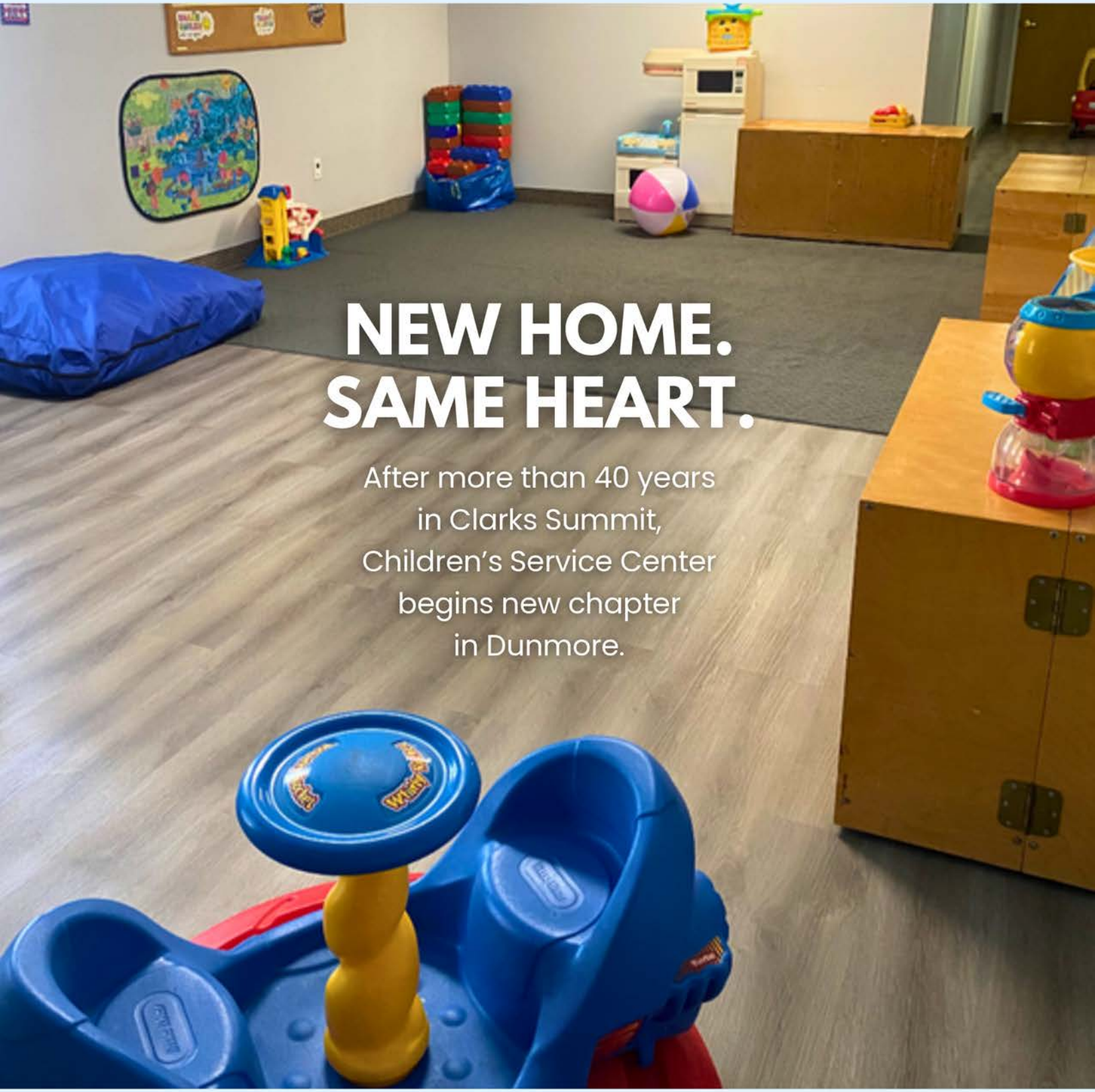
# LIMITLESS

A NEWS PUBLICATION OF UNITED CEREBRAL PALSY OF NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA | FALL 2026



## NEW HOME. SAME HEART.

After more than 40 years in Clarks Summit, Children's Service Center begins new chapter in Dunmore.

