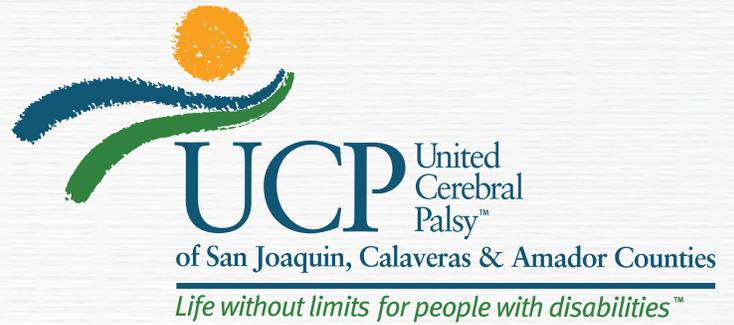


WE BELIEVE EVERYONE IS ENTITLED TO A  
*“Life Without Limits”*



UCP NEWSLETTER

Spring 2015



### REMEMBERING AHBI

July 11, 2014 was a day of remembrance for Miraj and Raj Sanghvi as it marked the one-year passing of their beloved son, Ahbi. The Sanghvi's celebrated their son's memory with the decision to raise funds for our Clinical and Family Service program. Having used the services of UCP the Sanghvi's understood and appreciated the value of our program and wanted to help others receive therapy and equipment services they would otherwise go without. Through the Ahbi Memorial Grant, we have provided families with SPIO garments and weighted blankets both used to assist children with sensory processing, blackboards, block, books and other supplies to help develop a child's small motor and writing skills. With the help of the Sanghvi's we are helping children to live a *“Life Without Limits”*.

### HEALTH PLAN



The match made in heaven between UCP and Health Plan of San Joaquin (HPSJ) once again continued with HPSJ showing their support as our Signature Sponsor for the STEPtember Challenge. UCP's STEPtember 28

day fitness, awareness and fundraising challenge is a perfect match for Health Plan of San Joaquin who provides health care value and advance wellness through community partnerships. As the health plan of choice for almost 20 years, HPSJ is committed to supporting not only the health of their members, but also the health of our community. HPSJ, a not-for-profit health plan community initiative, has been serving members, healthcare providers, and the community since 1996. HPSJ is the leading Medi-Cal managed care provider in San Joaquin and Stanislaus counties with nearly 300,000 members.

Because of HPSJ's commitment to support our mission and vision we raised over \$21,000 to support our Adult and Children's programs. We encouraged wellness of our staff, program participants and stakeholders while we stepped our way to educate our community that people with disabilities

are people who want to simply be part of their community. According to David Hurst, Vice President, External Affairs, of Health Plan of San Joaquin, "All of us at Health Plan of San Joaquin are honored to be part of the UCP community. We are inspired by each step taken on behalf of UCP and its work to help every individual with a disability to lead a "Life Without Limits." We're already getting ready for UCP's STEPtember 2015. HPSJ teams are forming, we're lacing up our walking shoes – and the step challenges have begun." Mark your calendars for next year's STEPtember event.

For more information about HPSJ visit [www.hpsj.com](http://www.hpsj.com) and/or STEPtember visit [www.ucpsj.org](http://www.ucpsj.org).





## MESSAGE FROM THE NEW CEO, LESLIE HEIER

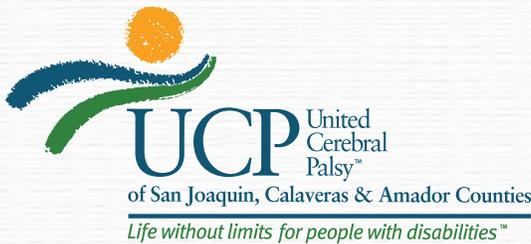
I had the privilege to begin my relationship with United Cerebral Palsy eight years ago. During this time I served as Associate Director, Chief Operating Officer and more recently as Interim Executive Director. I have had fine leaders/mentors before me that have prepared me for this path and now I am excited to announce that I have been appointed Chief Executive Officer. I am ecstatic for this journey!

