

Jessica's Triumphs!

Jessica is a 26-year-old special education teacher starting a new job in a new location with the support of UDS Foundation. Diagnosed at 18 months with a neuromuscular disorder, she has limited use of her arms, so she needs help with personal care—dressing, showering and meal preparation.

UDSF Supports Coordinator Jennifer Bond has helped Jessica manage her care and this summer helped her arrange for services in the new location. She'll have her own apartment and personal care attendants to help her prepare for her workdays.

Driving to Work

Jessica drives to work in an adapted car—with a specially fabricated "joystick," a touch-screen to change gears, and an elbow button with controls tailored to her needs for wipers, turn signals, and lights

Jessica's been teaching students with special needs for the last four years. Her new position will allow her greater opportunities to assist students with learning and intellectual disabilities, emotional and behavioral issues.

About learning to live a full life with a disability, Jessica says "you just have to try different things, talk to people, and find a way to get important services you need."

Jessica considers her disability an advantage in the classroom. She uses her students as helpers and she says: "They love it. They pass out the papers, write on the blackboard for me; they're happy to help in any way they can."

"I think, by having a disability, I have more of a personal connection with my students. They see someone like me succeeding and contributing and discover that, despite their disabilities, they can do it too."

At home in the evenings and on weekends, Jessica relies on her attendants. "They are really my hands," Jessica says. "Without them I can't shower, dress, pick up things, organize my papers." The attendant also helps with laundry, household chores, and cooking. Weekends are for boyfriend, friends from college, shopping...all the normal things everyone does."

Helping Jessica access the services that make it possible for her to teach others and live independently is the mission of UDSF, and one we are proud to fulfill.



"Because of you, I am able to live an independent and full life. Thank you for your generosity."

LOOK INSIDE:

Larger Building helps AE Grow

~ ~ ~
Challenger Football Season

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UDS Gift Wrap Booth Gears Up

UDSF Board News

MATT EAGER TO CONTRIBUTE

Matt Pfeiffenberger believes it is important that business leaders give back to the community with both their time and talents. "I've long admired the services UDSF provides to the many consumers who count on these services on a daily basis. I look forward to contributing what I can."

Pfeiffenberger, Vice President of Health Benefit Solutions at Murray Securus in Lancaster, joined the UDSF Board in the new fiscal year. He brings over twenty years of expertise in benefits, communications and advocacy. Most recently he has been tracking The Affordable Care Act and its implications for employee benefit plans.

Matt lives in Downingtown, Chester County, with his wife and two children.

Welcome to the Board, Matt!



*Matt K. Pfeiffenberger,
new UDSF Board member*

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Folks-

In Fiscal Year 2014-15, UDSF returned to a positive cash flow after weathering some challenging years. Thanks to your support and tapping our endowment, we reorganized business to adapt to funding changes.

Now we face new challenges:

The Commonwealth is attempting to organize Direct Care Workers into a union, a move which has the potential to dramatically increase our labor costs while the state reimbursement rates remain the same.

PA also plans to move funding for long term care services to a Managed Care Organization model, channeling funding and risk to managed care providers. In anticipation, we have formed a statewide coalition, in order to become a more attractive strategic care provider.

There is also a plan to streamline the current Home Modifications process which may cut costs by severely limiting the types of modifications which will be funded. This could lead to more clients moving to nursing homes. Our home modifications division has been one of our greatest success stories and has allowed clients to be safe and remain in their homes.

All of these initiatives could result in dramatic changes to our service delivery and our reimbursement. We are working behind the scenes as advocates for those we serve and to remain significant service providers for the Commonwealth despite inevitable changes.

More than ever, we need your help once again to grow our endowment fund and prepare to weather these challenging storms.

I'll keep you posted in the days ahead on our progress. In the meantime, thank you again for your continued support.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "William J. Keenan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.



Challenger Football Kicks Off!



Seventy kids with physical and developmental disabilities are enjoying Challenger Football on Saturdays August through October.

It's a great opportunity for exercise, creative expression, and social interaction with their peers. Challenger Buddies play along, helping by pushing wheelchairs or saving a

catch so a player can make a touchdown! Challenger Cheerleaders keep the spirit flowing!

Over the years, long-lasting friendships have been forged through Challenger, benefitting not only the players, but the Buddies as well.

Volunteers are always welcome. If you'd like to learn more or get involved, contact Jennifer Book at jenniferlb@udsfoundation.org, or 717-286-0255. Games are played indoors at Calvary Church from 10 to noon on Saturdays. Bring your family to a game!

Don't miss the Challenger Bowl—Saturday, Sept. 26, 9:30 am!



Are you ready to wrap?

Hard to believe, but UDSF's signature annual fundraiser— our Holiday Gift Wrap Booth at Park City Mall for the Christmas season— will soon be here!

Sign up now to join the many wrappers who delight shoppers as they wrap 5000+ gifts between Thanksgiving and Christmas.

If your skills are rusty, training classes will be offered in November.

Please call our new scheduler Lori Spradling at 740-624-1866 or email lorispradling@hotmail.com for more information or to schedule your shift(s). Join the fun; sign up to wrap!

Don't miss the excitement!!

Adult Enrichment Moves to Elm Avenue!

Thanks to your continued generosity, UDS Foundation's Adult Enrichment program is on the move! Over the summer, the program for mentally alert adults with disabilities was relocated to a new building in Lancaster, upping their daily participant capacity to 60. The new place offers 4 vast program rooms and a computer lab plus an outdoor patio for grilling, parties and gardening. New classes are offered in acting, dance, photography, and sign language--- broadening the experiences for the growing roster of clients.

UDSF's Independent Living Services, AE's parent company, has also moved to Elm Avenue.



Please join us for an Open House as we celebrate the new location on Wednesday, September 23, 3:30-6:30 pm, 1325 Elm Avenue in Lancaster (behind WGAL).

THE EXTRAORDINARY GIVE™



NOVEMBER 20, 2015

PLAN NOW TO BE EXTRAORDINARY!

Once again, on November 20, 2015, UDSF will participate in the Extraordinary Give, a 24-hour giving marathon that benefits more than 300 local organizations.

Imagine a life where you couldn't do the simplest of things like tie your own shoes, open a door or get around in your own home. These challenges are a daily reality for many of our UDS clients facing disabilities (like Jessica who is featured in our cover story).

This year UDSF is celebrating its 50th year of helping people live better lives through programs like Service Dogs, Home Modifications, Custom Wheelchair Seating and much more. None of these programs would be possible without the generous donations from people like you!

Please consider giving to UDSF during the Extraordinary Give and help us shine a light of hope for so many people facing disabilities in our community.

UDS Service Dogs

Puppies in Prison Update— From the Trainer's Heart

The first batch of our Puppies in Prison program yielded not only great pups, but has transformed the lives of the prisoners who train them. Here we share an excerpt from one prison trainer's journal (to the person who will one day get the dog):



"I know that I will probably never meet you, but I want you to know that I've done my best to ensure that Somerset is the best service dog that she can be. She has left an impact on my soul and I hope that she can do the same for you. If it isn't too much to ask, every once in a while could you give her a big hug and tell her I love her."

SAVE THE DATE!

AE/ILS Open House—September 23, 3:30 PM

Challenger Football Bowl —Sept. 26, 9:30 AM

UDSF's Innovation Circle Celebration —
October 21, 6:00 PM

Extraordinary Give —November 20, All Day

Adult Enrichment Holiday Concert —
December 3, 11:00 AM

AE Caroling at Park City —
December 10 11:00AM