

Gambol Pays Off for UCP



Women's Board Members present at the 2007 Gambol Left to Right: Paula Richardson, Irene Catanese, Emily Chardell, Deborah Lahey, Laura Durudogan, Suzi Bramson Brooks, Robin Boushie, Michele Thompson and Joanne Parente Gilson.



Left to Right - 2007 Gambol Chair Michele Thompson and Corporate Chair Jan Fields



(Left to Right) 2007 Gambol Chair Michele Thompson, UCP Board Member Mike Thompson, UCP President and CEO Paul Dulle, 2007 Gambol Corporate Chair Jan Fields, UCP Board Member Steve Napolitano, 2007 Women's Board President Deborah Lahey and UCP Board Member Steve Gilson.

On a glittering night, the stars of UCP fund-raising came out to shine at the 40th annual Gambol, held Oct 12 at the Hilton Chicago.

Over dinner and dancing, cocktails, cabaret entertainment and casino games, the Women's Board pumped up excitement and drummed up donations. By the time the evening closed, the black-tie crowd had feasted, feted, cast their bids in live and silent auctions, and broken past records for donations, raising \$270,000 to support UCP programs and services.

Co-chaired by Jan Fields and Michele Thompson, the 40th annual Gambol also benefited from the involvement of its corporate chairman, Jan Fields, executive vice president and chief operating officer of McDonald's USA LLC. As a highlight of the evening, the crowd paid tribute to four-time Gambol chair Suzi Bramson, in appreciation for her tireless advocacy and effervescent enthusiasm.

In keeping with its tradition, the Women's Board presented its annual scholarship for assistive technology, this year to Kushal Parikh, a recent Hinsdale South High School honors graduate. Never allowing his disability to deter him, Parikh volunteered with the Muscular Dystrophy Association and mentored others with the condition as he earned a place in the National Honors Society. He is now at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, planning to study business.

No sooner had they kicked off their dancing shoes than the Women's Board started planning next year's Gambol. Stay tuned for details; it's a sure bet for another grand occasion.

Spirit of Hope Brightens Holiday Gift Drive

For most of us, the holidays are aglow with promise. We choose gifts, make wish lists, wrap presents and look forward to opening the packages we receive.

Each year we share the season's promise with the people who rely on UCP's programs and services. The Annual UCP/Infinitic Southwest Holiday Gift Drive ensures that those we serve can open at least one treasured package, chosen with care to answer their special wish.

Matina Travis organized this year's well-orchestrated drive, distributing each recipient's gift requests to an army of UCP "elves," who hit the stores and delivered the goods.

- **Phyllis Diamond** continued her tradition of donating money for coats.
- Board member **John Fitzpatrick** got his staff and even his clients involved in the drive. Among them, they provided gifts for 90 people.
- **Mike Thompson** secured 4,000 Happy Meal toys from HAVI Global Solutions, making a happy day indeed for the children of UCP.
- **Robin Boushie** coordinated the holiday drive with north suburban Deerfield's Shepherd Middle School, Girl Scouts and Whitehall Transitional Rehab Center to provide gifts for 165 people.
- **Joanne Gilson** tied up the whole event with a bow, as she has for so many years, sorting and wrapping thousands of gifts.

By the time the last bow was in place, UCP had collected gifts for 2,500 people. With care and commitment (and cartons of wrapping paper!), UCP made the promise of the holiday season come true.

In this season of hope, please remember those who rely on UCP programs and services. Your contribution to our annual fund means more than you can imagine. And please remember UCP in your estate planning. Your gifts keep hope alive, now and tomorrow.



Phyllis Diamond's generosity warms more than more than spirits all winter long



Wilson Elementary School students share in the holiday fun.

Still Time for Thanksgiving

This is the season of hope, of wishes cherished and promises fulfilled. It is also the season of giving thanks. And we have so much to be thankful for!

I'm personally thankful for the people who have given of themselves to improve the lives of those we serve. As you look over this newsletter, please pause at the names you see and reflect briefly on the gifts they have given. I am sure you will join me in appreciating them for their generosity.

I'm thankful for those whose gifts in the past have formed the solid foundation upon which our agency rests today — people like:

- **Bobbie Goldblatt**, who chaired the first Gambol;
- **Mary and Arthur Rubloff**, two of the event's most avid supporters over many years;
- Columnist **Irv Kupcinet** and broadcaster **Jack Brickhouse**;
- "Mr. Chicago" **Pat O'Malley**;
- **John Trutter, Bernice Lavin**; and UCP Board of Directors co-founders **Hanna Lissner** and **Betty Levinson**.

Where would we be without them?

I'm thankful for all the volunteers who added UCP clients to their "family" as they went about their holiday shopping. They made the season brighter for many who might otherwise have had no gifts to open at this time of giving.

Finally, I'm thankful for all those who give so abundantly of your time, talent and treasure. Your generosity keeps hope alive for countless others.

From them, and from all of us at UCP, thank you.

Paul

Paul Dulle, President & CEO