

# ucpn

## 2013 ANNUAL REPORT

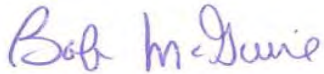
**The United Cerebral Palsy Association of Nassau County, Inc.**



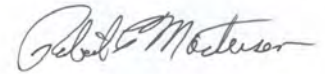
**We Provide the Highest Quality Services to the Children and Adults We Serve**



From the  
**Executive Director**  
Robert McGuire



From the  
**President of the Board**



**A**s we have been reporting and discussing for several years, New York State is committed to changing the path that adults with disabilities travel to obtain services.

The rhetoric continues from Albany and Washington, D.C. with statements like these:

*“Money will follow the person.”*

*“People First Waiver is the new mantra.”*

*“Managed Care will provide more choices.”*

*“The Front Door will help families choose the best service opportunities.”*

*“Employment must be the ultimate goal for each person.”*

Who is making these statements and shaping policy? You'd have to search long and hard to find any of the parents of children graduating into the adult system to find someone who considers the “new” world more inclusive, responsive, and individualized. You'd be hard pressed to identify an adult participant or a member of their family who would criticize the growth of opportunities and choices developed in the last three decades that now loom as a thing of the past.

This is the state of the State as we report on the year 2013. But wait; all is not lost. We recalled something this year. The power of the people; the importance of our collective voices being raised to get the decision makers to pause, even for just a moment; to blink, enough time to give us hope and encouragement.

We returned to our roots in 2012 and sent 15,000 letters from **ucpn** to our representatives in a two day period of time. All the while, staff, families, adults in our programs and children in our schools (the same cadre that wrote letters) went to the phones and called, and called, and called. And what was the message? Stop the cuts and begin a dialogue with us. Change is good if one can anticipate good outcomes, but change for the sake of change, regardless of the outcome, is disruptive at best and destructive in reality.

On July 11, 2013, we held a Town Hall Meeting to deliver these messages and more to Senate Majority Leader Dean Skelos, Senator Charles Fuschillo, Senator Jack Martins, and Senator Kemp Hannon. Parents, participants, board members and staff spoke of their fears, their realities, and their hope that the Senators would understand our concerns and take up the mantle.

The meeting concluded with each Senator expressing concern about what they heard and learned, and their vow to be attentive to these issues and be more critical of reports from Commissioners in the future. Clearly, the speakers had delivered their messages. We continue our dialogue with our representatives today with their awareness that a sleeping giant has awakened. We can hearken back to the work done by our predecessors in the 60s and 70s and know there is power in our collective voices and actions and that we will continue to use our most important resource, you, to ensure that each child, every adult, all of our families, and our dedicated staff receive what they need and deserve to have productive and meaningful lives.



## The Children's Learning Center (CLC)

A momentous ceremony was held on Wednesday, October 16, 2013. That was the day of the dedication and ribbon-cutting of the newly renovated Life Skills House. The Life Skills House is there for students of the Children's Learning Center to learn and practice everyday activities such as personal hygiene, making a bed, putting away clothing, cooking, and cleaning. The house was designed with an open layout and has a bedroom area, computer workspace, adapted bathroom and kitchen, and eating area. Students have opportunities to work on fine and gross motor skills, as well as organizational and problem-solving strategies.

At the ribbon-cutting, the audience was comprised of students from Life Skills classes, donors who contributed to the house renovations, faculty, Bob McGuire, Roger Tilles (NYS Board of Regents member) and members of CLC Principal Dee Berger's family. The Life Skills House, which was named Marilyn's Life Skills House, was named after Dee's mother, Marilyn Rosenzweig, who spent much of her life helping others. In addition, Marilyn's first grandson, Spencer Rosenzweig, is also remembered in the house in an area called Spencer's Tech Area, which has a height-adjustable computer and an iPad and enables students to practice computer and office skills such as typing, collating, and distributing papers.

