

CANCER
PARKINSON'S DISEASE
DEMENTIA
OSTEOARTHRITIS
STROKE SURVIVOR
VISUAL IMPAIRMENT
ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE

ACQUIRED BRAIN INJURY
DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY

70 YEARS STRONG

CEREBRAL PALSY
TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY
MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS
AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER
SPINAL CORD INJURY
MENTAL ILLNESS
SEIZURE DISORDER
LEARNING DISABILITY
SPINA BIFIDA
COPD
HEARING IMPAIRMENT

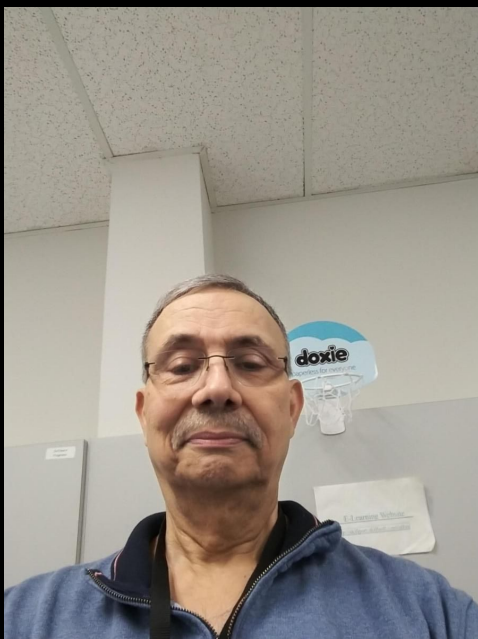
**WE ARE
MORE THAN
OUR NAME**



February 2020 E-Newsletter at UCP-LI

UCP-LI Employment Connection & Volunteering

Joel Evans: Volunteering Is GREAT



Volunteering is GREAT. I realized this more than ever while recovering from my recent surgery.

Last year, I wrote: "If you aren't already doing so, consider volunteering." It's a true win-win, for those you are helping as well as for YOU. ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ It is so rewarding!! While I was recuperating, I was really, really bored. Besides doctor appointments and physical therapy, I had little to do. As well as limited mobility.

However, my United Cerebral Palsy buddies whom I mentor, really cheered me up. They called me as a group. Amazingly, I recognized all of their voices. They also sent me a couple of cards signed by many of them. That really made me happy. When I returned on a limited basis two weeks ago, they gave me incredible welcomes. Yelling out "Joel, Joel, Joel," as they were running to give me hugs and presenting me with homemade cards. I was almost in tears.

The preceding is what we get back from volunteering: An incredible

"Thanks to my UCP buddies for giving back to ME!"

-Joel



sense of making a difference with someone else who needs it. I missed volunteering as much as they missed me. - Joel Evans



SUPPORT US

DID YOU KNOW UCP of LI...

Spends over 92 cents of every dollar on programs and services.

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!



WE LOVE
OUR VOLUNTEERS

Volunteering can range from a few hours to a long-term relationship. To sign up or for further questions, please e-mail info@ucp-li.org.



Make a meaningful, long-term gift that will cost little or nothing now and can create income opportunities for you and your family.

LEARN MORE

VOLUNTEER



PayPal



DONATE

Please contact the Office of Development at 631-232-0015.

Valentine's Day Love!

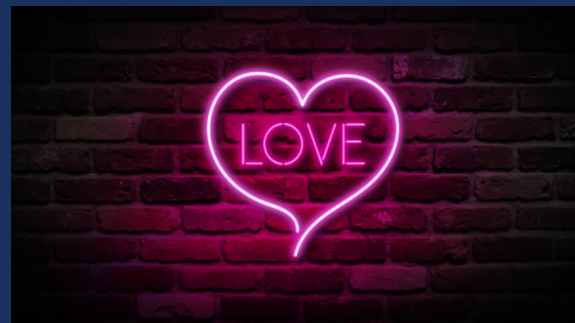
It was a great month celebrating Valentine's Day!

The Parent Group at The Children's Center put on a delicious fundraising bake sale. The Children's Center was filled with cards and laughter and The Adult Day Program was treated to a fantastic jewelry and craft class by Stephanie Occhipinti of Occhipinti Designs. For parents interested in joining the Parent Group, please contact Ingrid Trouve at itrouve@ucp-li.org



THE CHILDREN'S CENTER





Petting Zoo Fun!

It was a busy February at the Children's Center! There was a Petting Zoo where children enjoyed their time with Mr. Bun Bun, a Lions Head Bunny!

Sonic, a very friendly Hedgehog.



Daphne, The Ferret and the ever popular ChiChi, a Chinchilla.

Some brave individuals even put a snake around their neck! What an incredible time!



HISTORY!