425 WYOMING AVENUE | SCRANTON, PA 18503 | 570-347-3357 | WWW.UCPNEPA.ORG | INFO@UCPNEPA.ORG

UCP United Cerebral Palsy™ of Northeastern Pennsylvania


## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Marilyn A. Vitali
*President*

Gary Grube
*Vice President*

Timothy McHugh
*Treasurer*

Linda Gable
*Secretary*

Daniel Ginsberg, Ph.D.
*Immediate Past President*

Mark Bennett
Mary Beth D'Andrea
Robert Jones, Jr.
Edward Karpovich
Louise Krafjack
Barbara Partyka

## MANAGEMENT TEAM

Sarah A. Drob
*Chief Executive Officer*

D.J. Pilarz
*Chief Operating Officer*

Cheryl A. Burger
*Director of Children's Services*

Jackie Galvin, M.S.
*Director of Communications and Development*

Karen A. Himchak
*Director of Residential Services*

Rania R. Ismail
*Director of Finance*

Cathy Tremko
*Director of Adult Day Program*


# A Letter from our CEO

Hello everyone!

As highlighted in our feature story, we were successful in selling our property in Clarks Summit and finding our new home for our Children's Service Center in Dunmore. We talk a lot about how change is stressful and difficult. But change can also be exhilarating and beneficial. We are fortunate that this change has been nothing but positive for the children and families we support and our staff!

As we gear up for the holiday season, we like to thank you for your continued support of the people we serve, their families, and our staff. When we are taking stock of all that we are thankful for, your support is at the top!

On behalf of all of us at UCP of NEPA, we hope you, your family, loved ones, and friends have a joyous holiday season and all the best in the new year!

Warmly,

*Sarah A. Drob*
*Chief Executive Officer*

***ON THE COVER:*** *After calling Clarks Summit home for over 40 years, UCP of NEPA moved its Children's Service Center into a newly updated space in Dunmore.*

***At Right:*** *Although our Children's Service Center has a new address, our commitment to helping children learn, grow, and thrive remains stronger than ever. Our* ***Early Intervention*** *program offers a range of services for children with disabilities or developmental delays.* ***Lekotek*** *is a unique learning and resource center and toy-lending library serving children with special needs from birth through age 12 and their families.* ***Compuplay*** *provides computer classes, activities, and services for children and young adults with special needs and their families.*



# Children's Services Begins a New Chapter

## *New Home with Same Commitment to Children and Families*

After more than 40 years at its longtime home on Center Street in Clarks Summit, UCP of NEPA's Children's Service Center has begun an exciting new chapter in Dunmore.

With help from our friends at ServiceMaster by Griffing, the center moved on May 29 to its new home at 414 E. Drinker St., Suite 203, Dunmore. After a few days of unpacking and settling in, we welcomed children and families on June 8.

Since opening in 1984, the Children's Service Center has provided a place of growth, support, and care for countless children and families throughout our community. Leaving our longtime location was bittersweet, as it held decades of memories, milestones, and meaningful connections. However, we are excited to continue our work in our new space.



*The Children's Services' annual summer trip to Knoebels Amusement Resort is a favorite for the young and young at heart.*



*Our new Children's Service Center provides a beautiful setting that enhances learning.*

We kicked off this new chapter with a wonderful summer filled with activities and fun. Highlights included our annual trip to Knoebels Amusement Resort, Elysburg, and a special end-of-summer party at the center, where the children celebrated a memorable season together.

While our address has changed, our mission remains the same: supporting children and families and helping every child reach their fullest potential.

We are grateful to our families, staff, community partners, and friends for their support throughout this transition. As we settle into our new home, we look forward to creating new memories and serving our community for many years to come!

