LIMITLESS

A NEWS PUBLICATION OF UNITED CEREBRAL PALSY OF NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA | FALL 2025



MAKING AN IMPACT TOGETHER

Longstanding Children's Services' Staff Deliver Range of Programs

425 WYOMING AVENUE | SCRANTON, PA18503 | 570-347-3357 | WWW.UCPNEPA.ORG | INFO@UCPNEPA.ORG

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A Letter from our CEO

Season's Greetings!
The holiday season is in full swing at UCP of NEPA! We just completed our annual wreath sale, and we are getting ready for another year of gift wrapping. It wouldn't be the holidays if UCP weren't wrapping gifts! The individuals in our day program and residential homes are decorating everything and everywhere to ensure we are all in the holiday spirit.

In the happiness and joy of the holiday season, we are grateful for the blessings we've been given this year. The opportunity to be part of so many lives is not something we take for granted. We are honored and privileged to serve the individuals and families supported by UCP of NEPA.

We are thankful for the continued support from the people and businesses in our community. For over 70 years, our community has supported UCP of NEPA. Through this commitment, we have been able to meet the needs of thousands of individuals and families, making a difference in their lives and in ours.

In the hustle and bustle of the season, we hope you enjoy the peace and beauty of the holidays. We wish you and your family a joyous holiday and good health and happiness in the new year.

Happy Holidays,

Sarah A. Drob, CEO



UCP of NEPA staff gather to celebrate GO GREEN, an annual community awareness event each March 25.

ON THE COVER: Adien Merritt soaks in some summertime fun at UCP of NEPA's Children's Services Summer Camp.

Joining the UCP Family

Welcome to Our New Team Members!

Melissa Ferguson - *DSP, Residential Program*
Cheseca Sholar - *DSP, Day Program*
Michelle Maglioli - *DSP, Residential Program*
Holly Watts - *DSP, Residential Program*
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Heidi Piculich - *Residential Manager*
Rosalie Demeo - *DSP, Day Program*
Karlee Parry - *Residential Manager*
DSP = Direct Support Professional

Fall Fundraisers Provide Vital Funds

Long-Established and New Events Engage Community Support

As the year begins to wind down and the holiday season approaches, November arrives with a spirit unlike any other month. It is a time when gratitude takes center stage, generosity feels more natural, and communities come together to support one another.

Thank You

At UCP, we are so grateful to our community for coming together to support our fall fundraisers and to the businesses whose help made them possible:

- **Cooper's Seafood House and Cooper's Family Brewing**
- **Andy Gavin's Eatery & Pub and the Green Ridge Mile Association**
- **Ponduce Farms**

designer PURSE silent auction and PRIZE raffle
at COOPER'S Seafood House EST 1948 Scranton





Where Experience Meets Heart

Long-Time Staff's Commitment Strengthens Children's Services

Non-profit organizations play a vital role in ensuring families have access to the services and support their children need to succeed. Through advocacy, education, and strong community partnerships, they help create opportunities for children to thrive while ensuring families feel informed, encouraged, and supported.

At UCP of NEPA, this mission is strengthened by an extraordinary children's services team that has worked side by side for decades. Over time, co-workers become more than colleagues—they develop a deep understanding of one another's strengths, values, and commitment to the families they serve.

That shared bond allows our team to bring out the best in one another and, most importantly, helps us deliver the highest level of care and support to the children and families in our programs.

We are proud to have a team of experienced professionals whose dedication makes a lasting impact:

- **Cheryl Burger**, *director of Children's Services* - 39 years of service
- **Jen Malak**, *physical therapist* – 24 years of service
- **Katrina Roughsedge**, *special needs instructor* – 11 years of service
- **Ann Joyce**, *Lekotek play specialist* - 6 years of service
- **Heather Barletta**, occupational therapist – 5 years of service
- **Colleen Moylan**, speech therapist – 3 years of service.



David Meyers enjoys mixing colors for his project at UCP of NEPA's Children's Services' Summer Camp.

Early Intervention (EI)

Supporting Families with Care and Expertise

At UCP of NEPA, we provide early intervention services to children with developmental delays and their families across Lackawanna and Susquehanna Counties. Our team meets families where they are—at home and in their communities—using a coaching model that empowers caregivers with the confidence and skills to support their children's growth and development.

Lekotek

Play, Learn, and Grow

Lekotek is a one-of-a-kind learning and resource center, as well as a toy lending library. The concept originated in Sweden, where "Lek" means play and "Tek" means library—bringing the joy of play together with learning.

Monthly Lekotek Play Sessions

Each month, caregivers and their children attend a play session led by our Lekotek Play Specialist, Ann Joyce. During these sessions, Ann works closely with families to enhance the child's play skills, fostering interactions that encourage engagement, growth, and confidence. Families also receive personalized guidance, exploring techniques and strategies they can use at home to support their child's development through play. These sessions provide children and caregivers alike with practical tools, confidence, and joyful experiences that make learning through play both meaningful and fun.



Levi Parry molds clay at UCP of NEPA's Children's Services' Summer Camp.

Playgroup for Ages 1–5

Weekly Play and Learn Sessions

Young children and their families come together each week to play, learn, and develop important early social skills like sharing and taking turns. Through hands-on art activities such as painting and coloring, little ones explore their creativity while practicing cooperation and collaboration.

