



LIMITLESS

Monthly Newsletter
September 2022

ucp-li.org

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Greetings!

UCP-LI Welcomes New Board Member - Sabrina Bivona



UCP of Long Island Welcomes New Board Member



Hauppauge, NY – The Board of Directors at United Cerebral Palsy of Long Island (UCP-LI) is proud to announce the appointment of Sabrina Bivona, Senior Manager of Assurance at CohnReznick, LLP, to the UCP-LI Board of Directors.

“We are delighted to welcome Sabrina to the Board of Directors here at UCP-LI. Sabrina brings a passion for helping others, and I look forward to working closely with Sabrina and our fellow board members for many years to come,” said **Thomas Pfundstein, Board Chair**.

Ms. Bivona is an alumna of Hofstra University where she earned a Bachelor of Science in Accounting graduating Cum Laude. In her current role, Sabrina is responsible for managing engagements ranging from \$2M to \$2B in various industries such as, M&D, Consumer Products, Technology, Construction and Hospitality. Sabrina joined CohnReznick in 2010 and currently serves as a Committee Co-Chair for UCP-LI’s fundraiser “A Night in Monte Carlo”. Ms. Bivona is also on the WomenCAN committee at CohnReznick where she organizes and fundraises for events to support the empowerment of women. CohnReznick has been a generous sponsor of special events for UCP-LI for many years.

“I am honored to join the board of UCP of Long Island. Over the past several years, I have been introduced to the wide range of programs and services that are provided to children and adults and I look forward to working closely with my fellow board members to support UCP-LI’s mission and ensure that they remain a leader in the industry. I feel fortunate to be able to impact lives in such a supportive way, and I am thankful for the opportunity,” said Sabrina.

Sabrina resides in Dix Hills with her husband Greg and their twin daughters Arielle and Alina.

For more information regarding this event coverage and other planned events please contact Stephanie Makowski, Community Relations Specialist at 631-232-0011 ext. 402.

Interview with Denise H.: A UCP-LI Special Events Volunteer



Denise H. - Dedicated UCP-LI Volunteer

Denise has been volunteering with UCP-LI for years. She first heard of the organization while searching on Volunteer Match. Volunteer Match is an online tool that connects highly qualified volunteers to not for profits. Her first event was UCP-LI's A Night in Monte Carlo. Ever since then, Denise has not been able to tear herself away from all the good the organization does.

Denise stated "I love the whole experience about volunteering. The events are always so fun and all of the other volunteers are very nice. UCP-LI is a wonderful organization and I love supporting their programs and vision to create a ***Life without Limits*** for those with disabilities."

We are very thankful to have wonderful volunteers like Denise who return year after year dedicating their time to ensure our events are a great success!

Are you interested in volunteering?
Contact Camille Schramm for more information
631.232.0015 or cschramm@ucp-li.org

The Children's Residential Program





The Children's Residential Program (CRP) at UCP-LI is innovative in that it incorporates exemplary residential and educational services to nurture the growth and development of each child. The children live in an accessible and comfortable home supported by an interdisciplinary team that monitors the needs, strengths and progress of each child. The skills learned at school and in the home are reinforced and practiced in both settings. Our homes are located in neighborhoods close to our school.



One of our children's residential homes

For more information on openings please contact:
Narjis Zaidi, 631-232-0011 ext. 500 or email nzaidi@ucp-li.org.

UCP-LI 5k Walk N Wheel



**Unfortunately this event is cancelled due to inclement weather.
We hope you all stay dry!**

We encourage all registrants to come pick up their Walk T-Shirts.

Contact Courtney Scully to schedule a time.

Courtney Scully:

631.232.0011 ext. 451 or cscully@ucp-li.org

If registrants are interested in doing the walk virtually when the weather permits, please share any photos by sending them to ucppr@ucp-li.org

Sponsorships and Tickets are available by visiting:

<https://specialevents.ucp-li.org/20225kwalknwheel>

Did you know....

United Cerebral Palsy of Long Island offers *services for all ages* from preschool to adult. Services offered include physical, speech, and occupational therapies to name just a few. Visit www.ucp-li.org to learn more!



