks at the celebration of the 20th Anniversary of the Signing of the ADA in Washington, and two letters from individuals with disabilities commenting on the occasion are encouraged to view them on the UCP/CLASS website at [www.ucpclass.org](http://www.ucpclass.org).

# Finding Strength in Mind, Heart, and Spirit

Beating Multiple Sclerosis is the number one goal of former North Hills High School Hockey Team, two-time Most Valuable Goalie, John Reitlinger, 47 of Millvale. As Mellon Arena fades into Pittsburgh's past, John has many fond memories of the Igloo; including playing there in high school for the North Hills Indians and working on the ice. John was employed by Thermoflo Equipment Company, where he worked on the hydronics, which deal with the movement of heated and chilled water.

To say that John is a Penguin fan would be an understatement. While working at the arena, he had the opportunity to meet many Penguin players on and off the ice, including Ron Francis, Bob Errey, Jaromir Jagr and Peter Taglionetti. His favorite Pittsburgh Penguin not surprisingly is goalie, Marc Andre Fleury. John attended countless hockey games at the Mellon Arena, but is excited about seeing the new arena.

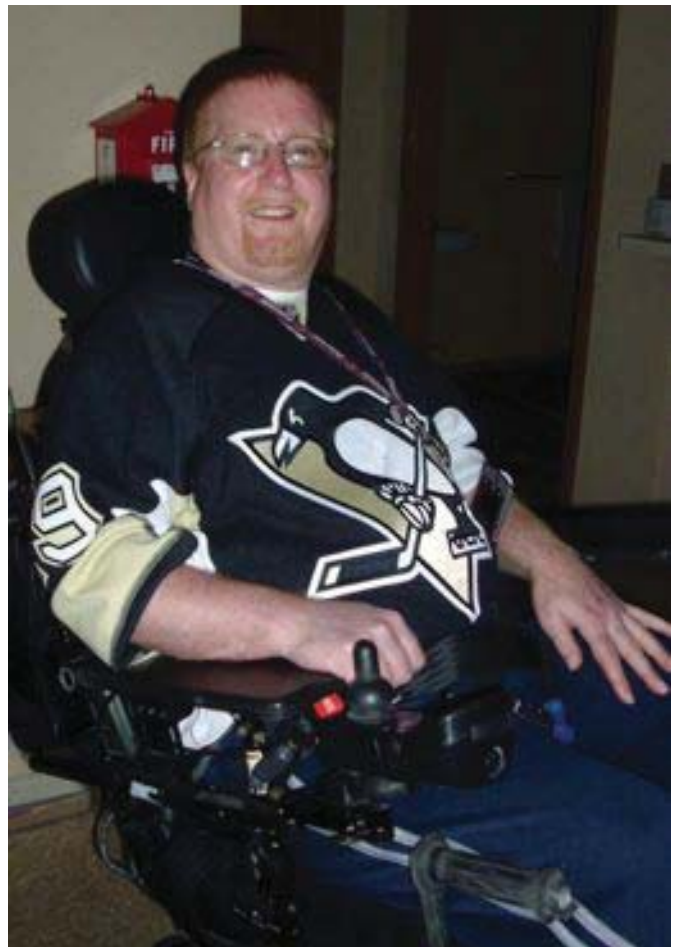
Reitlinger grew up just blocks away from the Keating Fire Company in Ross Township, where he has been a member for 27 years and attends weekly meetings. He has three sisters and one brother and is the proud father to Victoria and Adam John (A.J.). John spent all but one year of his life in Pittsburgh.

Like the Penguins, John has a winning attitude. When he was first diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis John commented, "I had to accept it and realize that I am the same person, but I just have to find different ways of doing things." His first occurrence of Multiple Sclerosis was in 1989 and then it resurfaced in 1993. John says, "Everyone has a point in their life when something changes them, I chose to make my life better and I get up everyday and say someone has it worse than me." Someday John wants to walk again and is currently working on increasing his upper body strength. He received a standing frame through the Multiple Sclerosis Service Society's Durable Medical Equipment Program along with help from Three Rivers Center for Independent Living (TRCIL). He is now looking forward to getting an armbike in the near future.

John has been in the Multiple Sclerosis Exercise and Support (MSES) Program for over five years. Of his involvement in the program, John shared, "Joyce Zendarski, MSES Program Supervisor, has helped me get through the good times and bad times, if she is not an angel now, she will be someday. Joyce has given me the strength to keep on going. I am lucky to have a great support system." In addition to his in-home exercises with the MSES Program, John credits his success in fighting his Multiple Sclerosis to his weekly yoga classes, which opened his mind.

For more information on the Multiple Sclerosis Exercise and Support (MSES) program or how you can help individuals like John, contact the Multiple Sclerosis Service Society, a division of UCP/CLASS at [info@ucpclass.org](mailto:info@ucpclass.org).

*"Joyce Zendarski, MSES Program Supervisor, has helped me get through the good times and bad times, if she is not an angel now, she will be someday. Joyce has given me the strength to keep on going. I am lucky to have a great support system."*



*"Everyone has a point in their life when something changes them, I chose to make my life better and I get up everyday and say someone has it worse than me."*

# 4th Annual Alby Oxenreiter Golf Classic for Multiple Sclerosis Service Society

The 4th Annual Alby Oxenreiter Golf Classic for the MSSS to raise money for the Multiple Sclerosis Exercise and Support Program was a great success. This year 114 golfers participated in this fun event held at Chartiers Country Club on August 9, 2010.

The day started out with a delicious lunch and then it was time for a few words from WPXI Sports Anchor and UCP/CLASS Board Member Alby Oxenreiter. In spite of the heat, everyone enjoyed the day on the course.

Many thanks to this year's tournament and events sponsors including: Jefferson Regional Center, Laurel Valley Graphics, PNC Bank, Roberts Communications, S&T Bank, the Ben Roethlisberger Foundation, The Bus Stops Here Foundation, The Mario Lemieux Foundation, UCP/CLASS, Welte Roofing, WDVE, and WPXI.

This successful event would not be possible without the chairman Alby Oxenreiter, the Golf and Banquet Director Bill Goyette and the entire tournament committee and volunteers.

A steak, chicken, and shrimp dinner and an announcement of the skill prize winners, the Chinese Auction, and Silent Auction completed this memorable evening.

The 5th Annual Alby Oxenreiter Golf Classic will be held Monday, August 8, 2011 at the Chartiers Country Club. Please save the date. If you would like to golf or be a sponsor for this great event, please contact the Multiple Sclerosis Service Society Division of UCP/CLASS at (412) 539-1090 or email Sandy Meyer at [smeyer@ucpclass.org](mailto:smeyer@ucpclass.org).



## Save the Date

Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield  
presents

Highmark Walk for a  
Healthy Community

May 21, 2011

Heinz Field

Alby Oxenreiter  
Golf Classic

August 8, 2011

Chartiers Country  
Club

19th Annual  
Community Heroes  
Awards Dinner

October 19, 2011

Westin Hotel

The UCP/CLASS Voice is a publication of the UCP Foundation, A non-profit, 501 (c)(3), non-sectarian, equal opportunity employer that has advocated for the rights of people with disabilities to live, work and participate in the community for over 50 years.

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