# UCP of NEPA Launches New Website

***A fresh new look makes it easier to explore our programs, find resources, and connect with UCP of NEPA!***

UCP of NEPA is excited to introduce its newly redesigned website! Featuring a fresh look and improved navigation created by Jackie Galvin, our contracted director of communications and development, the updated website makes it easier for visitors to learn about our programs and services, find helpful resources, and discover the many ways UCP of NEPA supports individuals and families.




Whether you're a family looking for services, a community member interested in volunteering, or a longtime supporter who wants to stay informed, our website provides a convenient place to connect with our mission.

Visitors can explore our programs, learn about upcoming events and fundraisers, discover volunteer opportunities, and find ways to support the important work we do. The redesigned site also makes it easier to stay up to date on UCP of NEPA's latest news, activities, and community initiatives.

Our website is an important connection between UCP of NEPA and the people we serve. This redesign reflects our continued commitment to making information accessible and helping our community stay engaged with our mission.

We invite you to explore our new online home and see what's new! Visit **ucpnepa.org** today to discover our redesigned website and learn how you can be part of the UCP of NEPA community!

# Farm Fresh Wreaths and More Sale

***Bring home the beauty of the season while supporting UCP of NEPA's programs and services for individuals with disabilities and their families.***




Get a head start on holiday decorating with UCP of NEPA's **Farm Fresh Wreaths & More Sale!** Bring the beauty of the season to your home with festive wreaths and other seasonal favorites that add a welcoming touch to your holiday décor.

Whether you're decorating your front door, adding a festive accent to your home, or searching for a thoughtful holiday gift, our selection offers a wonderful way to celebrate the season and create a warm, welcoming atmosphere for family and friends.

**Ready to order?** Complete the order form on the following page or place your order online at **www.ucpnepa.org**. All orders must be submitted by **Friday, Nov. 20.**

Orders will be available for pickup **after 10 a.m. on Thursday, Dec. 3**, at UCP of NEPA's downtown Scranton location, **425 Wyoming Ave.**

Best of all, every purchase supports UCP of NEPA's programs and services for individuals with disabilities and their families. Your generosity helps us continue providing meaningful opportunities, resources, and support throughout our community.

**Decorate for the holidays and make a difference with every purchase. Thank you for supporting UCP of NEPA!**

# Farm Fresh WREATHS & MORE SALE

*Once again, we are pleased to offer items fresh from Ponduce Farms in Elysburg!*

*It's the holiday season and United Cerebral Palsy of NEPA wants to help you make it brighter with our annual farm fresh wreaths and more sale!*

All proceeds from the sale will benefit UCP's Lekotek program—
*a learning, resource center and toy lending library serving children with special needs.*

*For details, please contact Jackie Galvin, director of communications and development, at 570-347-3357, ext. 33 or j.galvin@ucpnepa.org.*

benefiting UCP United Cerebral Palsy of Northeastern Pennsylvania

ORDER ONLINE! ucpnepa.org

## Order Form

*Buy10 of the same item and get an extra one for FREE!*

**Order deadline is Friday, November 20, 2026.**

Orders can be picked up after 10 a.m. on Thursday, December 3, at our main office, *425 Wyoming Avenue, Scranton*.

| Items | Cost Per Item | Quantity Needed | Subtotal | Quantity of Qualifying Free Item(s) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Decorated 24" Wreath ~ *Douglas Fir/Fraser Mixed* | $32 | | | |
| 24" Wreath ~ *Douglas Fir/Fraser Mixed with Bow Only* | $27 | | | |
| 36" Window Swag ~ *Douglas Fir/Fraser Mixed with Bow* | $20 | | | |
| 28" Door Charm ~ *Douglas Fir/Fraser Mixed with Decorations* | $27 | | | |
| 16" Fresh Centerpiece with Pillar Candle ~ *Mixed Greens with Bow* | $27 | | | |
| 12" Basket Centerpiece ~ *Mixed Greens with Decorations* | $25 | | | |
| | | **TOTAL DUE:** | $ | |