We are here to help!

UCP-LI is the leader in connecting Long Island businesses to qualified workers with disabilities.

Businesses today need qualified workers of all types to meet their hiring needs and diversity guidelines. People with disabilities need satisfying and meaningful jobs that match their skills and interests. Connecting the two is what we do! We've provided services to thousands of Long Island job seekers since 1994.

The Employment Connection can help you...

- Get ready for work while you're still in school
- Find a job based on your skills and what you like to do
- Practice your interview skills in our video interview room
- Work with your referral source to learn the new skills you'll need to succeed in your job
- Obtain job coaching right at your job site
- Change careers due to an acquired disability

Want to get ready for work while you're still in school?

The *Partners for Transition* program serves students 2 years prior to school exit who are eligible or potentially eligible for service under the Office of People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) and want to pursue a vocational/employment goal.

If you are someone with a developmental disability who is still in school and wants to get ready to start work, The Employment Connection can help! We can help with...

- Assessments/evaluation - Through government sponsorship, we can help you find what you like to do, and what you're good at, and match those skills to the needs of local employers.
- Learning about options - What kind of jobs are others with similar backgrounds interested in, or already working at? What do you need to do to be ready for work? Our Job Readiness Groups, Independent Living Skills Seminars, and different employment options can help you find the answers.
- Learning about employers - Meet with employers, visit job sites, learn what kind of jobs they are looking to fill, and possibly qualify for a job try-out.

- Volunteer opportunities - Many first-time job seekers start out by volunteering to help their community and gain experience working with others, following directions and keeping a schedule.

The Best Part! - There is absolutely no cost to the student, family, or school district.

UCP-LI is proud to support students, America's future employees, to live a **Life Without Limits!**

For more information contact Mark Crean, 631.232.0011 ext. 600 or email mcrean@ucp-li.org.

Visit www.ucp-li.org to learn more!

Employers Should Consider...



- 62% of disabled individuals remain in a job for three years or more.
 - Individuals with disabilities take less sick time than those who do not have disabilities.
 - 90% of workers with disabilities perform equal to or better than nondisabled workers.
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- 87% of all adults in the U.S. prefer to spend money at businesses that hire those with disabilities.
 - Hiring those with disabilities adds to the diversity of the workplace.
 - Disabled workers come to work on time, and when scheduled.

Author, Guest. "Adults with Disabilities Fill Job Openings - Business Journal Daily: The Youngstown Publishing Company." *Business Journal Daily* | *The Youngstown Publishing Company*, 1 Feb. 2022, <https://businessjournaldaily.com/article/adults-with-disabilities-fill-job-openings/>.

For more information contact:
Mark Crean - 631.232.0011 ext. 600 or email mcrean@ucp-li.org.

**UCP-LI Artwork was featured at the
H. Lee Dennison Building in
Hauppauge, NY.**



For the entire month of July, artwork from the individuals at United Cerebral Palsy's "Brushstrokes" program and Woodworking Club was on display in the lobby of the H. Lee Dennison Building in Hauppauge, NY. The "Brushstrokes" program was originally introduced to help our individuals to stretch their muscles, today it is a full-blown art program that is featured at exhibits and UCP-LI Special Events!

All of the paintings created at UCP-LI's "Brushstrokes" program are made as a part of Johnny's Way. Johnny's Way is an adaptive art studio that features the works of many of the agencies talented artists. Johnny's Way was named after Johnathan W., a man whose dreams continued to grow everyday at UCP-LI. His strongest beliefs were for everyone to have an opportunity to be able to express themselves through the arts. He believed if we can change someone's environment we can change their way of life.

On top of many people being able to see their work, our individuals also had the opportunity to meet with Suffolk County Executive, Steve Bellone. They were so excited to meet the County Executive! The smiles on their faces says it all!



We are so very proud of all the artists who were featured at the art show! Anything is possible when you believe you can do it!

Did you miss our showcase this year? Be on the lookout for our dates for next year! Our participants will be hard at work all year and can't wait to show you more masterpieces!

