United Cerebral Palsy

Established in 1949, United Cerebral Palsy (UCP) educates, advocates, and provides support services to ensure a life without limits for people with a spectrum of disabilities.

The mission of United Cerebral Palsy is to advance the independence, productivity and full citizenship of people with disabilities through an affiliate network.

This is achieved by providing services and support to more than 176,000 children and adults every day—one person at a time, one family at a time. UCP works to enact system change—to revolutionize care, raise standards of living and create opportunities—impacting the lives of millions of people living with disabilities and their families.

For more than 60 years, UCP has worked to ensure the inclusion of individuals with disabilities in every facet of society. Together, with parents and caregivers, UCP continues to push for the social, legal and technological changes that increase accessibility and independence, allowing people with disabilities to achieve their maximum potential.

Services
UCP affiliates provide services including advocacy, housing, therapy, assistive technology training, early intervention programs, individual and family support, transportation and community access services, social and recreation programs, community living, public education and outreach, information & referral (I&R), employment assistance. Each affiliate offers a range of services tailored to its community’s unique needs.

National Office Services
The UCP national office in Washington, DC supports the affiliate network; advocates on behalf of people with disabilities; advances federal disability policy; provides public education and outreach; provides consulting assistance on various issues through expert teams from across UCP’s network and beyond, e.g. financial assessments, business strategy, mergers and social enterprise creation; and pursues forward-thinking programs like its signature Life Without Limits initiative.

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UCP Moments of Pride & Advances

The civil rights movement has made substantial progress for people with disabilities through the enactment and implementation of landmark legislation. UCP continues advocacy for full civil rights through its policy efforts. An index of key pieces of legislation is online at ucp.org/public-policy/landmark-legislation.

1940 Leonard and Isabelle Goldenson work with Mary Lasker, Anna Rosenberg and Florence Mahoney to help establish the National Institute of Neurological Diseases and Stroke, part of the National Institutes of Health (NIH). The Goldensons are each appointed to four-year terms on the advisory board for the Institute.

1945 An advertisement in the New York Herald Tribune seeking parents of children with cerebral palsy interested in improving services for their children, generates 350 responses from families in New York City and the surrounding area. Parents of children with cerebral palsy came together looking for help, answers and information. The spirit of that watershed moment has permeated UCP’s policy efforts since the organization’s inception.

1948 Known currently as United Cerebral Palsy, the organization is incorporated as the National Foundation for Cerebral Palsy. 12,000 people assemble from the US, Canada, Europe and South America to attend the first Cerebral Palsy Conference.

1949 The name of the organization was changed to United Cerebral Palsy, and UCP affiliates were formed across the nation.

1950 The first UCP telethon, called ”Celebrity Parade,” is held in Chicago. It lasts 15 hours and raises a total of $972,106.

1950s-60s UCP is a voice for issues important to people with disabilities, by raising awareness about horrific living conditions in state institutions, leading to the liberation of thousands of people with disabilities from institutional living nationwide. Not only did UCP shine a light on this injustice, its affiliate network created new housing and support solutions to ensure greater independence and full citizenship for people with disabilities.

Raising awareness continued using the voice of UCP founders through ABC’s broadcast telethon.

1969 Research funded by UCP isolates the rubella virus (German Measles) and develops a vaccine for the disease.

1973 Isabelle and Leonard Goldenson, along with Dr. William Berenberg and other doctors and scientists, address the Brademas Congressional Appropriations Committee, securing public funding for orthopedic equipment and making public buildings, telephones, transportation and parking spaces accessible to people with disabilities in the US.

1988 UCP plays a significant role in the passage of the Technology-Related Assistance Act, creating new incentives for states to improve access to assistive technology for children and adults with disabilities.

1990 UCP is a major leader in the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) which, for the first time, extends basic civil rights protections to persons with disabilities in the areas of employment, transportation, public accommodations and telecommunications. UCP continues to be heavily involved with passage of subsequent amendments to the ADA, after 1990.

1993 The first National Invitational Colloquium on Aging and Cerebral Palsy is held in conjunction with UCP’s Annual Conference in Washington, DC.
1994  UCP becomes one of the first national charities to merge onto the information superhighway by establishing a national World Wide Web presence.