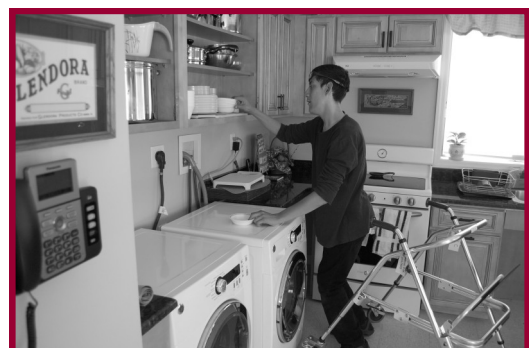
Dee's family spearheaded the fundraising efforts for this program. With additional generous financial support from CLC faculty, agency staff, and friends of the Rosenzweig family, Marilyn's Life Skills House has been enjoyed by CLC students for the past seven months. In Marilyn's Life Skills House, students have increased opportunities to engage in functional life activities and to become more independent.

Another new program was implemented during the summer, the CLC Drama Club. This group of students rehearsed a play, made costumes and scenery, and presented the play, which was for young children, to the preschool and elementary school students within CLC. It was terrific!



Students in the teenage academics class continue to care for others through their commitment to the INN (the Interfaith Nutrition Network). Over the years, the students have collected food, coats, towels, and baby supplies for persons served by the INN. The INN's executive director, Jean Kelly, visited the students to personally thank them for their ongoing efforts.

The diverse and exciting programs and activities within CLC for the students all take place through the dedication of the 200+ member faculty of the school who deserve much credit for their ideas, creativity and commitment.



**Learning in CLC's Marilyn's Life Skills House**

## Adult Day Services (ADS)

In early 2013, the **Grandma Farrell Production Studio** was officially established with a ribbon-cutting and dedication ceremony.

Site-Based Day Hab (SBDH) finished work on the multi-sensory environment room in late 2013 and held a dedication ceremony to name it **Scotty's Place** in January 2014. Scotty's place is a Multi-Sensory Environment whose purpose is to provide an enriched, adaptable, and controlled space that is demand free, safe, predictable and constant in order to change behavior and/or provide a leisure experience. Scotty's Place was made possible through a donation made by the Marcari and Hughes and McCormack families. The participants' enjoy and have greatly benefitted from the experience already. It has been a wonderful addition to the SBDH program.

Adult Day Services (ADS) had their first annual Games for the Physically Challenged in the summer of 2013. This was an event that came about at the request of one of the Life Options (LO) participants. She, along with the assistance of staff and other participants, created a committee that coordinated the types of races that would be included, who would participate in each race and what equipment would be needed. The individuals competed in events such as balloon toss, obstacle course races, and target throws. Many participants won medals and trophies for placing 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> in events, and being on the team that had the most overall points that day. All of ADS participated and it was a wonderful day.

During this past holiday season, Oceanside Day Hab performed an adaptation of Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*. The families and friends of the participants were invited and many attended the performance. All the participants in the program took part in some aspect of the play, ranging from singing and dancing, set design, and speaking roles. They did a wonderful job and it was enjoyed by all!

Life Options continues to create very helpful training videos with input from participants that provide staff with suggested ways to interact with and assist the individuals we serve. These videos are used in the Agency's New Employee Orientation, Annual Staff Training Day; and other ongoing staff trainings on a regular basis.

The Wantagh Day Habbers' continue to provide volunteer services to nine different volunteer sites around Long Island, from Meals on Wheels to Mercy Hospital. They also took a trip into New York City where they were able to experience the trials and tribulations of the Long Island Railroad and see and experience the New York City sights. An enjoyable time was had by all.

## Quality Assurance (QA)

The QA Department established a committee to explore and pilot the implementation of Personal Outcome Measures (POMS), a new variation on a person-centered approach promoted by the NYS Office for People with Developmental Disabilities as a required metric of Managed Care.