Coming June 2023
UCP-LI's Art Exhibit featuring our many talented artists at
The Long Island Museum!

The Children's Center at UCP-LI Events

Introducing our NEW mascot colors!
Do you like them?!



Water Play Days!
Took place every Friday all summer long!

The children at The Children's Center summer program had some fun in the sun! Until the end of the summer, The Children's Center at UCP-LI had Water Play Days! Weather permitting of course. All water activities take place outside the Gymnasium. What better way to cool off during the summer!



For more information, please contact:
Ingrid Trouve - 631.543.2338 ext. 340 or itrouve@ucp-li.org

Do you know about Amazon Smile?



AmazonSmile Program

Amazon has over 300 million active users. Did you know that as an active user, every time you shop through the Amazon Smile program .05% of your total purchases can be donated to a charity of your choice. **Make UCP-LI your charity of choice!**

To set us up as your charity of choice follow instructions below:

1. Visit <https://smile.amazon.com/> or activate AmazonSmile in the Amazon Shopping app on your iOS or Android device within the Settings or Programs & Features Menu.
2. Log-in to your account.
3. Select organization – Search for United Cerebral Palsy of Greater Suffolk (d/b/a as United Cerebral Palsy of Long Island) and select us as your charity of choice.
4. Once you do that, a percentage of your purchases will be donated to UCP-LI.
5. Bookmark this page!

Your donation can make a difference in the lives of those we serve! Visit www.ucp-li.org to learn more!

[Click Here to go to AmazonSmile](#)

We've started a new partnership with Coastline Wealth Management



UCP-LI is proud to announce a new partnership with Coastline Wealth Management. Most recently, they hosted a Summer Party Fundraiser in support of UCP-LI. It was a huge success!

This special evening brought together Coastline staff, their clients and UCP residents all in support of the programs and services offered to those we serve! We cannot thank them enough for their generosity and support!

The evening was a great success!

To learn more about Coastline Wealth Management please visit:

<https://coastalwealthmgmt.com/>

Our "Picasso" Inspired Paintings



The individuals in our Day Treatment and Day Habilitation programs had a wonderful time learning about one of their favorite artists, Pablo Picasso. They enjoyed it so much that many individuals wanted to try and paint some of his original paintings. They were hesitant at first, but we decided to find a way to make replicas! Even though our mission was not a success in the beginning, after trying different paints and tools we discovered a special way to design these replicas. "Pouring Paint" and using special brushes with extension handles were a part of the process. We thought the paintings would be completed in a few weeks, however it took over 4 months! The paintings were created with much patience, love, and assistance.

As the pictures began to come together the group was eager to begin the next chosen original, and then the next! Everyone was so excited to see their works of art coming to life! After much dedication and hard work, the outcome is simply amazing! We are so proud of all our Pablo Creators!

One of the Pablo Paintings was even submitted to the CP of New York State Visions artwork contest!



Picasso painting submitted to CP of New York State Annual Art Contest

This painting was a collaboration between many different painters. They were very excited to work on this as a team!

We can't wait to see the winners!

Upcoming Events



Life Without Limits Gala

Thursday November 3, 2022
Oheka Castle
Huntington, NY

Join us for our largest fundraiser of the year! Featuring a painting by **Brushstrokes** artist, Yolan F., as the selected cover art.

To register for tickets and sponsorships click [HERE](#) or contact Karen Puritano. 631.232.0011 ext. 452 or email: kpuritano@ucp-li.org

We can't wait for this day to support children and adults with a wide range of disabilities.

[Tickets & Sponsorships](#)



Handbag Bingo

Sunday December 4, 2022
The Hamlet Golf & Country Club
Commack, NY

Our popular Handbag Bingo event will be here just in time for the holidays. Take a chance at winning a new bag! Individual Tickets \$125. Sponsorships available at all levels.

For tickets and sponsorships Click [HERE](#) or contact Courtney Scully. 631.232.0011 ext. 451 or email cscully@ucp-li.org

[Tickets & Sponsorships](#)

Did you know....

UCP-LI has a Young Professionals Committee?!