1996  UCP launches a new television event, *Star Fest*, to replace the UCP telethon. *Star Fest* features sports celebrities such as Pete Sampras, Monica Seles and Bob Costas, Dan O’Brien, entertainment notables such as Tyra Banks, and hosts Charles Perez, Brian Austin Green, Audrey Landers, Paul Williams and "Downtown" Julie Brown.


2002  UCP and TNT present the original film, *Door to Door*, featuring William H. Macy, who portrays Bill Porter, a salesman with cerebral palsy.

UCP ranks 18th in *Non-Profit Times*’ list of Top 100 nonprofit organizations.

UCP announces William H. Macy as UCP Celebrity Ambassador.

2004  *Life Without Limits* initiative launches in April, and UCP starts a far-reaching dialogue about how people with disabilities can become fully integrated in society and live a life without limits.

2005-2006  UCP affiliates in places like Massachusetts; Texas; and Alberta, Canada begin hosting *Rides Without Limits, Walks Without Limits* and *Laughs Without Limits*. Dozens of “Focus Groups in a Box” are sent to organizations across the country, allowing people to envision how life without limits might impact their work.

2006  Emmy-nominated actress Cheryl Hines becomes a member of UCP’s national Board of Trustees.

UCP releases its first national, annual analysis of Medicaid: *The Case for Inclusion*, in March. It ranks all 50 states and the District of Columbia (D.C.) for Medicaid services provided to intellectual and developmental disability populations.

UCP works with Members of Congress, staff and other disability coalition members to support passage of the following laws (ucp.org/public-policy/policy-achievements):

- Tax Relief and Health Care Act
- The Lifespan Respite Care Act
- Deficit Reduction Act (DRA) of 2005 (P.L. 109-171)
- Post Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act, which was included in the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations bill forFY 2007
- Combating Autism through Research, Screening, Intervention and Education Act
- National Institutes of Health Reform Act

2007  UCP works with Members of Congress, staff and other disability coalition members to support passage of the following laws (ucp.org/public-policy/policy-achievements):

- The U.S. Troop Readiness, Veterans Care, Katrina Recovery and Iraq Accountability Appropriations Act of 2007 (P.L. 110-28), which included a raise in the minimum wage to $7.25 over 2 years. An extension until August 31, 2011 of the Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC) was also included in the law.
  - Omnibus Appropriations Act of 2008, which included substantial increases for: Social Security Administration (+$451 million);
- HUD's Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program (+$500 million);
- the IDEA State Grant (+$260 million);
- the Vocational Rehabilitation State Grant (+$37 million); and
- the Autism Program (+$16 million)

In addition, $2 million was set-aside for a National Clearing House and Technical Assistance Center for the families of children with developmental disabilities.

**2008**
UCP works with Members of Congress, staff and other disability coalition members to support passage of the following laws ([ucp.org/public-policy/policy-achievements](http://ucp.org/public-policy/policy-achievements)):

- Moratoria on six proposed Medicaid regulations were included in the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2008 (P.L. 110-252).
- The ADA Amendments Act (P.L. 110-325)
- The Prenatally and Postnatally Diagnosed Conditions Awareness Act (P.L. 110-374)
- The Higher Education Opportunity Act (P.L. 110-315)
- The National Affordable Housing Trust Fund Act, which was included in the Housing and Economic Recovery Act (P.L. 110-289)
- The Over-the-Road Bus Transportation Accessibility Act (P.L. 110-291)
- The Federal Railroad Safety Improvement Act (P.L. 110-432)
- The Genetic Information Non-Discrimination Act (P.L. 110-233)
- The SSI Extension for Elderly and Disabled Refugees Act (P.L. 110-328)

**2009**
UCP launches *Ruby's Bequest*, an interactive, future forecasting, role-playing immersive experience that looks to community, instead of government, to find strategies to create the future of caregiving.

UCP launches *My Child Without Limits* ([mychildwithoutlimits.org](http://mychildwithoutlimits.org)) in April.

