



JOURNEYS

JUNE 2015

The official newsletter of United Disabilities Services Foundation

SALUTE TO THE MAGEES

Chuckie Magee and his family are great examples of the spirit of the UDS community!

Chuckie died on May 20 at age 23. He will be remembered fondly by all who knew him and by all who have benefited from his family's many contributions to the life of UDS.

Chuckie's parents, Bev and Chuck, came to UDS in 2006 wanting to start a Challenger Football League. UDS worked with Bev and husband Chuck to launch UDS Challenger Football, with the Magees as an organizing force.

Players ages 5 to 25 with physical and/or developmental disabilities learn football/cheerleading fundamentals; in the games, **everybody scores**

and everybody wins. The first year there were 20 players; this year there will be 66. Volunteer CFL Buddies, and donors like you, help make it all happen.

When Chuckie was born, he was not expected to live for a year. Throughout his life, his parents enriched his life despite his disabilities. In the process, they have enriched the lives of many others with their work with Challenger Football.



Lois Morgan and Katie Manners

LOIS MORGAN SAYS: "YES, WE CAN."

Lois T. Morgan was recognized at the Gala for the great support she and her late husband Milt have given. The Morgans are the single largest individual donors in UDSF history.

Attending an Adult Enrichment concert, Lois was so impressed with what the participants were doing—and their happy spirits—that she became more involved. Lois currently serves on the Board and the Development Committee.

As a special tribute to this year's 50th anniversary, Mrs. Morgan has made a significant gift.

We can best describe Lois' love for the work of UDS with a suggestion she made recently: "I think we should use the motto 'Yes, We Can.' Yes, our consumers can. Yes, our staff can. Yes, our Board can. That's what it's all about!"

The award was presented by UDS consumer and AE participant Katie Manners.

50TH ANNIVERSARY GALA DELIGHTS

Thanks to your generosity, more than \$84,000 was raised at the UDS 50th Anniversary Gala held on May 15, 2015..

Two-hundred fifty friends of United Disabilities Services gathered to share a look at fifty years of history, meet the man who started it all, share the celebration cake, and raise funds. The group included corporate sponsors, Board members, donors, volunteers, caregivers and consumers. *You are the people who enable UDS to continue to advance the independence of people with disabilities!*



CEO Bill Kepner and Jerry Meck

More gala news and photos inside

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:

- * AE MUPPET SHOW
- * BOARD PERSPECTIVE
- * PUPPIES IN PRISON



Jim Hoehn, PNC Bank

PNC BANK: “INSPIRATIONAL CORPORATE GIVING”

PNC Bank was recognized at the Gala as the single largest corporate donor in UDSF history. They give as part of their mission to support social services organizations benefiting health, education and quality of life.

Representing PNC Bank, Jim Hoehn, Regional President for Central Pennsylvania, spoke about PNC’s ongoing support of the Transition School through EITC (Educational

Improvements Tax Credits). Support through the EITC provides tuition for high school students with disabilities to transition from school to adult life, including independent living skills, furthering their education and/or steady employment.

The award was presented by Michele Sanchez, a graduate of the Transition School who recently celebrated 14 years of employment at Staples.

ADULT ENRICHMENT PERFORMS “THE MUPPET SHOW”

Eighteen delightful Muppets characters entertained an audience of 100 with the AE Spring musical on June 4.

Their efforts were supported by a motley crew of AE staff members doing costumes, makeup, scenery, and acting as stage hands.

Two unusual players off to the side were curmudgeons Statler and Hilton, played by CEO Bill Kepner and Development Director Larry Aubrey. These two made disparaging comments about all the characters— from Ernie, Gonzo, and Fozzie to Miss Piggy, the Swedish Chef, and Kermit. The Electric Mayhem provided musical relief.

Directed by Annette Whitlock, AE concerts (December and June) are the highlights of the year for participants and families alike.

Your donations to UDSF and AE have made it possible for this program to grow from 28 participants in 2011 to 60 participants in 2015. Adult Enrichment is a life-skills day program to help people with disabilities find enriching activities, use their gifts and talents, and meet with friends.



FROM THE BOARD:

Lee Pelko, who chairs the UDSF Investment Committee, comments on the financial challenges UDSF faces.