Founded in 1949 by Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Goldenson, then President of United Paramount Theaters and ABC Television, UCP has been one of the country's leading organizations supporting children and adults with cerebral palsy and other developmental and intellectual disabilities and

conditions. The national organization has been known for its influence, representation and advocacy efforts on legislative issues and as a respected resource for information and referral.

A network of sixty-four affiliates across the United States and Canada, provide thousands of individuals through all stages of life, necessary supports to live a *Life Without Limits*. Services include educational, vocational, residential, therapeutic, employment and support services that are entrepreneurial and innovative.

One of the best ways to get involved is in your own community.

Our MISSION is to create a *LIFE WITHOUT LIMITS* for an individual with a disability based on removing barriers and offering opportunities. Each day through a wide range of programs, our amazing staff helps foster remarkable creativity from individuals with limited communication or physical abilities.

WE ARE PROUD TO CELEBRATE 70 YEARS!

Meet Dan

ARTIST OF THE MONTH

Dan has been an avid comic book reader his whole life. His art style can be called "minimalist." However, it doesn't stop him from learning about different types of art and different styles. He has been inspired by Superhero's since childhood and has incorporated his love of

the "comic book" style art in his work. Dan's favorite superhero is Superman. He is also an avid moviegoer and attends a movie every weekend. Dan's beautiful art is featured at UCP-LI Special Events. Dan likes to experiment with the minimalist style of painting and is trying his hand at abstract painting. Take a look, Dan's work is truly remarkable.



Meet Rolf

In The Spotlight:

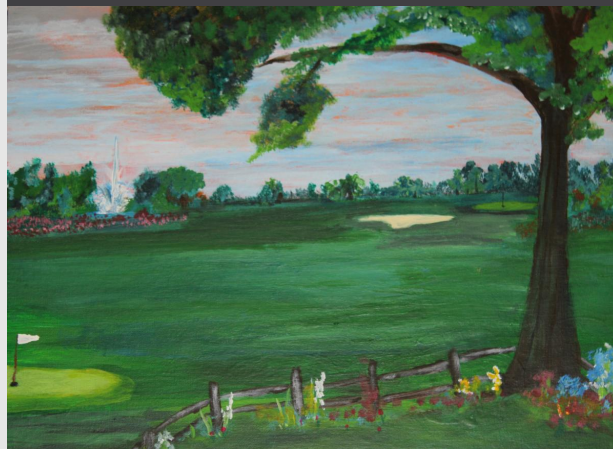
"There were many barriers, both physical or otherwise. Yet there were many beautiful and happy times, too."

-Rolf

Perspective's From A Wheelchair – by Rolf W.

One of the most important things to know about me is that I am a man with many abilities, not a man with a disability. I've lived my life in a wheelchair, and it has provided me with a unique perspective of the world around me. I have often said that there have been many times I've felt as though I'm at the bottom of a flight of stairs, unable to gain access or entry. There were many barriers, physical or otherwise. Yet there were many beautiful and happy times, too.

I was very lucky to have deeply devoted parents, who loved me, fought for me, and raised me to advocate for myself. I was always supported and protected. I don't mind sharing there were also frustrating times that were upsetting for me and my family. For example, there were times in my childhood when my mother asked me to run an errand in our neighborhood and other mothers would tell their children to move away from me, to look away from me. There were also store managers who wouldn't allow me to enter because of my wheelchair. Or this one really upset my father -- and I can still remember him balling his fists in his pockets. One time, my family went out for Chinese food. A person actually complained to management



because I “stirped my soup.” According to that person, I shouldn’t eat out. My peers and I encountered this sort of behavior, and we continue to encounter people like this. To me, the worst part was my parent’s anger and knowing that their hearts were breaking because someone was unkind to me. But they never showed it - they just raised me to be a better man.

My parents took wonderful care of me and fought for me every day of my life - and they raised me to use my voice and my gifts to make life better for myself and my peers. My parents are gone, sadly, and I miss them. But I am not alone. I see my siblings and nephews - and thankfully my parents got to see me living my life at UCP. They understood what a special place UCP is. And they knew I would be safe and happy with my UCP family. Today I am a happy man – a man with many abilities. I live in a beautiful UCP home, and spend my days trying to live as independently as possible doing the things I love. I do need assistance but the UCP staff are simply the best. I’m in UCP’s Brushstrokes Program, and many of you have seen my paintings and centerpieces over the years. I’ve even started making my own adaptive painting tools - I get inspired at Home Depot, my favorite store. Thankfully management there always makes me feel welcome and I’m able to buy whatever I need. I’ve recently taken up photography, too, and I love it. Anytime I want to try something new, UCP staff supports and encourages me, as do my peers. Most importantly, I use my voice to speak about how important it is to advocate for the disabled. I’ve seen a lot from this wheelchair over the years, and there is still a need to break down barriers. My peers and I are so grateful that UCP educates our community, helps people with disabilities live independently, find jobs, and even helps people get



married – UCP helps people live their own ***Life Without Limits***. However, breaking down barriers is a massive job! Imagine today witnessing that mother and her child shunning my younger self, or that man complaining because of how I ate my soup. In those moments, you might not be able to speak up - it's not easy. But let's be grateful that UCP of Long Island exists. I am everyday.