The QA Department led the Agency's efforts at adapting policies and procedures and ensuring staff received the required trainings in response to the newly created New York State Justice Center and the regulatory mandates that followed.

With the publication in 2013 of the NYS Office of Medicaid Inspector General (OMIG) audit protocols, the QA Department revised its audit protocols to correspond with the OMIG requirements and focus.

## Residential

Residential Services continues to be an area of significant importance for the Agency.

During the past year we spent most of our energy working with the New York State Office of Emergency Maintenance to secure funding to assist with the losses we incurred during Hurricane Sandy. Unfortunately the two homes that we operated in Long Beach were severely damaged and we were unable to restore them. The remainder of the year was spent in finding appropriate placement for the five individuals left homeless by the storm.

Our maintenance department worked diligently repairing damage from the storm at a number of residences for the better part of the year. In addition, they worked to convert a den into a permanent bedroom at the Diesman Residence for one of the Long Beach gentlemen.

We are also in the process of expanding our Greenvale residence, which will provide an opportunity for an individual who is aging out to live in the community.

Continuous staff training included two new mandates from the Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD), incident management and fire safety initiatives, designed to ensure our participants' safety and quality of life.

As providing quality services is the Residential Services Department's primary mission, the organizational structure of the department has been continually re-designed to ensure that we meet the changing needs of our individuals. This year's focus was on nursing services. All our residences now have registered nurses assigned to oversee the AMAP (Approved Medication Administration Personnel) certified staff, manage the medical needs of the participants and provide 24/7 on-call coverage.

### Bayville, Arrow Lane and Colonial Drive Residences

UCP Bayville was found to be deficiency-free during the 2013 State Audit. This is the second year in a row that the Program was deficiency-free. The auditors commented on the outstanding care and services that are provided to our residents by a well-trained staff.

Ten Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) from Bayville, Arrow, and Colonial attended the Annual DSP Conference where they received recognition for their outstanding job performance.

A new fire alarm system was installed at Bayville. It is a state of the art system and will provide increased safety for the residents and staff of Bayville.

The staff of the Colonial Drive IRA (Individualized Residential Alternative) were featured in the Legislative Gazette as part of a series of inspirational stories about Direct Support Professionals throughout the State of New York.



## Fortunoff Treatment & Rehabilitation Center (FTRC)

Recognizing that better care can be delivered when health information follows the person in all settings: the outpatient clinic, pharmacy, and home; the Fortunoff Treatment and Rehabilitation Center made strides integrating healthcare technology into our practice.

We fully implemented e-prescribing through a stand-alone software, eliminating the majority of handwritten pharmacy prescriptions and providing our medical staff an important tool to safely and efficiently manage patient's medications.

Medical professionals have become reliant on mobile devices allowing the rapid prescription of medications off-site.

In response to New York State's concerns over prescription abuse, medical professionals now access an electronic database "I-Stop" before prescribing any controlled substance to reduce abuse.

## Medicaid Service Coordination (MSC)

Service Coordination is in the unique position of being able to provide services to children as well as adults, and we work closely with many of the programs within **ucpn** as well as outside providers. Service Coordination works closely with our consumers and their families to access services such as residential placement, respite services, recreational/social activities, day habilitation services, community employment and countless other resources.

This past year Service Coordinators have assisted several families in coordinating environmental modifications that have included the installation of wheelchair ramps, lifts, bathroom modifications, Track-to-Track portable motor lift/care transfer systems and accessible vans. These modifications not only help increase our consumers' independence but also allow consumers more access to their homes and their communities.

During the year and a half since Super Storm Sandy, Service Coordination worked diligently to assist all of our individuals that were displaced by Sandy. We achieved our goal of finding residential opportunities and are happy to report our displaced individuals all made successful transitions to new residences.

## Traumatic Brain Injury Program (TBI)

The TBI Program grew this year both in services offered and the number of individuals participating in those services. As the menu in Cafe Connections expanded so did the individuals being trained. Independent Living Skills Training (ILST) was added to our current repertoire of TBI Waiver Services as well as adding case managers to assist individuals gain access to appropriate therapeutic and community resources.