UCP of Long Island's Young Professional's Committee is a group of dedicated young adults who work to advance UCP-LI's mission to create **Life Without Limits** for people with disabilities. How do we do this? By volunteering, spreading awareness, and raising funds.



Why Join?

- Excellent networking opportunities at fundraising events.
- Build your resume and make new friends!
- This committee provides a unique opportunity to promote the programs and services of UCP of Long Island which encourage children and adults with disabilities to lead fulfilling lives.

As a part of the committee, you will attend fundraising events, explore network opportunities, meet new people, and most importantly spread awareness about UCP-LI. Join us for our monthly zoom meetings, where we will plan different events and explore new ideas.

Interested? Contact Courtney Scully 631.232.0011 ext. 451 or email cscully@ucp-li.org.

UCP Leadership Team Highlight



Alisa Charles

Director of Nursing

We are thrilled to have Alisa on the leadership team! She is a seasoned medical professional with a strong background in the Nursing industry and has been involved with OPWDD programs since 2003.

In her role at UCP-LI, Ms. Charles is responsible for the supervision of 31 Intermediate Care Facilities(ICFs) and Individualized Residential Alternatives(IRAs) and all-day program nursing staff.

Alisa holds a Master's Degree in Health Administration from Central Michigan University and a Bachelor's Degree in Health Administration from St. Joseph's College. She received her RN from Helene Fuld College of Nursing.

"My priorities for improving nursing at UCP continues to be at the forefront of my goals for progress here. My current focus is improving nurse job satisfaction, improving the turnover rate and training/nurse development.", said Alisa.



Interested in joining a Committee? Volunteering for special events?

Here are some special events you can join in on:



Life Without Limits Gala
Oheka Castle - Thursday November 3, 2022

<https://specialevents.ucp-li.org/2022lifewithoutlimitsgala>



Handbag Bingo
The Hamlet Golf & Country Club - Sunday December 3, 2022

<https://specialevents.ucp-li.org/2022handbagbingo>

Contact the Office of Development at 631.232.0015 for more information!

Q-Tip Paintings

Here at UCP-LI we have a very talented group of artists. Their newest creations are a work in progress, but include art that is made using Q-Tips, combs and sponges. They are doing such a spectacular job and we can't wait to see the finished product.

Many participants at UCP-LI have a limited range of motion and varying disabilities. Our in house program "Brushstrokes" was created to help individuals stretch their muscles. Our artists use everyday materials to aid in their painting, including Q-Tips and Combs as used in these paintings. This has really opened a world of creativity for all of our participants!



Do you know about Planned Giving?



Planned Giving is a wonderful way to make a larger, lasting contribution to a cause you care about. Not only does Planned Giving represent the opportunity to provide long term support to an organization, but it also gives donors a chance to establish a legacy. This philanthropic gesture can be a great way to leave a memory of life.

Other **benefits** of Planned Giving include:

- Planned Giving represents the opportunity to leave a major gift that may not have been possible in their lifetime due to financial constraints.
- Charitable Gifts are often exempt from Estate Tax, meaning more of the gift would go directly to the organization.
- Donors can avoid capital gains taxes when they transfer assets as part of a Planned Gift – again maximizing the contribution to the charity.

Most charities do not count on receiving major gifts at any point in time, however, receiving one could result in the development of new programs, the opportunity to expand reach, and years of financial support.

Keep **your legacy alive** with a **planned gift** to UCP of Long Island.

For more information please contact the Office of Development at 631-232-0015.



Volunteer!

We can **always** use more volunteers! Volunteers provide meaningful service to our programs.



Thank you to all of our sponsors, donors, participants and families. We could not do this without you!

Every gift is a significant step toward creating **Life Without Limits** for the individuals with disabilities who rely on our services.

[Donate](#)

For more information on how to sign up to volunteer call the Office of Development at 631.232.0015.

[Read More](#)

Follow us on Social Media!



To learn more visit:

www.ucp-li.org

United Cerebral Palsy of Long Island | 250 Marcus Blvd., Hauppauge, NY 11788

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