



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact:

Danielle De Souza

Public Relations Manager

631-232-0011 ext. 457

dde Souza@ucp-suffolk.org

UCP Suffolk Celebrates Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month



Daniel

Hauppauge, NY (March 8, 2016) – United Cerebral Palsy Association of Greater Suffolk, Inc. (UCP Suffolk) celebrates Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month, a time to raise awareness of the needs and rights of people with disabilities and to celebrate their accomplishments and contributions to our communities and society.

In 1987, President Ronald Reagan declared March to be Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month, urging “all Americans to join me in according our new fellow citizens with such disabilities both encouragement and opportunities they need to lead productive lives and to achieve their full potential.” March is recognized by groups across the country as an opportunity to highlight the accomplishments and challenges facing people with developmental disabilities and their families.

UCP Suffolk encourages all to celebrate “Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month” by sharing these important facts:

- Developmental disability is a natural part of the human experience and affects approximately 4.6 million Americans
- All people with developmental disabilities can be productive, contributing members of their communities
- During times of economic decline, essential services and supports for people with developmental disabilities are often threatened
- Policy makers can only make good public policy when they hear from the people directly affected by their decisions

For over 60 years, UCP Suffolk has been committed to advancing the independence, productivity and full citizenship of people with disabilities by creating “Life Without Limits.” UCP Suffolk provides programs and services to 3,500 children and adults with a variety of disabilities annually. The Children’s Center at UCP Suffolk offers early intervention, preschool and school aged programs. The agency provides Adult Day Services which include Day Treatment, Day Habilitation and Respite programs, and job training and placement services. In addition, UCP Suffolk owns and operates 31 residences throughout Suffolk County, a twelve unit apartment complex and a comprehensive, fully accessible Health Center.

“We celebrate people with developmental disabilities this month and every day. People with disabilities have made great strides in gaining education, employment and housing, but there is so much more that needs to be done. It is important that communities continue to encourage people with disabilities as well as advocate for their needs and rights,” Stephen H. Friedman, President, CEO of UCP Suffolk said

United Cerebral Palsy Association of Greater Suffolk, Inc. (UCP of Suffolk) For over 60 years, UCP of Suffolk has been committed to advancing the independence, productivity, and full citizenship of people with disabilities by creating *Life Without Limits*. UCP of Suffolk provides programs and services to almost 3,500 children and adults with a variety of disabilities annually. The Children’s Center at UCP of Suffolk offers early intervention, preschool and school aged programs. The agency provides Adult Day services which include Day Treatment, Day Habilitation and Respite programs, and job training and placement services. In addition, UCP of Suffolk owns and operates 31 residences throughout Suffolk County, a twelve unit apartment complex, and a comprehensive, fully accessible Health Center.