Each session ends with a healthy snack and a joyful time of laughter, creating a warm and welcoming environment. Caregivers also benefit from connecting with one another, sharing successes and challenges, and building a supportive community of encouragement and understanding.

School-Age Playgroup & Camp

Summer and School Break Program

School-age children gather during the summer and on school breaks to socialize and explore in a play-based environment. Through hands-on activities—like creative art projects and engaging science experiments—kids spark curiosity, build skills, and discover the joy of learning while having fun.

Compuplay/Camp

A Space for Connection and Fun

This program gives older participants a welcoming space to gather, socialize, and enjoy games in a participant-led environment. Activities are guided by participants' interests, fostering both friendship and independence. Popular favorites like Wii games and bingo bring laughter, friendly competition, and meaningful connections in a relaxed, fun setting. Special themed parties are held to celebrate holidays and seasons, adding extra excitement and opportunities for socializing. Our most recent party on October 29 celebrated Halloween with plenty of fun and festive cheer.

See What's New at the ATRC

Grant provides expanded selection of advanced technology items

The UCP of NEPA Assistive Technology Resource Center (ATRC) office is thrilled to announce a new opportunity, made possible by a Technology Accelerator Program (TAP) Grant from **Temple University's Institute on Disability**.

In addition to all of our current services, this grant has allowed us to expand our selection of advanced technology equipment designed to support individuals and communities in need. Some of the exciting and new devices available for demonstration include the **Obi Adaptive Feeding Device** and **Versaeye with Hiru by IRISBOND**.

The **Obi Adaptive Feeding Device** is a robotic self-feeding medical device. It empowers people with upper-extremity mobility challenges to enjoy greater independence by choosing what they eat—and when they eat it. This restoration of independence makes dining a more enjoyable experience.



Photo courtesy of Obi, meetobi.com

The **Versaeye with Hiru by IRISBOND** is a remarkable device. You can use it to stream media, play games, complete a work project, and more all by it tracking your eye movement.



Photo courtesy of VersaEye

This technology opens doors to education, employment, online communities, and much more, turning what once seemed impossible into real-life possibilities.

These and many other assistive devices are available at our office. Call today to schedule a personal demonstration! We also provide full presentations for community organizations, schools, colleges, nursing centers, and other local networks.

BONUS! TechOWL's Lending Library allows individuals to borrow devices for up to five weeks to try before they buy. To review items, visit **www.TechOWLpa.org**

Assistive Technology Resource Center

For more information, contact

Denise Rossman

Assistive Technology Specialist

570-347-3357, ext. 32 | atrc@ucpnepa.org

Gifts Wrapped. Lives Touched.

Holiday Gift-Wrapping Proceeds Will Help Children with Special Needs

It's official! We will return to the Viewmont Mall, Dickson City, for our **44th year** of holiday gift wrapping! We will operate the stand from **Thursday, Dec. 11, through Christmas Eve.**

Our operating hours are listed here and are available on our social media channels!

All proceeds benefit our children's programs.

Holiday GIFT WRAP

at the **VIEWMONT** MALL

services located by macy's *and* RALLY HOUSE LOCAL STUFF

~ STAND OPERATING HOURS ~

Thurs. 12/11 to Sat. 12/13	**1 to 7 p.m.**
Sun. 12/14	**1 to 6 p.m.**
Mon. 12/15 to Wed. 12/17	**1 to 7 p.m.**
Thurs. 12/18 to Tues. 12/23	**1 to 9 p.m.**
Christmas Eve	**9 a.m. to 6 p.m.**

We're Hiring! Join Our Team Today!



In addition to a having a career where you will make a difference in people's lives, we also offer

- new pay rates
- a generous PTO package
- Geisinger health plan
- Guardian dental plan
- Guardian Group life insurance
- employer-paid long-term disability
- employee assistance program
- 401(k) Plan
- employer partnership with Southern New Hampshire University
- All benefits are available to part-time and full-time employees

Visit ucpnepa.org/careers/ for a list of job opportunities!

UCP United Cerebral Palsy™ of Northeastern Pennsylvania

425 Wyoming Avenue
Scranton, PA 18503

Follow us on social media!

Donations

Thank you to the following donors for supporting UCP of NEPA | October 1, 2024 to December 1, 2025

General Gifts

Tessie Bauer
Richard and Faye Bishop
Linda Gable

Andy Gavin's Eatery & Pub
Green Ridge Mile Assoc.

Natalie Gress
Maria Grimes
Richard Grimm

The Irving and Edythe Grossman Fund of the Scranton Area Foundation

Kiwanis Club of Scranton

Krista Kobeski
Ruta Labutis
Amanda Parker
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Holiday Gift Wrapping Sponsorship Program 2024

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Service Master by Griffing

In Honor of

Lisa and Mark Golden's 40th wedding anniversary
given by
Elaine Denis
Paul and Sherri Mattern

Michele and Joseph McDonald

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Allison Warzala

Rachel Olszewski
given by
George Audi

Jess Lanton
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Christine Beck

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In Loving Memory of

Eleanor Baka
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Bill Mohan
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Cheryl Burger

Cooper's Seafood House

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Andy and Gail Hurchick

Sandy Kovach
Deborah Peterson
Patricia Trace
Marilyn Vitali

In Loving Memory of

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given by
Toni Christ

Sandra Grimm
given by
Richard Grimm

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Karen Milburn

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Melodee Dixon
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