

## Spotlight on Infinitec

Each year the Infinitec awards dinner recognizes children with disabilities who have mastered the use of technology to maximize their own independence, as well as adults who work tirelessly to enrich the children's lives. This year's events in March and April honored 18 students, one adult and one professional.

"These remarkable individuals illustrate the infinite potential of technology in transforming lives and creating unlimited opportunities for people with special needs," said Paul Dulle, UCP's President & CEO.



Award recipient Spencer Campbell's mother, Kate, was deeply moved by the Infinitec celebration. "Thank you so much for all your effort in creating such a magical evening," she said. "My family thoroughly enjoyed it, and personally, it was one of the greatest nights of my life!"

The honorees were nominated by teachers or therapists and selected by a committee with expertise in assistive technology.

## Spring into hope

Paul Dulle, UCP President & CEO

*For people with disabilities, UCP of Greater Chicago is a wellspring of hope — hope for greater freedom; hope for more independence; hope for a life full of possibilities. But today's economic climate threatens to dash those hopes.*

*Corporations, foundations and philanthropic organizations are trimming their support across the board. Government programs, too, are retrenching. Already, Illinois ranks last of all U.S. states in supporting community services for people with disabilities, according to a Chicago Sun-Times report (Feb. 8, 2009).*

*In Illinois, even the most significantly challenged adults receive state funding at \$10.39 an hour, compared with UCP's actual expense of \$16 an hour. This year, UCP will bridge the gap with \$110,000 in subsidies to adults with disabilities participating in our programs.*

*Bad times strike hardest at the most vulnerable — at the people who rely on UCP for programs and services that bring help and hope. During our recent Infinitec dinners, I found inspiration in the gleam of hope that lit the faces of everyone there. With courage and determination, they have accomplished so much, and they hope to do so much more. Their hope is transforming their lives.*

*Don't let their dreams fade away. This spring, give the gift of hope — and please, give generously.*

*Paul*

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**Your generosity makes UCP's work possible. Visit [ucpnet.org](http://ucpnet.org) and make a donation today.**

## Hero behind the lens

This year's Heart of a Hero award went to longtime photographer, teacher and UCP friend Tom McCluskey. Tom's photography tells the authentic story of UCP. He has the exceptional gift of looking beyond the lens to capture the personalities of the people we serve, revealing their challenges, joys and dreams of a life without limits.

## UKANDU Christian mission society

UKANDU is teaming up with UCP the week of June 15 to assist in our Ramp Up, ATEN and Adult Services programs. With a mission of serving as many of God's people as possible, UKANDU volunteers will roll up their sleeves to do carpentry, painting and other work to improve the lives and living conditions of the people we serve.





*UCP President & CEO Paul Dulle (second from right) presented commemorative cutting boards to Great Chefs steering committee members (from left) Jimmy Bannos of Heaven on Seven, David DiGregorio of Osteria Via Stato and Tom Kenny of Mike Ditka's.*

## Indulging appetites grants wishes

Showing that compassion overrides a recession, 750 UCP supporters raised nearly \$90,000 for our programs and services at the 17th Annual Great Chefs Tasting Party.

Tom Kenny, executive chef for Mike Ditka's, and ABC7's Hungry Hound Steve Dolinsky, emcee for the evening, co-chaired the event. A steering committee including Jimmy Bannos of Heaven on Seven, David DiGregorio of Osteria Via Stato and Nancy Ranquist, former UCP board member and active supporter, recruited 48 top chefs from Chicago's favorite restaurants for the dinner.



We offer special thanks to our generous attendees, donors, chefs and volunteers, as well as the staff of the Sheraton Chicago Hotel & Towers, who made this year's event a success.

Our sincere appreciation also goes out to UCP's ToyLend board members for their leadership in the Great Chefs Tasting Party. ToyLend helps infants and toddlers develop fine motor, language, literacy and recreation skills by playing with toy technologies.

*Top: Wildfire chefs whipped up mouthwatering dishes, including beef tenderloin on barbecue potato chips and mini layered flourless chocolate cakes.*

*Infinitec Southwest Board Member JoEllyn Kelley dished with friends and family at the 17th annual Great Chefs Tasting Party.*



## Spare Change for Hope

Today more than ever, every penny counts. So UCP is kicking off a "Spare Change for Hope" fundraiser, starting in the lobbies of 205 W. Wacker and The LaSalle Wacker, with sponsorship by property developer Cape Horn Group. The change we collect will help us combat this year's shortfall in support.

If you know a building owner who might be willing to participate, please contact Sue O'Donovan at 312-765-0419 x14 or [sodonovan@ucpnet.org](mailto:sodonovan@ucpnet.org).

### Inaugural board member happy hour

Cheers to board member TJ Saye for organizing the inaugural UCP board member happy hour. We invite other board members to follow his lead and make this a quarterly event.

*UCP President & CEO Paul Dulle (second from left) mixed and mingled with Matt Mulvihill (left), John Fitzpatrick and event organizer TJ Saye during the Board of Directors' inaugural board happy hour at Metropolitan Club.*



Mark your calendar

# 2009

**August 10**  
**Chip in Fore Hope**  
**River Forest Country Club**

**October 24**  
**Gambol**  
**The Hilton Chicago**