Our participation in the Agency's New Employee Orientation (NEO) continues to receive positive reviews. In addition to the presentation providing our new staff with valuable information on head injury, one of our participants shares his personal story focusing on sensitivity and awareness. Our role with NEO is a win/win for all.

## Human Resources/Payroll/Information Technology

With a workforce in excess of 850 individuals, Human Resources continues to work diligently to meet the needs of our managers and staff, as well as the demands of our regulatory agencies. Our staff provides one-to-one assistance whenever there is a question or concern regarding employment at **ucpn**.

Human Resources staff continues to keep pace with the ever changing requirements of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) in order to insure our ongoing compliance. Fortunately, the healthcare benefits we have historically offered to our employees are consistent with the requirements of the Affordable Care Act. Other than the increased documentation and reporting requirements of the PPACA, we do not anticipate any significant problems going forward.

Last year we reported that we were switching our Human Resources and Payroll software from ADP to Paychex. This move was necessary because the ADP software we have been using was being retired. As the implementation progressed we quickly learned that this software did not meet our expectations and, as a result, we switched to the next generation ADP software. We anticipate completing this conversion by June 2014.

The Agency's dependence on Information Technology software and hardware continues to grow in order to meet the demands of our programs and regulatory agencies. With the implementation of VMware virtualization we have been able to improve the reliability and security of many of our network applications.

Our computer networks continue to evolve in an effort to add resiliency and reliability to our Information Technology systems. Currently, we support over 450 users in more than 20 locations. On April 8, 2014 Microsoft will be ending support for Windows XP. The **ucpn**, like thousands of other businesses, has relied on the robustness and stability of the XP operating system for its desktop computing needs. With the end of support nearing, we will need to upgrade all of our computers to Windows 7. Although this is a major undertaking, we anticipate completing this project without any assistance from outside contractors.

## Development

Events make up a large piece of what we do and it is important that we are successful in all our fundraising efforts. We were thrilled to have Broadway's Linda Eder join us for our annual concert with the Nassau Pops Symphony Orchestra at the Tilles Center. Our Festival of Trees at the Cradle of Aviation had more than 11,000 guests over the three-day Thanksgiving weekend. The new themes for 2013 included Sports Friday, Star Wars Saturday and Irish Sunday that closed the event with 3 bagpipe bands! Our Golf and Tennis event raised over \$150k net and was a huge success. The 10<sup>th</sup> annual Polar Bear Plunge brought in over \$41k net in cold cash.

Our grant writer, Karen Nielsen, helped obtain a \$364k grant from FEMA to help cover unreimbursed costs incurred from the damage by Hurricane Sandy. Our Estate Planning efforts have raised over \$15.1 million dollars in earmarked funds and actual cash received. Our volunteers remain a strong and vital resource, making it possible for us to hold so many successful events. Another area that is so vital to our agency is in-kind donations, this category totaled over \$250k. These generous donations of items for our programs, gifts for our events and products that help us reduce expenses really make a difference. We thank all our donors for their continued support.

We were pleased to honor Joel Meltzer and the Wawrzonek family at our annual Forget-Me-Not Ball for their extraordinary contributions to **ucpn**.



## Finance

Nassau Cerebral Palsy Association and its subsidiaries, United Cerebral Palsy Association of Nassau County Inc. (**ucpn**) and Bayville, showed surplus for the year resulting from cost cutting measures. These measures allowed an employee bonus to be awarded.