"Today I am a happy man – a man with many abilities. I live in a beautiful UCP home, and spend my days trying to live as independently as possible doing the things I love."

- Rolf



UCP of Long Island Teams Up With The Patchogue Theatre For Inaugural Artist Appreciation Event

It was a special February as UCP-LI and The Patchogue Theatre partnered together for the Inaugural Art Appreciation Event held at the historic theatre in the heart of The Patchogue Village.

For the entire month of February, paintings created by UCP-LI's Individuals in the Adult Day Art Program were available for viewing to



the public at the Theatre.

The Patchogue Theatre featured a total of 19 artists in the exhibit with 36 pieces of work to be viewed outside their famous auditorium.

Highlighting the month long event, on Wednesday, February 26, The Patchogue Theatre, in conjunction with UCP of Long Island, held a special night showcasing the exhibit with special guests and the artists themselves.

The Mayor of Patchogue, Mayor Paul V. Pontieri Jr., members of The Patchogue Chamber of Commerce and The Patchogue Arts Council all were on hand to celebrate UCP-LI's ***Life Without Limits*** mission.

Mayor Pontieri presented each artist on hand with a special citation for their inspiring work.

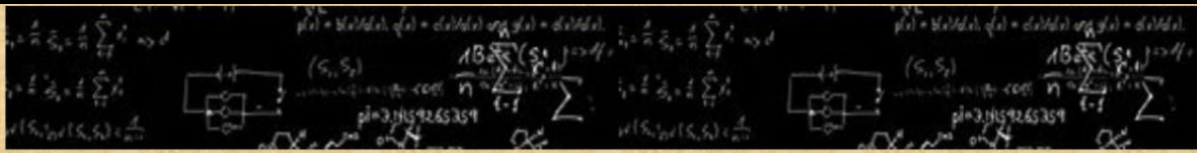
With every stroke of the brush, UCP-LI's artists demonstrate their skills. Each artist embraces his or her unique talent, using adaptive tools when needed & exploring unconventional techniques such as painting with bubble wrap, chopsticks, Brillo, chicken wire, among others.

Attendees were shown the uniqueness of the paintings created by individuals with disabilities in UCP-LI's Adult Art Program. This program was introduced to help them strengthen their fine motor-skills, relieve tightness caused by Cerebral Palsy, Arthritis & other conditions.

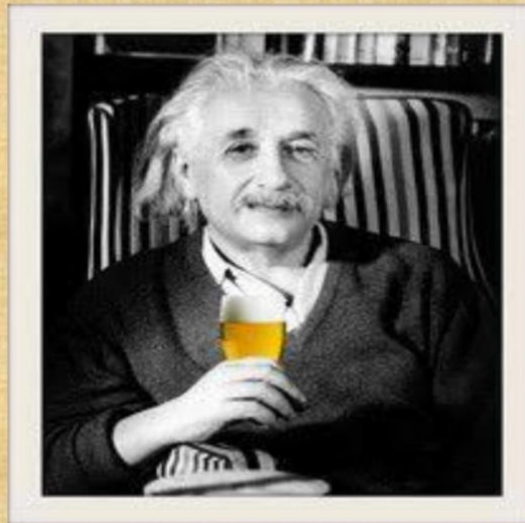
The end result is always something beautiful & special. The arts build relationships and "open doors" as UCP-LI's artists participate in events throughout the Long Island community where they can sell their work & showcase their many abilities.

UCP of Long Island provides residential care in 31 homes across Suffolk County, serving two

residential homes in the town of Patchogue.



YOUNG PROFESSIONALS 2020 "LET'S GET QUIZZY!"



Thursday, April 9th from 6pm – 10pm
at The Great South Bay Brewery ~ Bayshore, NY

\$85 Per Person
4 Hour Open Bar & Food
Trivia Night

To purchase tickets:
Courtney Scully 631-0011 ext.402
cscully@ucp-li.org

Register online \$85 plus professing fee <http://specialevents.ucp-li.org/letsgetquizzzy>

FOR QUESTIONS REGARDING NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS CONTACT: CHARITIES.BUREAU@AG.NY.GOV OR (212) 416- 8401



Celebrating Art, Music & Fashion

A Night In Monte Carlo



04.22.20

LARKFIELD

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SAVE THE DATE GOLF CLASSIC

Monday, June 15th, 2020
HUNTINGTON COUNTRY CLUB
HUNTINGTON, NY

SAVE THE DATE
Gold Coast Invitational

Monday, August 3, 2020
Cold Spring Country Club
Huntington, New York

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