



Playing a hand for hope

Proving their generosity even in a challenging economy, UCP's loyal supporters played a hand for hope, raising more than \$200,000 at the 41st annual Gambol.

On October 18, 300 guests celebrated a gala evening of dinner, dancing, cocktails, cabaret entertainment, casino gaming, silent auction and raffle at the Hilton Chicago.

The gala featured a new honor: the inaugural Infinite Hope Award, presented to longtime board member Kevin Burke. For 20 years his counsel and contributions have helped increase freedom and independence for countless UCP clients.

As the evening's emcee, ABC7 meteorologist Tracy Butler helped raise nearly \$45,000 through the Fund-A-Project live auction. Gala guests underwrote home-modification projects for clients of UCP's Ramp Up program. By eliminating barriers, these projects make a house a home for everyone who lives there.

A heartfelt thank you to the donors, board members and volunteers who dedicated their time, talent and financial support. Stay tuned for details of 2009's event!



Family members joined Kevin Burke (center, back) as he accepted the inaugural Infinite Hope Award.

(Top) Gambol revelers try their luck at blackjack. (Top, right) Paul Dulle celebrates a successful Gambol with (from left) Emily Chardell, Suzy Bramson Brooks, Deb Lahey, Robin Boushie and Michele Thompson.



Greeting the new year

Paul Dulle, UCP President & CEO

Each new year starts with the hope of better times to come. This year, more than usual, we cherish that hope.

We leave behind a year of dramatic events. Today, gathering clouds threaten to overcast the promise of change ahead. The economy is experiencing turmoil on a scale not seen in decades. That turmoil is touching many of us in ways we might never have anticipated.

Some of us are sure to suffer setbacks. But the full brunt of hard times falls on those we serve at UCP of Greater Chicago. Many struggle to meet their basic needs under the best of circumstances. Now, their situation is truly dire.

For them, UCP remains their best hope. Yet amid government funding cutbacks and reductions in corporate support for programs, we, too, must work harder and smarter than ever to make ends meet.

Continued...



Turning old technology into new promise

UCP's Assistive Technology Exchange Network (ATEN) hit a new milestone in 2008. For the first time in its 13-year history, the program delivered refurbished computers to schools in all 102 counties across Illinois.



FOR MORE INFORMATION on how to donate used computers or other technology, contact ATEN Director Greg Grill, 708-444-8460 x231.

ATEN converts discarded equipment from landfill waste to an engine of opportunity for children with special needs. Last year, the program extended its reach in conjunction with National Recycling Week, saving 407 tons of e-waste that otherwise would have gone into landfills.

Moving toward Infinite potential

Supplying computers is only the first step to enriching lives through technology. UCP's Infinitic is providing no-cost and low-cost assistive technology for special-needs students. In 2008, the program trained 21 Illinois educators to help students become more productive learners by taking full advantage of assistive technology. For more information visit www.infinitic.org.

DONATE

Your generosity makes UCP's work possible. Visit ucpnet.org and make a donation today.

Expressing artistry

With the help of Oak Park-based Expression Graphics, UCP clients released their inner artist and showcased their work in an art fair. Some used their hands and others used their feet, but all created their own masterpiece.

Expressions Graphics is a volunteer-run nonprofit printmaking cooperative and fine arts gallery offering classes for children and adults of all skill levels. UCP extends thanks to the organization for providing the special opportunity. Click here to see more examples of work by UCP artists.

(Top) Marie Smigielski crafts a watercolor monoprint with help from UCP staff member Ned Wagner. (Middle) Brenda Frierson concentrates on her brushwork. (Bottom) Andrew Wesson displays his finished piece.



From the cover...

At times like these, we feel fortunate to have the strong, steady support of our passionate advocates. Your commitment to our cause sustains the promise of a better tomorrow. Your dedication makes life without limits for people with disabilities more than a dream.

We have just passed the midpoint of our fiscal year, and much work lies ahead of us as we advance toward that goal. Recognizing the difficulties many of us face, I ask you — each of you — to dig deeper, stretch further and give all you are able. Together, we can keep the promise of a better tomorrow alive for all those who rely on the programs and services UCP provides.

Paul



Spreading cheer

Each year, UCP receives hundreds of requests from schools, teachers and social workers to provide holiday gifts for those in need. In the spirit of the season, our donors answered those wishes again this year. When the final sparkling package had been delivered, UCP had given clothing and toys to 2,289 individuals.

Mark your calendar

2009

March 19
Infinitic
Southwest Dinner

April 23
Infinitic
North Dinner

May
Great Chefs
Tasting Party

August 10
Chip in
Fore Hope