



News, Stories and Event from your friends at UCP Stanislaus

October 2020

From the Desk of Chris Martin

For Kids and Kids-at-Heart



We have made it to October, and what a ride it has been so far in 2020. For many this means cooler fall days (my favorite thing about October), kids and those who are kids at heart dressing up for Halloween, parties, backyard fires and fun times with family and friends. At UCP we take Halloween very seriously and sometimes a bit competitively. October at UCP brings door decorating contests, pumpkin decorating, visits to our local pumpkin patches and corn mazes, getting ready for the group costume at the Turlock facility, staff convincing me to dress up as a character to go along with the theme and day program staff helping our participants in our Modesto programs pick out their costumes for the party. I mean, who doesn't love a party!

This year will of course look different as we all stay home and stay safe and do our part to stop the spread of COVID, but at UCP we don't give up on fun times that easily. The staff will be participating in a door decorating contest at their homes and all of the program participants will have a pumpkin delivered to their home for decorating. On Friday October 30th UCP will be hosting a Zoom Halloween Party to see peoples decorated pumpkins and have an opportunity to show off everyone's Halloween costumes! Pictures will be posted on our social media outlets for all to enjoy.

I have put together a slide show to remember fun times of the past and to remind each of our participants and staff that we miss them and that next year we will back together to celebrate like we have so many other times.



United Cerebral Palsy of Stanislaus County
(209) 577-2122
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Programs Change Lives

Landscaping Leads to Inclusion and Independence

by Doug Hea



McHenry Vista Properties was built in 1962 and is approximately 2.5 acres of mixed lawns, shrubs, trees and paved walkways. UCP of Stanislaus County Employment Service Department maintains the landscaping for almost six years now. The age of the property and outdated systems present both challenges and opportunities to train our work crews.

The dated pipes and fittings often start to leak due to age and improper installation. Work crew members service rusted galvanized sprinkler pipes, brass sprinkler heads, and learn how and why sprinkler pipes need to be glued correctly and not placed under trees or next to buildings.

When we started mowing the lawns, they were extremely short and were brown in most areas. We have let the lawns grow up to a nice healthy height. By fertilizing and updating as many of the sprinkler heads as we can, the lawns are looking green and healthy again.

We make sure to prune all 340 bushes regularly. Crews are trained on proper pruning techniques, by creating a space between the bushes and the buildings. This helps prevent bugs or rodents from traveling from the bushes to the building and maintains a safe distance in case of fires.

The work crews learn many other skills such as maintenance of equipment, how to clean rain gutters, and how to enhance a property with new plants. Finally, landscaping safety and proper equipment use make this an ideal set of skills for our UPC crews and a great benefit to the business community.

Get a FREE QUOTE for landscaping services today when you call 209-577-2122.

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Go, No Go TFN



Due to COVID-19 restrictions set by local and state government, The Department of Developmental Services is still not allowing UCP to operate any in person programs. The Go Green with UCP Recycling program will continue its closure due to these restrictions. During the closure, the Go Green with UCP Recycling Program's drop-off location is closed and no pick-ups will be performed. The program will return as soon as we can safely open back up; however, that return date is not available at this time. The Go Green with UCP Program understands any decision that you make regarding your recycling during this time; whether that is to continue to save it, take it to another recycler or throw it in the trash.

We appreciate your patience and understanding during this trying time, and the Go Green with UCP Recycling Program would like to thank you, our customers and the entire Modesto community for the ongoing support prior to and during this pandemic. Please check both our website, www.ucpstan.org and/or our voicemail message at (209) 622-1030 for ongoing updates or to leave a message for staff to get back to you.

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What is World CP Day?

World Cerebral Palsy Day is a movement of people with Cerebral Palsy and their families, and the organizations that support them, in more than 75 countries. Our vision is to ensure that children and adults with Cerebral Palsy (CP) have the same rights, access and opportunities as anyone else in our society. It is only together, that we can make that happen.



All around the world, people and communities have had to adapt to big changes caused by COVID-19.

People with cerebral palsy have mastered dealing with change, breaking down barriers, and coming up with creative solutions their whole lives.

Make Your Mark this World Cerebral Palsy Day. Show everyone how you adapt and innovate every day.

This year on October 6, we invite you to share:

- Your achievements
- Solutions you've discovered
- Changes you're advocating for

There are loads of ways you can Make Your Mark on October 6.

Jump on social media and share what you've accomplished by doing things your way in the world and tag us @WorldCPDay.

#WorldCPDay #CPMakeYourMark

This is your chance to Make Your Mark by showing the world why people with cerebral palsy are experts at adapting.

Information in this article is from <https://worldcpday.org/>



Board Briefs

Inspired, Focused and Prepared

By Rachelle Riggs



As we continue working through the challenges of 2020, the Board of Directors and Staff Leadership Team held our second strategy session with Michael Loschke of ARISTA Advisors.

This session allowed us to work together to determine our top objectives. Using S.M.A.R.T. goals (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Timely) we created 90-day task forces for each objective. These included:

- Increasing Board understanding, education, engagement and alignment
- Increasing transparency between The Board of Directors and Organization Leadership
- Revamping Programs to meet current needs
- Filling Board vacancies with individuals that offer specific knowledge to the Board

As a result of the session, the team also developed the following five-year vision:

- Increasing services offered from 120 to 240 individuals
- Increasing program types from 3 to 5
- Diversifying funding pool for funding and fundraising
- Increasing regular donor and annual donor pool to 500 donors
- Increasing number of fundraisers from 2 to 4 and ensure the planned events are financially responsible

These goals completed the first phase in our five-year strategic plan by giving us a benchmark for the next 90 days.



**UCP OF STANISLAUS COUNTY'S
END OF SUMMER BBQ**

SIPS AND BBQ

UCP of Stanislaus has partnered with Mike's Branding Iron for a
drive thru BBQ Chicken Dinner

Meal Includes: Chicken, Rice, Green Beans, Salad, and Roll

**THURSDAY • OCTOBER 15TH
4 PM TO 6 PM**

**DRIVE ON THRU AT:
UCP OF STANISLAUS' PARKING LOT
4265 SPYRES WAY
MODESTO, CA 95356**

**\$12.00 PER PLATE
(BUY 6 DINNERS AND GET A BOTTLE OF WINE)**

**PURCHASE TICKETS AT:
WWW.UCPSTAN.ORG
OR
209.577.2122 X 106 OR 117**



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