Over the past eight years, it has been quite a learning opportunity to step into a culture and supportive network of UCP affiliates from around the globe that embraces and advocates for such a courageous population that we service. More than anything, I continue to learn from and be humbled by these individuals, their families and the 207 dedicated UCP team members that insure the delivery of quality care services. This dedicated team with the support of the UCP Board of Directors is the true ambassadors of the agency's mission. Our community partners that invest in our services and support our mission are also a testament to the good work we do. We couldn't do what we do without you. Thank you!

volunteers that started an evening get together; knowing that something had to be done to create systems, programs and resources that supported individuals with disabilities and their families. UCP has been growing stronger ever since and we aren't slowing down; increasing the annual budget from \$5.7M to \$7.2M in the past 8 years.

As you read through the compelling stories in this newsletter, it is my hope that you feel the same enthusiasm that I do knowing that UCP programs and services are truly making a difference and empowering program participants and staff to reach lifelong goals, achieve accomplishments and live "Life Without Limits".

UCP was established more than five decades ago by a group of community



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Kathy Skeels, President
- Daniel Natividad, Vice President
- Martin Herzog, Immediate Past President
- Eddie Lira, Treasurer
- Sharon R. Stokes, Secretary
- Lisa Blanco-Jimenez
- Nick Glero
- Michael Mark
- Cheron R Vail, Ph.D.



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

UPDATES COMING

**6th Annual Crab Feed**  
March 20, 2015

**SEPTEMBER**  
September 2015

## UCP MANAGEMENT TEAM

- Leslie Heier, Chief Executive Officer
- Linda Jeffers, Director of Human Resources
- Lillian Callangan, Director of Finance
- Debbie Link, Director of Clinical & Family Services
- Debbie Jungeblut, Executive Administrative Assistant



## CARING AND SHARING

Although they deal daily with their disabilities and difficulties of their own lives - program participants at our Hammer Ranch Adult Day Center are happy to give back to their community. Activities include making dog biscuits for several animal shelters, gathering gifts for the kids at Mary Graham Hall, collecting coats for women and children transitioning through the New Hope Shelter, and collecting canned good for the

Canned Food Outlet. In between their charitable volunteer activities, participants are busy learning life skills such as cleaning, laundry, cooking and computer skills. These activities provide work experience that may help them in the future to obtain a job or learn how to live independently. Our participants are being educated and empowered to use their own voices to advocate for themselves as they become more independent.



## STEPPING UP FOR THE CHALLENGE

David Townsend, a program participant in our Applied Abilities Program, stepped up in a big way during UCP's STEPtember. The goal of this event is to walk 10,000 steps a day while raising funds for UCP.

According to David's mom, STEPtember made a big difference in David's

disposition and daily routine. He had just transitioned out of school and into our program and was finding the change difficult. He was displaying signs of being depressed and becoming detached. Then he heard about STEPtember and committed to participating in this annual fundraising event. It gave him a good reason to get up and going. David would happily go and get the mail or do other chores just so he could increase his step count! He learned to log into the event's website and enter his daily steps. David posted his achievements to his Facebook page. He even used his own money to donate to STEPtember. David was thrilled to be part of STEPtember and is already looking forward to participating next year.



## LISA SANTOS MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Lisa Santos, staff member at our Adult Day Center in Manteca, uses massage and soft music to unwind the customer after a long day of activities! Great job! Lisa has been with UCP for over a year now and has not stopped improving since she arrived.



## MICHELLE FRANCIS

### PROGRAM MANAGER

Michelle Francis, now a Program Manager for UCP, will say the best advice her doctor could have given her parents was to *“treat her as if she didn’t have CP”*. At six months of age and diagnosed with cerebral palsy, her parents took the doctor at his word. She was treated no differently than her siblings. As a toddler she found her own way to accomplish how to walk and run...although it took her a little more time. While in school she learned to rise above other kids who made fun of her by showing them their remarks didn’t faze her. While in school her first job was at Jack in the Box. The physical part of the job was difficult but she managed her own way and became an excellent drive thru cashier.

It wasn’t until Michelle was in her 20’s when her family contacted UCP. This became a pivotal point in her life. UCP recommended she go through the Dept. of Rehabilitation where she found herself being interviewed to become a Job Coach with UCP’s Supported Employment. Once hired she assisted others with disabilities to learn their own way to accomplish what most people found as simple tasks. She worked with local businesses to cultivate job opportunities for UCP’s program participants. She helped in the development of the Supports to

Achieve Independent Living program or SAIL. In 1999 Michelle became the Program Manager for the SAIL’s program - designed to empower program participants to live independently in their own residence, making their own way. Using a person-centered approach all efforts are made to assist individuals to obtain and maintain living arrangements of their choice. Michelle continues to follow her doctor’s advice; she lives her life as if she doesn’t have CP while assisting others to live their lives their own way.



