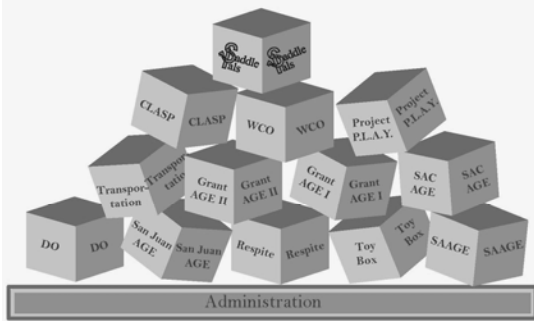


# A newsletter for and about the people of United Cerebral Palsy of Greater Sacramento

COMMUNICATE • SERVE • GROW • SUSTAIN

February, 2009



## TEAM UCP

### NEWS FROM THE PRESIDENT & CEO

By Doug Bergman

We have all heard the news of our troubled economy, both in our State and the Country. California is among the highest unemployment rate in the country at 9.3%; the national average has risen to 7.6%. With furloughs of State workers and the impending reduction in funding for our programs from the State, it is hard not to be concerned about our futures and wonder how is UCP doing?

UCP has always operated very conscientiously and cautiously regarding day-to-day business and today we are in better shape than many companies including other non-profits in Sacramento. We are always looking for economies and efficiencies in our programs and services divisions. In our administrative offices we manage our strategic plan under the same scenario by working hard, smart and efficiently, just like you. For the last 3 years, we have worked very hard to decrease our dependency on State funds and have done a great job in reducing that dependency number. We still do not know what challenges are laying ahead for UCP as we all work through the current recession and the State budge crisis. I do know that you work for one of the longest running non-profits in the area, going on 54 years, and UCP has a strong reputation in the community and will continue to operate for many years in the future, long after the economic woes and problems are a thing of the past.

### ITS BOWLING & LASER TAG TIME!!

Mark you calendars...its time to go bowling! Your votes have been counted and by far, the most popular, day and time was Friday evening. So pull out your bowling shoes and polish up your bowling ball!

The date: Friday, March 27

Beginning: 6 p.m.

Where: Country Club Lanes!

We will need a very accurate count of who is going to play, so please make sure to RSVP when you receive your invite!



### March Anniversaries

CONGRATS

<i>Kathy Kokkos, TRII</i>	22 yrs.
<i>Patsy Williams, DO</i>	9 yrs.
<i>Randi Koutney, Respite</i>	8 yrs.
<i>Judith Hardin, Respite</i>	8 yrs.
<i>Robert Martinez, Trans.</i>	5 yrs.
<i>Nirpal Bisla, Respite</i>	5 yrs.
<i>Adanech Woldesilase, SacAge</i>	4 yrs.
<i>Nichole Weeks, Respite</i>	4 yrs.
<i>Karem Solis, Respite</i>	4 yrs.
<i>Cindy Burnett, Respite</i>	4 yrs.
<i>Carol Cantrell, Respite</i>	4 yrs.
<i>Athen Grace, Respite</i>	4 yrs.
<i>Doug Bergman, Admin.</i>	3 yrs.
<i>Alena Cuevas, SAAGE</i>	3 yrs.
<i>Beatrice Wilson, SJAGE</i>	3 yrs.
<i>John Carey, Shuttle</i>	2 yrs.
<i>Justin Bangoy, Shuttle</i>	2 yrs.
<i>Wade Cater, Shuttle</i>	2 yrs.
<i>Maria Tapia, SacAGE</i>	2 yrs.
<i>Betty Mitchell, Respite</i>	2 yrs.
<i>Emily Hunt, Shuttle</i>	2 yrs.
<i>Megan Wilson, SP</i>	2 yrs.
<i>Amparo Panuco, Respite</i>	1 yr.
<i>Dee-Anna White, Respite</i>	1 yr.
<i>Heather Elliott, Respite</i>	1 yr.
<i>Krystal Hick-Thomas, Resp.</i>	1 yr.
<i>Rosa Sciales, Respite</i>	1 yr.
<i>Enrique Cobian, Shuttle</i>	1 yr.
<i>James Ball, Shuttle</i>	1 yr.
<i>Fuad Haddad, Respite</i>	1 yr.
<i>Nicole Thompson, Respite</i>	1 yr.
<i>Kathryn Wright, Respite</i>	1 yr.
<i>Oscar Ojeda, Trans.</i>	1 yr.
<i>Tatyana Razumovsky, Adm.</i>	1 yr.



## A GREAT TIME WAS HAD BY ALL!!

BY Sherri Adams, WCO

It was finally time...we'd been looking forward to it and preparing for it for sometime. Making centerpieces for the tables and corsages & boutonnieres to be worn. Clients were now arriving in beautiful dresses, suits and ties. They looked wonderful! There was a sense of anticipation in the air.

Buses were loaded and soon clients and staff were on their way to the Gala. Upon arrival we were greeted by the sounds of Elvis singing some favorite oldies, the smell of lunch wafting from the kitchen, decorations, smiling faces and helpful hands.

Soon staff were leading clients onto the dance floor. Jose beamed from

ear-to-ear as he maneuvered his chair around the dance floor. Ryan smiled with enthusiasm. Tammy rocked back in forth to the beat and Josh swayed in time to the music.

Everyone looked to be having such a good time.

Once lunch was served, we were met with an array of sandwiches, spaghetti, salad, dessert and sodas. There was a beautifully decorated arch under which clients stood to have their pictures taken. They looked so happy as they posed for their photos.

The Gala was a very enjoyable, successful event, that left participants with some really happy memories!!

## SURVEY RESULTS

Here are some results from the Team Member survey many of you completed at the end of last year.

Of the 201 surveys received and the 11,055 questions answered, the following are overall results from all programs & departments.

Overall Results:

Strongly Agree	39%
Agree	35%
Neutral	18%
Disagree	4%
Strongly Disagree	2%
No Response	.6%

There will be more detailed survey results in upcoming newsletters.

## Put Safety in Gear When Backing

By Verlene Nakatani

There are probably several reasons for the frequency of accidents when backing up vehicles. One may be that the driver fails to exercise the usual precautions or thinks that a backing accident is unlikely to result in personal injury. Then too, the driver may think that little or no damage can be done, because the vehicle is being operated at a low speed.

Many backing accidents occur because operators rely too heavily on their vehicle mirrors. Even with the best of mirrors and mirror arrangements, there still are blind spots to the sides of the vehicle and behind it.

To reduce the number of backing accidents, we have to know and observe the necessary preventive measures. Here are some guidelines:

- Make every effort to avoid backing.
- Park so that you can move forward when starting.

Avoid making "Y" turns in driveways or roads.

Park in a location away from traveling or parked vehicles, thus avoiding setting yourself up for a collision.

If parked in one spot for any period of time, walk around your vehicle and check for any children, clients, other vehicles or obstacles.

Whenever you can't see through a rear window, the law requires that a signal person be stationed where they can view the rear of the vehicle and be seen by the operator.

Before backing, sound your horn with two quick beeps, check rear and side view mirrors, watch side clearances and then back slowly.

Backing a vehicle is often said to be a true test of a driver's ability. Backing accidents can be prevented!

## UCP—OPEN POSITIONS

### ◆ Respite Workers