Name _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

***Please pickup at our Main Office: 425 Wyoming Avenue, Scranton***

*Please mail this form and your payment made payable to "UNITED CEREBRAL PALSY OF NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA" to United Cerebral Palsy of NEPA • 425 Wyoming Ave., Scranton , PA 18503 • ATTN: Wreath Sale • by November 20, 2026.*

# Gift Wrapping Returns for Its 45th Year!

***Celebrate 45 years of holiday tradition while helping local children and families through the gift of giving.***

It's official! **UCP of NEPA's Holiday Gift Wrapping Stand** is returning to Viewmont Mall in Dickson City for its **45th year!** This beloved holiday tradition has helped shoppers prepare for the season while raising funds for UCP of NEPA's children's programs.

From Thursday, Dec. 10, through Christmas Eve, stop by our gift-wrapping stand and let our team help make your holiday gift-giving a little easier. Whether you're wrapping a special surprise for a loved one, a gift for a friend, or a present for someone on your holiday list, our volunteers are ready to help add a festive finishing touch to your gifts.

Our operating hours are listed in the box below and will also be shared on our social media channels, so be sure to check for updates as you plan your holiday shopping.

**We're also looking for volunteers!** Whether you're an experienced gift wrapper or simply enjoy helping others, your time and talents can make a difference.

Volunteering is a wonderful way to spread holiday cheer, connect with the community, and support a meaningful cause.

**Interested in joining our volunteer team? Visit ucpnepa.org to register** and learn how you can help.

Every wrapped gift helps support UCP of NEPA's children's programs, which provide important services and opportunities for children with disabilities and their families. Thanks to the generosity of our shoppers and volunteers, this annual tradition continues to make a difference in our community.

Make gift wrapping part of **your holiday tradition**! Stop by the Viewmont Mall this December, share some holiday cheer, and help UCP of NEPA make the season brighter for local children and families.

We look forward to seeing you!



# Wrestling for a Cause

***Stunt Cat honors his cousin's memory while helping bring holiday joy to children and families served by UCP of NEPA.***

Christmas came a little closer to the ring this year as professional wrestler Stunt Cat and his friends joined forces to help make the holidays brighter for children and families served by UCP of NEPA.

For the second consecutive year, Stunt Cat hosted **"Stunt Cat and Friends Save Christmas,"** a pro wrestling event sponsored by New Era Wrestling on Nov. 7 at the Holiday Inn in Dunmore. The event brought wrestling fans together for an evening of entertainment while raising money for **UCP of NEPA's Children's Service Center Angel Tree.** The Angel Tree provides Christmas gifts for children receiving services at the center and their siblings.

The event is especially meaningful to Stunt Cat, who created it to honor the memory of his 11-year-old cousin, **Aiden Bartley**, who passed away from pancreatic cancer on Sept. 17, 2024. By turning his loss into an opportunity to help others, Stunt Cat is helping keep Aiden's memory alive while spreading holiday joy throughout the community.

The Angel Tree has been bringing smiles to children and families for **35 years**. This cherished tradition would not be possible without the generosity of community organizations, churches, businesses, and individuals. Longtime supporters include **Trinity Lutheran Church in Clarks Summit, St. John Vianney Parish in Scott Township, and the Santa Lew Christmas Miracle program**, created in memory of the late Lew Williamson, who portrayed Santa at the Mall at Steamtown and visited countless children and families throughout the area.




Current and former UCP employees, community friends, and families who previously received Early Intervention and Lekotek services have also helped purchase and fund gifts over the years.
UCP of NEPA is grateful to Stunt Cat, New Era Wrestling, and everyone who supported this year's event. Their generosity helps carry on a beloved holiday tradition and ensures that children and their siblings can experience the excitement of receiving a special gift at Christmas.

Thank you for helping make the season brighter for the children and families we serve!

