Greetings!

UCP-LI Receives Donation for Adaptive Playground from The Long Island Elite

The Long Island Elite Donates $110k to United Cerebral Palsy of Long Island

Throughout 2022, the Long Island Elite has continued to focus its charitable efforts to make an impact locally on Long Island. The networking and philanthropy group announced its most recent donation of $110,000 to its not-for-profit charity partner of the year, United Cerebral Palsy of Long Island (UCP of LI). With this donation, the Long Island Elite has now donated more than $1,100,000 to local Long Island not-for-profit organizations.
“It is amazing what a group of motivated individuals looking to make an impact on Long Island can do,” said Long Island Elite President Frank Morizio, Jr. “This year the Long Island Elite emerged with a new leadership team and a focus on engagement, activity, and community involvement. We forged a true partnership with a wonderful charity partner and the results were outstanding. These funds will greatly assist UCP of LI on its development of a new outdoor playground for its Children’s Center, as well as its mission to advance the independence, productivity, and full citizenship of people with disabilities. Congratulations to all who made this another record-setting year!”

The UCP of LI Children’s Center has provided over 60 years of excellence in educational services including early intervention, preschool, and school-age programs tailored to meet the physical, cognitive and emotional needs of children with disabilities from birth to 21 years of age. Year-round programs, screenings, evaluations, therapies, home or center-based instruction, support groups and assistive technology services are offered.

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**Staff Luncheon at Indian Head Road**
**Sponsored by the Carattini Family**

What a wonderful way to start off the New Year then with a luncheon sponsored by a grateful family!

The Carattini family wanted a way to recognize the staff at our largest residential home for the exemplary care of their uncle.

Their family member came to UCP-LI from a local nursing home. When he joined UCP last summer, he quickly became a beloved member of our family. Staff watched him make new friends, encouraging him to join activities, all while receiving the necessary supports to live his **LIFE WITHOUT LIMITS**. The staff loved seeing his smiling face every day.

We remain grateful for the support from families like the Carattini’s!

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**Healthcare Hero Spotlight**
Meet Eileen M., a Direct Support Professional (DSP) in one of our residential homes.

Eileen has been working with UCP-LI as a DSP for 25 years! She has a great upbeat and pleasant attitude. Eileen’s manager said, “Eileen never complains about additional assignments, appointments, or cluster changes. When we have a staffing shortage, Eileen goes above and beyond to ensure that all the individuals are cared for”.

Eileen encourages her peers and treats all the individuals as if they were her own family. She exudes positive energy and engages the individuals in Zumba and range of motion movement. She has also expressed interest in taking the individuals on recreational outings! You can always find Eileen walking and dancing with the individuals. She is always going the extra mile! Eileen is dedicated, caring and most definitely a team player!

Eileen was recently recognized for her accomplishments by UCP-LI President & CEO, Colleen Crispino, and her Residential Leadership team.

Join us in congratulating Eileen on this well deserved honor!
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 President & CEO, Colleen Crispino, featured in Crain's Health Pulse
"Workforce issues linger in the direct support sector because employees' wages are set by Medicaid reimbursement rates, which do not allow for providers to offer staff competitive salaries. Most direct support professionals are making about minimum wage, which makes jobs in other sectors more appealing. Advocates have been fighting for better pay and more government investment in the sector, and in people with disabilities' quality of lives, for years.

Once providers pay their staff after getting reimbursed, the providers have almost nothing left to keep their programs running, said Colleen Crispino, the CEO of United Cerebral Palsy on Long Island, which serves about 600 people in various programs each year.

"When we do a budget and we say..." "

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](http://www.ucp-li.org) to learn more!

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### Employers Should Consider...

- 62% of individuals with disabilities 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.
- 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.
- Workers with disabilities come to work on time, and when scheduled.


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

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UCP-LI Artists to be Featured at the Long Island Museum

Coming June 2023
Jewelry Making with Stephanie Occhipinti Designs

UCP-LI’s Adult Day participants recently had the opportunity to create their very own piece of jewelry in a jewelry making class lead by Stephanie from Stephanie Occhipinti Design.

Stephanie is an industry-renowned, award-winning local jewelry designer and beloved friend of UCP-LI. She enjoys giving back to her community. Stephanie has, and continues to be, an active supporter and volunteer of UCP-LI.

Our participants had a wonderful time painting and creating their pieces. They couldn't wait to show their jewelry off!
Interested in volunteer opportunities with your company? Contact the Office of Development at 631-232-0015.

Do you know about Amazon Smile?

AmazonSmile Program

The AmazonSmile program will be shutting down on 2/20/2023.

Amazon states:

"In 2013, we launched AmazonSmile to make it easier for customers to support their favorite charities. However, after almost a decade, the program has not grown to create the impact that we had originally hoped. With so many eligible organizations—more than 1 million globally—our ability to have an impact was often spread too thin.