UCP works with Members of Congress, staff and other disability coalition members to support passage of the following laws ([ucp.org/public-policy/policy-achievements](http://ucp.org/public-policy/policy-achievements)):

- Coverage of people with disabilities under the Hate Crimes Act
- The reauthorization of the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP)
- American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA):
  - $87 billion for enhanced federal match for Medicaid
  - $11.3 billion increase for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) State Grant
  - $400 million increase for the IDEA Preschool Program
  - $500 million increase for the IDEA Part C Early Intervention Program
  - $540 million increase for the Vocational Rehabilitation State Grant Program
  - $140 million increase for Independent Living Programs

**2010**
UCP launches *Mission Driven Business*, which provides consulting services to affiliates. Utilizing the expertise in the affiliate network, along with UCP staff and volunteer board and committee members, UCP assists affiliates through the *Mission Driven Consulting* team to help build, revise or expand strategic planning, and provide critical financial analysis. Learn more at [ucp.org/affiliates/mission-driven-business](http://ucp.org/affiliates/mission-driven-business).

UCP is among a select group of nonprofit organizations *invited to the White House* in May to discuss ways to address the unique challenges facing military families and build stronger civilian-military community ties, while engaging and highlighting the service and sacrifice.
UCP and its Capability Scotland affiliate commemorate the 20th anniversary of ADA, and 15th anniversary of the Disability Discrimination Act in the United Kingdom, with an event hosted by the British Ambassador and Lady Sheinwald at the British Embassy Residence in Washington, DC. The evening honors efforts of those who created the landmark laws and continue to work to achieve a life without limits for people with disabilities.

This commemoration also marks the formation of ABLE, a group of young professionals committed to supporting UCP. ABLE finds opportunities to increase education and awareness of disability issues. Members support UCP by volunteering at local affiliates and in the community, attending social events and creating fundraising opportunities.

UCP and the American Academy for Cerebral Palsy and Developmental Medicine (AACPDM) celebrate a new partnership by co-hosting a fall forum, featuring a panel of leading researchers, medical experts, technologists and futurists who explore advances that are changing the ways that people with cerebral palsy and other developmental disabilities live their lives.

2011


UCP names Actor RJ Mitte, of Emmy-nominated AMC drama "Breaking Bad," as Celebrity Ambassador on National Cerebral Palsy Awareness Day in March.

UCP debuts its new website.

The Case for Inclusion 2011 report finds progress in Medicaid services, but nearly 33,000 Americans with ID/DD still live in 162 large, state-run institutions.

UCP transforms its policy effort in April, while continuing to join with many disability organizations on projects, and actively participating as a member of the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (CCD). In doing so, UCP maintains its strong presence in federal advocacy and expands its
grassroots and state-by-state service efforts to its nearly 100 affiliates.

UCP unveils a website section, **Affiliate Mission Moments**, at ucp.org/affiliates/affiliate-mission-moments, featuring incredible affiliate work.

UCP joins forces with AAPD in the **Campaign to Protect Medicaid**, a multi-media effort to raise awareness and call on our nation’s leaders to preserve Medicaid in debt ceiling negotiations, in July. The campaign informs individuals nationwide though media outreach and media coverage; social media updates, and radio advertisements running in Iowa and New Hampshire. In addition, UCP launches a new section of its website – **Faces of Medicaid** – to keep readers abreast of the latest proposals that might impact the program while sharing real-life stories of everyday Americans showing the value of Medicaid for people with disabilities and their families.

UCP produces a **video from UCP Celebrity Ambassador & Trustee Cheryl Hines**, where she describes what led to her involvement with UCP and encourages others to get involved to further the civil rights movement. Video: [http://bit.ly/WhatsImportant2Cheryl](http://bit.ly/WhatsImportant2Cheryl).

UCP unveils a new **International Resources web page**, including global UCP affiliates and additional international resources, at ucp.org/resources/international-resources.

UCP’s kicks off a year of partnerships and study around ways to promote universal design to increase accessibility in housing for all Americans at its **Fall Forum, A Home for All Americans**, at the National Association of Home Builders in Washington, DC.

UCP moves into a new office: 1825 K Street NW, Suite 600, Washington, DC 20006.

UCP unveils its **Public Education & Outreach** initiative (www.ucp.org/publiced), in November.

**2012**

UCP relaunches **Brave Kids**, an online resource and community for kids & parents, in April.

UCP’s annual report, **The Case for Inclusion now offers new online features, reports and data** from all previous reports, with a new web module and design at ucp.org/public-policy/the-case-for-inclusion. Users can compare state & national data within and among years; view state scorecards; interact with the ranking map; view featured report highlights; advocate for areas needing improvement in states, and promote achievements; and download all full reports.