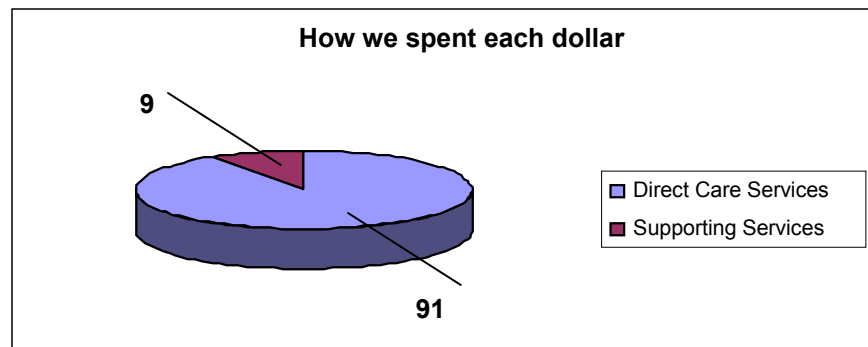
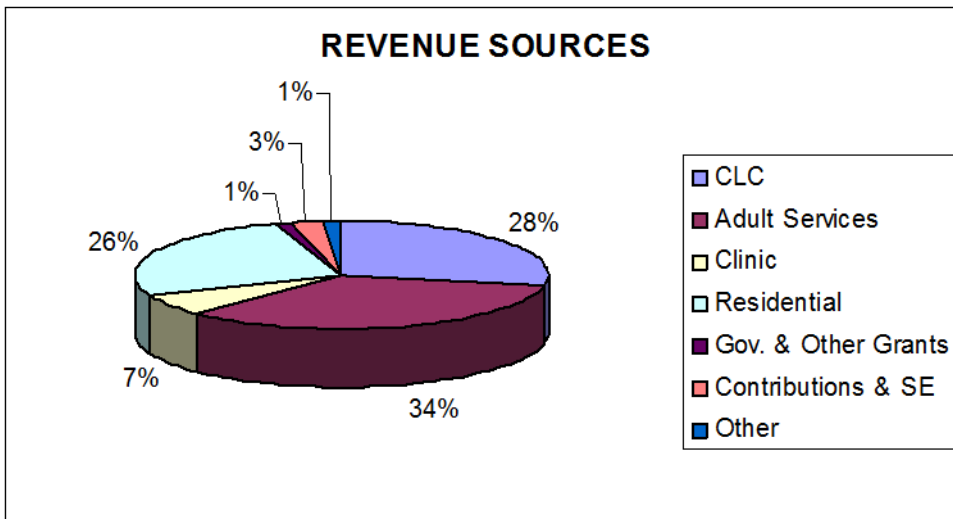
Rehab Solutions showed deficits in 2013.

At year ending 2013, **ucpn** has an outstanding balance on our line of credit. Funds were used to facilitate normal operations during damages caused by Hurricane Sandy.

The Department of Health instituted Dental Capital rate cuts which have further hindered our ability to operate our Clinic programs.

The Agency continues to monitor all expenses and develop alternative funding sources for our programs along with the management staff, the Budget & Finance Committee and the Board of Directors.

**\*Any further details are available in our audited financial statements which are available upon request.**



# Prestigious Honors for **ucpn**

**Bob McGuire, Executive Director, ucpn  
Presented with the 2013**

**Daniel Wieder LEADERSHIP Award**

*Given in recognition of an individual in a leadership role whose high level of leadership has set a standard for others to follow and whose dedication has improved the quality of life for people with disabilities.*

*The award honors those whose leadership embodies the values endorsed by all CP of NYS affiliates and reflects innovative accomplishments which have garnered the respect of others working in the agency.*



**Anthony Galano, Jr.  
Presented with the 2013  
Anthony J. Koenig  
Volunteer Service  
Award**

*Presented by CP-NYS to recognize an individual who has volunteered significant time and energy to peoples with disabilities and/or initiated local community action and support which has enhanced the lives of people with disabilities.*



**CP-NYS 2013 VISIONS Art Contest - First Runner Up, Michael Fuccillo, ucpn Day Hab program participant**

*Michael's art was selected from a collection of entries from affiliates all over New York state. His art, titled "Naturescapes," was featured at an art exhibit at the CP-NYS annual conference in Saratoga Springs and included on a printed poster.*