What's the biggest challenge ahead?

Pennsylvania faces huge financial challenges in terms of caring for people with disabilities. If you read the paper, you'll be aware of this. Each of us knows of someone who could be affected by these changes.



Lee Pelko

Where does UDSF stand on this?

UDSF is in a position to really make a difference, not only for the people we serve directly, but for everyone in Pennsylvania. While the state structure for aid evolves, UDSF continues to strive for ways to be independent from state funding to provide necessary resources and support for those with disabilities. One of the ways to do this is to grow the UDSF Endowment Fund, not only in terms of increased charitable contributions but by the investment growth of those funds.

What about the UDS Endowment?

One exciting development is that the Board recently consolidated the Endowment investments at one financial provider, Haverford Trust, to tighten the focus on growing the financial resources that support UDSF and its missions. One goal is to provide education and resources to current and potential donors about how to wisely make contributions.

Interested in learning more about wise investing in UDS? Contact Larry Aubrey.

Save The Date—

UDS: American Music Theater

Saturday, August 29, 7 pm

Innovation Circle Recognition

Wednesday, October 21, 6 pm
Cork and Cap Restaurant

Gift Wrap Booth Signup

Begins in September

Watch for announcement!

Gala Continued from p. 1

Funds were raised through a Live Auction, a Silent Auction, and a 50/50 Raffle—as well as a Live Appeal. Those attending enjoyed spirited bidding as they competed for auction items from an African Safari to a gourmet chocolate cake.

Special guest was Rev. Theodore Schneider, who in 1965 organized a Saturday movie program for about 10 children with disabilities. That program became affiliated with National United Cerebral Palsy in 1970.

The rest is history.

See PHOTOS below and at left.



WHAT'S NEW?

TRAINING PUPPIES IN PRISON



Meet Dewey, Lewes, Jersey and Avalon, the second class to train at SCI Pine Grove.

Everybody loves the dogs! The real challenge in training puppies to be service dogs is funding. The cost runs to \$25,000 over 2 years.

Puppies in Prison is one answer to that need. In August 2012, the Unit Manager at SCI Pine Grove (Indiana PA) proposed a partnership—to train inmates to train service dogs. UDS placed 4 puppies at the prison in April 2014.

UDS's Pine Grove Training Team provides the handlers the skills and resources needed to raise puppies successfully for the

next 15 months. Then pups return to Lancaster for specialty training specific to the client.

Inmate handlers spend 24/7 with their dogs, loving and training them. Knowing they will help a person with a disability, autism, or a veteran with PTSD. Many inmates say this experience—serving others and being a part of something important—is changing them.

The dogs returning from SCI Pine Grove have been so well-trained that 3 of the 4 will soon be matched with clients.

Keller Bros. Ford Family of Dealerships and Mary and Frank Jalongo sponsored the first pups. Soon IU Adult Education will award the prison trainers a Certificate of Recognition in Canine Training and Care, which might help them obtain work when they are released.

In addition to working with Pine Grove, in September we will place 4 puppies for training in SCI Houtzdale and in March 4 puppies with CI Moshannon Valley (Clearfield County.)

—Print and tear off this response card —

SPONSOR A PUPPY!

...in our new Prison Program!

Your \$5,000 sponsorship covers:

- Purchasing your puppy
- Food for 18 months
- Vet care for 18 months
- Travel for quarterly visits
- Puppy supplies

We'll send you quarterly updates and pictures, so you can follow your puppy's successes in training!

As a sponsor, you can submit 3 names and we'll choose one to use for your sponsored puppy!

Call Lori Breece today at (717) 715-8753 to learn more about our new Prison Program!

Yes!

I want to help families like the Magees enrich the lives of people with disabilities!

I want to bolster the UDS Endowment Fund.

Here's my gift of \$25 _____ \$50 _____ \$100 _____ Other \$ _____ Check enclosed: _____

Or: Please charge my credit card _____

For ongoing support, please charge my credit care monthly for this amount: \$50 _____ \$25 _____ \$10 _____

Signature: _____

Card number: _____ Security code: _____ Expiration: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Please mail to: Larry Aubrey, UDS Foundation, 1901 Olde Homestead Lane, PO Box 10485, Lancaster PA 17605. Thank you!