## RESPITE

Carolyn Godwin had already been utilizing our respite care service to care for her daughter while she did her usual tasks of shopping and running errands.

Then one day she was asked out; it had been years since she had been on a date! She quickly contacted her respite care provider and asked if she could go. She giggles when she talks about this wonderful break where she was able to get away from the demands and strenuous care of a loved one with a disability.

The Respite Program operates year round. Whether in a participant’s home or out in the community for recreational and socialization experience it provides 11,560 direct service hours to families within our community. Through this program, UCP’s caring and qualified staff was there to provide that temporary break that Carolyn needed and richly deserved.

**CORPORATE OFFICE**  
**(PROGRAMS: AAC, SAIL, RESPITE CARE & SE)**  
333 W. Benjamin Holt, Ste 1, Stockton, CA 95207  
Tel. (209) 956-0290, Fax. (209) 956-0294

**CLINICAL & FAMILY SERVICES**  
6702 Inglewood, Ste G, Stockton, CA 95207

**ADC - HAMMER RANCH**  
7616 Pacific Ave, Ste A-6, Stockton, CA 95207

**PROGRAM WITHOUT WALLS**  
6709 Plymouth Rd, Ste C, Stockton, CA 95207

**ADC - MANTECA**  
134 Pacific Rd, Manteca, CA 95337

**APPLIED ABILITIES PROGRAM**  
324 E. 11th St, Ste C&D, Tracy, CA 95376



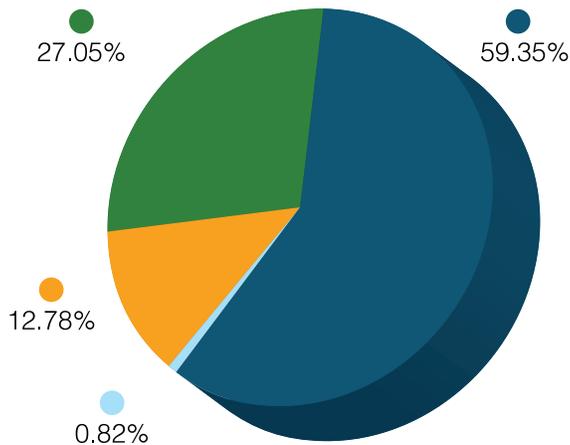
## LEARN HOW YOU CAN HELP

BY VISITING OUR WEBSITE AT [WWW.UCPSJ.ORG](http://WWW.UCPSJ.ORG)

ANNUAL REPORT 2013-2014 FY

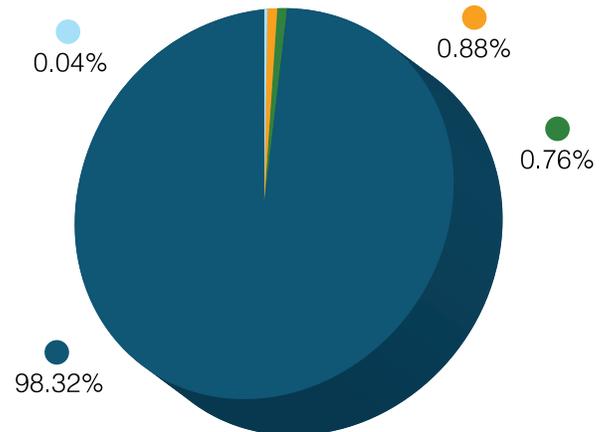
FOR FULL REPORTS VISIT [WWW.UCPSJ.ORG](http://WWW.UCPSJ.ORG)

2013-2014 EXPENSES \$6,322,219



- Adult Programs and Services
- Children and Family Services
- Management and General
- Fundraising

2013-2014 REVENUES \$6,402,080



- Governmental Grants and Contract Income
- Contributions
- Special Events
- Interest Income

- ✓ Program Accomplishments
- ✓ Giving Tribute to Donors/Partners
- ✓ Annual Financial Audit
- ✓ 990 Filing

