



A monthly newsletter for UCP of Stanislaus County August 2020

From the Desk of Chris Martin

We Miss You!

To all of you we serve and miss dearly, we are looking forward to returning to regular programs and being able to see you in-person again soon. My name is Chris Martin. I am your new Executive Director for United Cerebral Palsy of Stanislaus County. Please read and share our new monthly newsletter with your family and friends. Each month we will bring you participant victory stories, our latest program updates, Board highlights, challenges, opportunities and VIP invitations to join us in serving Stanislaus County.

Our services have continued the entire time over the last four months of COVID, just in a different fashion. We quickly shifted mindset from daily in-person services to working remotely. In addition, UCP has continued advocacy efforts with the State. We are involved in promoting the importance of voting - there are 4 million people with disabilities in the state of California! That's a lot of voting power. We are also involved with advocacy and awareness campaigns with The ARC of California.

As we go forward during these unprecedented times, we continue our mission to be an indispensable resource for the individuals we serve and their families. We are reaching out to all individuals and their families to find out what more we can do to provide more in-depth services until we can resume on-site programming. We have developed a detailed COVID return plan that has the health and safety of participants and staff as the number one priority and are ready for DDS (Department of Developmental Services) to give us the ok to return.

About Chris: I have been with UCP for 8.5 years, working in both Modesto and Turlock Day Programs in multiple capacities. While the path to Executive Director was not one I thought I would be on, it has been quite a journey over the last 7 months and I am excited to be here. I live in Turlock with my husband and two teenagers, I am a member of The Kiwanis of Greater Turlock and have been involved with many other groups and organizations including The Turlock Collaborative which unites local non-profits to help those in need. I also serve as the secretary of CLASP, which is an association of service providers that serve as the professional advisory committee to Valley Mountain Regional Center.

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Programs Change Lives

Building Vital Life Skills Under COVID-19



Ignacio Chavez, Adult Services Director

With the COVID-19 precautions currently in place, twice daily Zoom classes, daily check-ins with each participant and Zoom staff meetings have become the new norm. UCP as a whole has had to adjust the way we provide services to our participants in order to protect the health and safety of both the individuals we serve as well as our dedicated staff.

UCP is a non-profit organization that provides *Adult Services* to individuals with developmental disabilities in a variety of settings and in a variety of ways. ***Our Day Programs develop vital life skills such as nutrition, learning to cook, money management, social skills, recreation opportunities and so much more!*** The individuals in the program work with staff to create goals for themselves and then work on ways to achieve those goals, all with an eye to increasing the participant's independence.

Our *Employment Services Department* works with individuals on their path to independence through employment in a few different ways such as the ***Go Green*** with UCP Recycling Program, UCP's Landscape Services, Paid Internships and Competitive Integrated Employment. Each one of these programs provides a different environment/opportunity for the participant to learn in and is designed to meet the participant wherever they are in the path to employment.

UCP is constantly developing new ways to deliver services to the individuals we serve and we are excited to share these with you, our loyal, dedicated supporters in the months to come through this newsletter. Thank you so much for your continued support and stay safe!



Helpful Heroes

Volunteer Hours Valued at over \$2,500



This month we shout out to **Ball Metal Pack**. Since 2016, eight different employees have donated time and talent on projects including Safari Dash, Sips & Treasures, Fair Day and serving food at our annual Thanksgiving luncheon. They have formed bonds with our members and have provided over **100 volunteer hours valued at over \$2,500**. Rachelle Riggs was so moved by her volunteer experiences that she went on to become a UCP Board member.

What led you to volunteer for UCP the first time Rachelle?

I was volunteering with United Ways Chef program. I made a connection with UCP members who were also participating. I was compelled to continue the relationship.

What have you personally gained from volunteering?

I gained the knowledge that UCP not only serves people with Cerebral Palsy, they also serve people with a wide variety of disabilities.

What would you say to someone who is nervous about volunteering for an organization that serves people with disabilities?

Once you meet any of the members, that nervousness is gone. You embrace who they are as an individual and truly gain a new friend. Volunteering with UCP is worth its weight in gold not only for yourself but for the members and the community.

Ready to join us? It's fast, fun and easy. Try us! Call **Kara at 209-226-0114 x106**.

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Board Briefs



Debbie Souza, President

Your UCP Board of Directors is currently seeking five new members and actively onboarding our newest members. We especially value those with legal, accounting, and project management experience. Contact me today dsousa@rocketmail.com if you're interested and please help me welcome our newest Board members, **Richard Daniels, Stanislaus County Public Administrator** and **Barbara Nunez, IHSS Care Provider**.

UCP has not had a Strategic Plan for a few years. The Board and Leadership are completing a new Strategic Plan this month with measurable goals for the organization. Watch here in September for a summary of our objectives and benchmarks for 2020.

This may be different than anything we have done before, as we are navigating the delivery model during the Covid-19 Pandemic. We fully support of the leadership team in their efforts to deliver services during these unprecedented times.