



For Immediate Release

Media Contact

Danielle De Souza

Public Relations Manager

631-232-0011 ext. 457

ddesouza@ucp-li.org

UCP of Long Island Participant Gives Back to The Children's Center



Oscar bonds with Malik during gym class

Commack, NY – Oscar, a UCP of Long Island participant for over ten years, credits the agency in helping him to find his independence and to live *Life Without Limits*. He said that he wanted to give back to the organization in a special way. Every Friday, Oscar volunteers at The Children's Center at UCP of Long Island and works as an assistant coach to students.

"I came to the school one day in the summer and realized that I loved being around the children," said Oscar. "It's a lot of work, but I enjoy it."

Oscar assists Coach Chris Polhemus during gym classes. "He has been so helpful in setting up and interacting with the students," said Polhemus. "He is just a great guy and makes the classes more fun."

Assistant Principal Rose Brown agreed. "The children and the staff love Oscar," she said. "I think he is great role model to our students. They love to see him come in his wheelchair and then get out of the chair and start moving. That's very motivating to the students."

Oscar said that he is happy that he can give back to the organization that gave him so much. "UCP showed me that there is more out there for me," he said. "I love coming to the school, being around the children and making them happy."

The Children's Center is in the forefront of Early Intervention, Preschool, and School Age programming, serving over 70 infants and children with disabilities. The Center uses specialty programs such as a feeding program - Food Exploration and Sensory Techniques (F.E.A.S.T.) and assistive technology services. The school continues to introduce new and innovative programs designed to meet the needs of children with disabilities and their families.

*For over 65 years, UCP of Long Island has been committed to advancing the independence, productivity, and full citizenship of people with disabilities by creating **Life Without Limits**. UCP of Long Island provides programs and services to children and adults with disabilities annually. The Children's Center at UCP of Long Island 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 Long Island has 31 residences and a 12-unit apartment complex for individuals with disabilities.*