



journeys

The official newsletter of United Disabilities Services Foundation



The Martin Family: (L-R) Jeremiah, Dan, Valerie, Matthew, Julian, Angela and Yesenia.



They Found A Place Where They Belonged

“Great coaches!” “Good friendships!” “People who understand us!”

These are some of the things parents Valerie and Dan Martin said about the UDS Challenger Football and Cheerleading Program which just ended its 12th UDS season in October. The Martins were looking for a place to help their kids socialize and get involved physically. All five of the Martin kids are adopted and all have a range of disabilities.

When Valerie and Dan found out they could not have their own children, they decided to adopt. Angela was their first child. Though faced with Cerebral Palsy, Epileptic Aphasia and learning delays at birth, Angela has today surpassed all predicted outcomes with fierce determination. Three years later they adopted Matthew who has autism. Then four years ago, they first fostered, and then formally adopted biological siblings Yesenia, Jeremiah and Julian. All these children have severe anxiety, ADHD and trauma issues.

About the same time, the Martins got involved with UDS Challenger Football and it has been a blessing to their family. **Valerie said: “Our kids have finally found a place where they belong.”**

Angela, Matthew and Jeremiah play football. And Yesenia is a cheerleader. Dan says: “Not only are they physically active, but we found it has been a great social connector and it helps their brains develop and helps them learn to strategize and to be members of a team.”

The Martins carry great memories and friendships with them to last throughout the year until the 2020 Challenger season begins next summer.

Challenger Football and Cheerleading is one of the many UDS programs that depend on support like yours. Thank you for helping the Martin family find a place where they belong! Your gift today can help other families with challenges like the Martins get the same type of support.



Message from the President

Happy Holidays!

The holiday season is a wonderful time to reflect on our loved ones, family and friends and the ways they impact our lives. This also becomes a great time to think of you, our loyal donors and volunteers, and the many ways you generously support UDSF throughout the year.

- We have received gifts and pledges of \$800,000 towards our \$1 million Capital Campaign goal.

In January, the Commonwealth will move to managed care for people with physical disabilities and seniors who have both Medicare and/or Medicaid. They will cap their healthcare provision costs and shift the risk to three statewide Managed Care Organizations who will want to create operating income unlike the state. This means that providers like UDS and Accessing Independence could be at risk long term in providing vital services if MCOs continue to compress already inadequate reimbursement rates.

With dedicated friends like you on our side, UDSF looks forward to these challenges in 2020 and the promise of new hope for those we serve that it brings. Your gifts of money, time and talent make a tremendous impact on our community. Thank you for being such generous givers and for making UDSF part of your stewardship.

We wish you a wonderful holiday season and a happy, healthy New Year.

Thanks to you, we were able to accomplish great things this past year including:

- Expansion of our services to 50 counties in PA enabling us to serve over 7,000 individuals with disabilities and seniors.
- Our resource center is handling over 30,000 calls a year assisting folks at no charge to them, to navigate the healthcare system, find vital services and gain hope.
- We secured our first statewide contract with our new business called Accessible Solutions Brokerage which will work with Amerihealth Caritas in managing their home modifications in all 67 counties.

UDS Foundation Welcomes New Board Members:

We are grateful for the volunteer services provided by our board members and wanted to let you know that these outstanding individuals have recently joined the UDS Foundation Board bringing a tremendous array of skills and talents. Thank you all for your service.



Bob Walter (VP Senior Banking Advisor, with PNC Wealth Management)

is a native Lancastrian and graduate of Franklin & Marshall College. Bob had previously served on the boards of these organizations: Schreiber Center for Pediatric Development, Lancaster County Estate Planning Council (Past President) and volunteers for the Brighter Day Foundation and he also chairs the UDSF Development Committee.

Neil H. Vaswani, is a Certified Financial Planner

and holds both an M.B.A. in Finance, and a J.D. Neil's diverse background brings valuable experience and expertise in strategic planning and negotiations. Neil and his family moved to the Lancaster County area in the summer of 2018, and, shortly after, he was appointed to the UDSF Investment Committee.





**THE UDS HOLIDAY
GIFT WRAP BOOTH**
at Park City Mall

**Celebrating
our 48th year
at Park City
Mall!**

Take the stress out of wrapping
your holiday gifts and let our
volunteer experts do the job.



**OPEN FRIDAY
NOVEMBER 29TH
THROUGH
CHRISTMAS EVE!**

Innovation Circle 2019 Winners

Congratulations to 2019 Innovation Circle Award recipients who were honored at a special event on October 16 at the Cork Factory Ballroom. These folks went above and beyond in their support of UDS Foundation Programs. Thank you all for your incredible financial and volunteer support!



Donor of the Year Jill Carson and presenter Steven Georges



Business of the year winner Hinkle Insurance partners Karyn Hinkle and Luke Mosch and presenters Dodie Robertson and Sherrybeth Vargas



Building Campaign committee members Tom Dunlevy, Beth Manners and Lynne Kline winners of Donors of the Year presented by UDS Founders Rev. Theodore Schneider and his wife Doris.