# UCP of NEPA Holds Annual Meeting

***New board leadership, employee service milestones, and program accomplishments highlight another year of progress.***

UCP of NEPA held its annual meeting on June 30, 2026, celebrating another year of progress, recognizing dedicated employees, and electing its Board of Directors for the coming year.

The following officers were nominated and elected: Marilyn A. Vitali, president; Gary Grube, vice president; Timothy McHugh, treasurer; and Linda Gable, secretary. Other board members include Mark Bennett, Mary Beth D'Andrea, Daniel Ginsberg, Ph.D., B. Lynn Hutchings, Ph.D., Robert Jones Jr., Edward Karpovich, Louise Krafjack, and Barbara Partyka.

CEO Sarah A. Drob presented a year-in-review report highlighting the organization's continued commitment to providing quality services and supports to more than 450 individuals and families. During the past year, UCP welcomed two individuals to its Adult Day Program, 15 children and their families to Lekotek, and 70 new children to its Early Intervention Program. Additional accomplishments included expanding Assistive Technology outreach, retaining its classification as a primary provider with the Pennsylvania Office of Developmental Programs, and celebrating two residential employees who earned Direct Support Professional credentials through NADSP.

The organization also marked an important milestone with the relocation of its Children's Center to Dunmore after more than 40 years in Clarks Summit. These accomplishments reflect UCP of NEPA's ongoing dedication to helping individuals with disabilities live their lives without limits.

The meeting also provided an opportunity to recognize employees for their years of service and commitment to UCP's mission.

**Employee Service Milestones**

- 5 Years: Heather Barletta and James Vincent
- 10 Years: Sarah Bowen, Joan Gruss, and Robert Woodall
- 15 Years: Karen Van Ness
- 25 Years: Janet Burton, Sarah Drob, and Jennifer Malak
- 30 Years: Michael McAndrew
- 40 Years: Cheryl Burger

**Remembering Anthony Cardell**

UCP of NEPA also remembers with gratitude its friend and longtime board member Anthony Cardell, a life member of both the Board of Directors and 230 Corp. Tony played an instrumental role in remodeling the organization's Lackawanna Avenue offices and supporting the success of its operations at 425 Wyoming Ave. His dedication to UCP's mission and the individuals it serves will not be forgotten.

**The Future of UCP of NEPA**

Looking ahead, UCP of NEPA remains committed to expanding services and supporting more individuals and families. CEO Sarah Drob extended her heartfelt thanks to the donors, community partners, funding organizations, and volunteers whose generosity makes this mission possible.

Together, the UCP of NEPA community will continue creating opportunities, strengthening relationships, and helping individuals with disabilities live fulfilling lives without limits.

# Celebrating Direct Support Professionals

***Celebrating the heart of our DSPs who make a difference***

During Direct Support Professionals (DSP) Week, UCP of NEPA proudly celebrated the dedicated individuals who make a difference every day in the lives of the people we serve.

Our DSPs do more than provide support—they build meaningful relationships, encourage independence, celebrate accomplishments, and bring joy to everyday moments. Whether helping someone learn a new skill, enjoy an outing, reach a personal goal, or simply share a laugh, DSPs play an important role in helping the individuals we serve live fulfilling and meaningful lives.

Their compassion, patience, and commitment create opportunities for greater independence, confidence, and connection. The impact of their work can be seen in the smiles, accomplishments, and everyday successes of the people they support.

We are incredibly grateful for our DSPs and the difference they make each day.



Thank you for your dedication, kindness, and commitment to the UCP of NEPA family!

# Celebrating Loretta: 90 Years of Friendship!

***Celebrating 90 wonderful years and more than four decades of friendship, memories, and moments with the UCP of NEPA family.***



Loretta has been a cherished member of the UCP of NEPA family since 1980, making 2027 a very special year! In January, Loretta will celebrate her 90th birthday ***and*** nearly five decades as part of the UCP family.

Loretta enjoys spending time with her housemates and, since retiring, has even more time to enjoy her favorite arts and crafts, and activities with staff and friends. She also treasures time with her family and is looking forward to celebrating the holiday season.