We are writing to let you know that we plan to wind down AmazonSmile by February 20, 2023. We will continue to pursue and invest in other areas where we’ve seen we can make meaningful change—from building affordable housing to providing access to computer science education for students in underserved communities to using our logistics infrastructure and technology to assist broad communities impacted by natural disasters."
We are simply asking that until this date, you continue to support UCP-LI. There is no cost to you and it’s easy to select UCP-LI as 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

Urge Governor Hochul to help New Yorker's with disabilities!

Hochul must help New Yorkers with disabilities
nydailynews.com

Please join UCP-LI in urging Governor Hochul to help New Yorker's with Disabilities. Without the necessary state funding to offer a higher competitive wage, Direct Support Professionals (DSP’s) are leaving their positions in nonprofit agencies. The DSP position is an hourly rate position and most receive a salary that is just above minimum wage. High turnover rates are costing the state’s nonprofit provider agencies additional money that no organization can afford.

As a domino effect, this causes elimination of funding for programs and services the disability
community depends on. The nonprofit service providers are engineered to support and create fulfilling lives for individuals with disabilities, and the loss of even one of those services is impacted greatly by those who rely on it. You can help us be their voice by lending your voice to the cause!

Please urge the state to include: a Direct Support Wage Enhancement and an 8.5% Cost-of-Living Adjustment.

Visit https://cpstate.org/advocacy/ to write your letter to the Governor now!


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Upcoming Events

A Night in Monte Carlo

Thursday April 27, 2023
The Heritage Club at Bethpage
Farmingdale, NY

Join us for our ever popular A Night in Monte Carlo event!

To register for tickets and sponsorships click HERE or contact Courtney Scully-631.232.0011 ext. 451 or email: cscully@ucp-li.org

Gold Coast Invitational

Monday May 15, 2023
Gold Coast Invitational
Huntington, New York

UCP-LI’s Gold Coast Invitational event will be here before you know it! Save the date!

For tickets and sponsorships click HERE or contact Karen Puritano-631.232.0011 ext. 452 or email: kpuritano@ucp-li.org

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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?** Join us for our next meeting on February 16th at 5pm! We will be holding the meeting at 250 Marcus Blvd. Hauppauge, NY.

For more information contact Courtney Scully 631.232.0011 ext. 451 or email cscully@ucp-li.org.

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*Interested in joining a Committee? Volunteering for special events?*

We would love to see you at one of our many events! Take a look at our special event calendar!
For more information please contact the Office of Development at 631.232.0015.

Tickets and Sponsorship's on sale now for the following events!

**Special Events Dates 2023**

**Night in Monte Carlo** – Thursday April 27, 2023  
The Heritage Club @ Bethpage

**Gold Coast Invitational** – Monday May 15, 2023  
Cold Spring Country Club

**5K Walk N Wheel** – Saturday September 30, 2023  
Belmont Lake State Park

**Life Without Limits Gala** – Thursday October 19, 2023  
Water’s Edge

**Handbag Bingo** – Sunday December 3, 2023  
The Stonebridge Country Club

(Young Professional Events TBD)

**A Night in Monte Carlo**  
The Heritage Club - Thursday April 27, 2023  
Gold Coast Invitational
Cold Spring Country Club - Monday May 15, 2023
https://specialevents.ucp-li.org/2023goldcoastinvitational

Contact the Office of Development at 631.232.0015 for more information!

Adaptive Tools for Painting

Did you know...

Most of our "Brushstrokes" participants use adaptive tools to paint their wonderful creations! 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: sponges, adaptive scissors, Q-Tips, combs, and even finger-painting! This has really opened a world of creativity for all of our participants!

Here at UCP-LI, our very talented group of artists' work has been featured at different exhibits and is frequently featured at various special events hosted by UCP-LI. All the work the artists create are so unique. We can’t wait to see what they will create next!

Stony Brook University Engineering students create adaptive toys for The Children's Center
The Stony Brook University Engineering students approached UCP-LI to partner with the agency to create adaptive toys for children with disabilities. The students conducted a toy drive over at the university and then modified these toys to make them adaptive for use by the children at The Children’s Center of UCP-LI. Toys in stores are made with small knobs and buttons that make it difficult for children with disabilities to enjoy playing with them. Playing with toys is educational and beneficial for all children as it aids in the learning process and teaches them various developmental skills. By adding a switch these students have created a toy that allows our children to enjoy the same privileges.

The students delivered the toys to the school, so take a look...

UCP-LI remains thankful to these students who are striving to make our world more inclusive.

Thank you Stony Brook University!

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.

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

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

*Follow us on Social Media!*

[Facebook](#)  [Instagram](#)  [Twitter](#)  [LinkedIn](#)

*To learn more visit:*

[www.ucp-li.org](http://www.ucp-li.org)

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

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