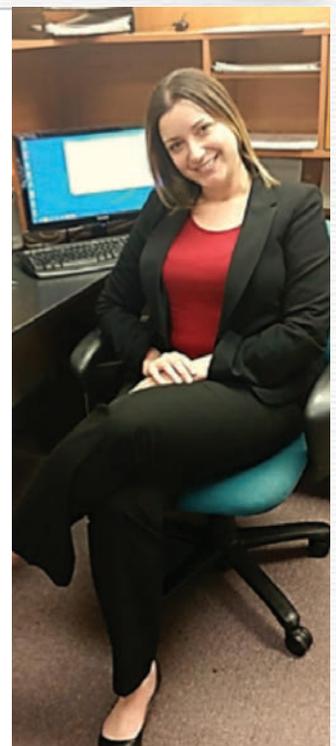
## FRANCESCA RUOTOLO

### JOB DEVELOPER

Meet Francesca Ruotolo a Job Developer at United Cerebral Palsy's Supported Employment Program (SE). Her passion for work, her determination, drive and relentless pursuit to help individuals with disabilities work through the steps to find employment is what makes Francesca stand out. During our interview it was obvious that this was not just a job for her, but a way to give of herself to her community. No matter how many times she was asked; "What contributed to her and the program's success?" the answer was always the same...*"This is a team effort and that's why it works."*

As a Job Developer she is responsible for engaging businesses and securing new employment opportunities for our program participants. Francesca is becoming a familiar face with businesses throughout the Valley. As a developer she partners with businesses to evaluate our client's workability skills many times resulting in our clients being hired by operations such as The Home Goods, Smart Foods, various fast food restaurants and movie theaters. Because of her efforts 17 clients have found permanent

jobs this year alone ranging from stock clerks or associates, to ushers and teaching assistants. When ask what is the best part of her job, Francesca smiles and says, "It's when the clients call me excited and thanking me for helping them to find a job." She is on the lookout for new businesses to partner with so if you are interested in becoming a partner take a moment to look up Francesca and Supported Employment Program on our blog.





## GIVING BACK

"I love to volunteer and to be here (UCP); I love the people and love to volunteer," says Matthew Molina. He is a participant in Program Without Walls (PWW) that provides a hands-on approach and tailors its community integration program to meet individual interests. PWW includes life skill classes, assistance with furthering ones education and, of course, community activities. Volunteering is another opportunity for our participants to live "Life Without Limits" by giving back to our community. Matthew, Eric Miller and Michelle Matlock, alongside PWW staff member Rosalinda Figueroa, volunteer by sorting items at the Assistance League Thrift Shop.

*Mission: We support a "Life Without Limits" by creating systems that are progressive, accessible, and dependable, reflect quality outcomes and promote independence.*

## STOPPING TRAFFIC

### HAND IN HAND WITH THE CITY OF STOCKTON

On a daily basis our Ben Holt Adult Activity Center (AAC) program participants and staff engage in life skills activities that take them out into the community to learn such things as: how to use public transportation and purchase items from stores. Many of our participants have had to cross the street at Ben Holt & Inglewood to accomplish these activities and have experienced near misses with vehicles running stop signs or being impatient while our people crossed the street.

After watching a fellow program participant barely avoiding being hit by a vehicle, Patrick Doherty took matters into his own hands. He wanted traffic lights installed. He contacted the City of Stockton and attended City Council meetings. Patrick collected signatures to petition the City to install traffic lights. He worked for two solid years and consistently reminded the City not to forget about this important issue! Finally in the early



## BURNS TRUCK AND TRAILER SERVICES

### RAISES \$13,000 AT THEIR ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENTS

What an amazing partnership. After nine years of holding golf tournament & raising funds for various organizations within the community, the good folks at Burns Truck and Trailer Services in Ripon happen to see the UCP logo on one of our service buses and then we became the fortunate benefactor of the Annual Burns Family & Friends Golf Tournament.

On August 10th, the Burns Family and Team - Mark & Norma Burns, Meagan Burns-Coleman, Lisa McLoughlin and all their helpers - held their 10th Annual Golf Tournament at The Reserve at Spanos Park. The Burns Team worked hard to make this event a success and it worked! More than 100 golfers came to support this fun and popular event and Mark & Norma Burns presented UCP with a \$13,000 check!

*Thank you to all who were involved in this wonderful partnership!*



part of 2014 Patrick received a letter from the City indicating lights would be installed during the summer. Thanks to the hard work and dedication of Patrick, the lights are up and program participants can safely cross the street. Esther Mendez, the new Program Manager for Ben Holt AAC, and all of us at UCP are proud of Patrick Doherty! *Making A Difference!!!*