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**Cover:** clockwise from upper left

Ribbon-Cutting for Scotty's Place, the Multi-Sensory Environment at ucpn

Children's Learning Center Students surfing at Long Beach

Ribbon-cutting for Marilyn's Life Skills House at the Children's Learning Center

News 12/Dowling College "Educator of the Month," Malkie Adler, CLC Speech Pathologist

Nassau Thunderbolts Boccia Demo for Fios News

Town Hall Meeting at ucpn

Lindar Eder sings with ucpn's Creation at the Tilles Center



Assisting individuals with disabilities since 1948

# WISH LIST

*This is a compilation of requests from our programs. We encourage you to choose an item and make a wish come true by providing the funds to purchase it.*

<b>New Auditorium for Children’s Learning Center</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>6,000,000</b>
<b>Protective Awning</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>35,000</b>
<b>Power Lift for Pool</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>10,000</b>
<b>Hydraulic Changing Table</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>9,000</b>
<b>20 Quart Food Processor</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>8,200</b>
<b>DynaVax Maestro Communication Device for Student</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>8,000</b>
<b>AAC Device TOBiiC8</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>7,000</b>
<b>Bayville Awning</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>7,000</b>
<b>1 Tango Assistive Communication Device</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>6,899</b>
<b>Math, Social Studies, and Science Textbooks for CLC</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>5,000</b>
<b>OT Ice-Pack Machines, Fluid Therapy, Ultrasound</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>5,000</b>
<b>Electric Combination Tilt Table</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>4,100</b>
<b>Sterilizer</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>3,750</b>
<b>WelchAllyn Spit Vital Sign Machine with stand and basket</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>3,500</b>
<b>6 Support Stations for Bathrooms (each)</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>3,000</b>
<b>Permanent Outdoor Communication Boards for Playground</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>3,000</b>
<b>Hi-low Table</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>2,500</b>
<b>3 Smart Board for Adult Day Program (each)</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>2,500</b>
<b>4 Changing Tables (each)</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>2,000</b>
<b>Wii System, TV, Games and Accessories</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>1,800</b>
<b>Ultrasonic Cleaner</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>1,595</b>
<b>2 Hoyer Lifts for Residential (each)</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>1,500</b>
<b>Assorted Trees &amp; Shrubs for Colonial Drive and Greenvale Res.</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>1,500</b>
<b>Computer Software and Printer for Community-Based Day Hab</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>1,500</b>
<b>Word Plus with Destalk Synthesizer</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>1,500</b>
<b>Exercise Stairs</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>1,250</b>
<b>Otoscope and Ophthalmoscope (each set)</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>1,200</b>
<b>2 Wired Visual Response Audiology System (each)</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>1,200</b>
<b>FM Central System for Sound Amplification</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>1,200</b>
<b>EZ Stander</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>1,200</b>
<b>6 Mats for PT Gym (each)</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>1,100</b>
<b>Automatic Page Turner</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>1,100</b>
<b>Therapeutic Listening Equipment</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>1,100</b>
<b>Pocket Viewer Magnifier</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>1,000</b>
<b>Sponsor Athlete for National Competition</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>1,000</b>
<b>2 Refrigerators for Residential (each)</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>800</b>
<b>Switch Assessment Kit</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>750</b>
<b>21” Immersion Blender with Attachments</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>700</b>
<b>4 I Pads for Communication (each)</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>600</b>
<b>2 Dishwashers (each)</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>600</b>
<b>6 Recliners for Residences (each)</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>600</b>
<b>4 Dual-User Pneumatic Adjustable Workstation (each)</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>500</b>
<b>Sensory Equipment</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>500</b>
<b>Sensor Mat for Pressure Mapping System</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>500</b>
<b>2 Bath Commode Chairs (each)</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>400</b>
<b>1 Finger Pulse Oximeter</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>250</b>
<b>1 Communication Device Switch</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>120</b>