Adult Enrichment Program Manager Jared Berry and participant Kyle Emerich present a special citation to landscaper John Caputo



Bob Greenwood and his Service Dog Lewes present Service Dog Donors of the Decade to Suzy and Dan Keller of Keller Bros. Ford

Renner Saves the Day

Wayne who has suffered from life-long balance issues and his UDS Service Dog Renner were out for a leisurely stroll recently when suddenly Wayne blacked-out, collapsed and fell to the ground unconscious. Renner stayed by Wayne's side and tried to get attention until Wayne's neighbor heard the barking, saw what had happened and rushed to his side and called 911. Wayne's neighbor told him later, that Renner lay beside him, put his head on Wayne's chest and barked until help came.

Wayne says: "I am so blessed to have Renner with me. The bond we have is truly amazing. I can't thank you and your team enough for your insight in helping match him and myself up as a team!! "

UDS Service Dogs like Renner are not only companions and help with daily tasks, but in this case, Renner literally helped to save Wayne's life.

Wayne's doctors have told him he will have these balance issues for the rest of his life. **Thanks to you, Renner will be right there by Wayne's side when he needs him in the future.**



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Dhiren Patel, MD (Section Chief, Neuroradiology Penn Medicine Lancaster General Health, President, and Lancaster Radiology Associates) graduated from

Swarthmore College. He has a medical degree from Jefferson Medical College, a fellowship in Neuroradiology from Beth Israel Medical Center/St. Lukes-Roosevelt, New York, NY and residency at Beth Israel Hospital, Newark, NJ. He and his family live in Lancaster and he is grateful for this opportunity to serve in the community.

Mike Callahan (VP of Acquisitions & Development at Benchmark Construction) has a master's degree at the College

of William and Mary, an MBA and a JD Florida Coastal School of Law and he is a member of the Tribe Football Walk-on Hall of Fame. He recently married and resides outside Baltimore. He will serve on our Strategic Planning committee and feels fortunate to be serving with UDS.





“ It’s a miracle. A while back I did not know where I would be living. Now I am able to celebrate the holidays in my home. ”

There’s No Place Like Home

Pam has been living independently for more than 18 years. But she almost lost her independence due to severe tremors in her hands and her extremely limited ability to see. Pam shakes so badly that she is unable to cook, dress or care for herself anymore. And because of this, she thought she would lose her senior living apartment and have to go into an assisted living facility.

But one day, she attended a seminar that UDS employee Jenn Drake was presenting in her community room and Jenn let her know about the Medicaid waiver program that allows people with disabilities to stay in their own homes and how the UDS Resource Center could help her apply for the waiver. Pam was overjoyed when she found out that

she had qualified. And the UDS Resource Center helped to expedite the process and stayed with her each step of the way. Now Pam has been assigned a UDS Care Manager and she will have an attendant come in each day to help her with cooking, cleaning and grooming.

Pam says: “It’s a miracle. A while back I did not know where I would be living. Now I am able to celebrate the holidays in my home.”

Your support of the UDS Resource Center this holiday season will help other people with disabilities find the peace and assurance that come from being able to stay independent and in their own homes with a little help. **Thank you for making a difference.**

BB&T A Tremendous Community Partner

Recently, we received a surprise donation! BB&T's Senior Vice President, James Malfregeot presented a check for \$25,000 to Nadine Kuziemkowski, program manager of the UDS Transition School and Bill Kepner, our President and CEO. The funds are donated through the EITC (Educational Improvement Tax Credit) to the UDS Transition School, which provides classes for high schoolers with disabilities. Thank you BB&T Bank for being such a tremendous community partner!



Save the Date:

Nov. 29-Dec. 24	UDS Gift Wrap Booth	Park City Mall
Dec. 17, 2019	Lunch & Tour of UDS	12 Noon
Jan. 4, 2020	Gift Wrap Booth Thank You Breakfast	UDS
Feb. 25, 2020	Lunch & Tour of UDS	12 Noon
April 19, 2020	Service Dog Bingo	Farm & Home Center
May 15, 2020	UDS Annual Gala	The Willows at Historic Strasburg



*When the trade-in value's too low
Let it go, let it go, let it go!*

Donate your vehicle to the UDS Foundation.
The pick-up is free and your donation is tax-deductible.

855-500-7433 | careasy.org



I want to help people with disabilities live more fully!

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

This is a one-time gift.

PAYMENT OPTIONS:

- Check Enclosed Payable to UDSF
- Credit Card Visa MasterCard Discover
- Call me about monthly giving

Name: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Card #: _____

Exp. Date: ____/____/____ CVV Code: _____

Signature: _____



Please mail to: Larry Aubrey, UDS Foundation, 2270 Erin Court, Lancaster, PA 17601
Contributions to UDSF are deductible as the law allows