When asked what she likes most about UCP of NEPA, Loretta didn't hesitate. With a joyful smile, she answered, "My friends!"

Happy 90th birthday, Loretta! We look forward to celebrating this special milestone with you!

# Thank you for supporting UCP of NEPA

*October 1, 2025 to October 1, 2026 Donations*

## General Gifts

Tessie Bauer
Cardell Family Fund
Teronna Carver
Marie Crispino
Kathleen Dixon
Raymond and Barbara Ferrario
Kate Holod
Kiwanis Club of Scranton
Jackie Galvin
Maria Grimes

The Irving and Edythe Grossman Fund of the Scranton Area Foundation

Barbara Keller
Walter Kobierecki
Louise Krafjack
Ruta Labutis
Mathialagan Magendran
Melvin Claim Service
Sharon Olechna
Amanda Parker
Kim Simchak
Jean Seavey
Marilyn Vitali
Janice Walsh
Julia Walsh
Barry Yoss

## NEPA Gives

Tessie Bauer
Linda Cadugan
Melodee Dixon
Sarah Drob
Linda Gable
Gary Grube
Karen Himchak
Ann Joyce
William and Diane Keller
Walter Kobierecki
Tim McHugh
Linda Mlodzienski
Louis Nivert
Barbara Partyka
Deborah Peterson
D.J. Pilarz

## NEPA Gives *(continued)*

Scranton Area Foundation
Marilyn Vitali
James Wagtendonk

## In Loving Memory of

**Eugene Barkasy**
*given by*
Michael Charnogursky
Tony Esposito
Bernadette Santarsiero

**Anthony Cardell**
*given by*
Anonymous
Eric Booth
Cardell Family Fund
Pam MaGillivray

**Sandra Grimm**
*given by*
Tessie Bauer
Richard Grimm

**Rebecca Gryczko**
*given by*
Cheryl Burger

Steve and Noelle Freeman Family Giving Fund

**John Kosack**
*given by*
Tessie Bauer

**Elizabeth "Betty" Leonard**
*given by*
Joann Gavell

**Ryan James McConlogue**
*given by*
Cindy and Philip Rossi
Maureen Walsh

**Sister Therese Michele**
**Joseph Hogan**
**Atty. David A. Howell**
**Lucille Lindsley**
*given by*
Doris Lindsley

## In Loving Memory of *(continued)*

**William Mohan**
**Lynn Nardelli**
**Anne Ruddy**
**Michael Snyder**
**Bob Theis**
**Leonard Vender**
*given by*
Doris Lindsley

## In Honor of

**Anthony Cardell**
*given by*
Cardell Family Fund

**Sarah Drob**
*given by*
Richard and Faye Bishop

**Jessica Lanton**
*given by*
Newton Ransom Elem. School

## Holiday Gift Wrapping Sponsorship Program

Brown & Brown

Carpenters
Local Union 445

Citizens Savings Bank
Community Bank, N.A.
Travis Eckersley
G.R. Noto Electrical Construction
I.B.E.W. Local Union 81
Interim HealthCare
Livingston Tire & Auto
Mark Lynn
Oliver Price & Rhodes
P&W Washo, Inc.

Peoples Security
Bank and Trust Company

Robert Jones, Jr.
Construction Co. Inc.

Service Master by Griffing

UCP United Cerebral Palsy™
of Northeastern Pennsylvania

425 Wyoming Avenue
Scranton, PA 18503

**Follow us on social media!**

# New Team Members, One Mission

***Welcome to the UCP of NEPA Family!***

Julie Reed - *DSP, Residential Program*
Amanda Dreger - *DSP, Residential Program*
Gisselle Cashman - *DSP, Residential Program*
Gabrielle Sedora - *DSP, Residential Program*
Christine Wright - *DSP, Residential Program*

***DSP = Direct Support Professional***




## Interested in Joining Us?

To learn more about our job opportunities, please visit us at ***ucpnepa.org/careers***