

PROGRESS

A PUBLICATION OF UNIFIED COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

CONNECTING
PEOPLE WITH
DISABILITIES
TO LIFE'S
POSSIBILITIES

SUMMER 2016

11TH ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT RAISES MORE THAN \$78,000 FOR UNIFIED

Unified Community Connections' 11th Annual Golf Classic, presented by Dimensional Health Care Associates, was held on Friday, April 15, at the Elkridge Club in Baltimore and raised more than \$78,600 for Unified's programs and services that support children and adults with disabilities. Co-chaired by Julie and Jeff Bainbridge, whose son Charlie attends the Delrey School, the event sold out with 100 golfers weeks before the tournament date. Competitive Long Drive Hitter Brian "The Bull" Bent added much excitement to this year's event, and Jonathan Clark was honored for being instrumental in moving the tournament to the Elkridge Club in Baltimore five years ago, turning it into such a successful fundraiser for Unified. We were also pleased to have individuals from our Crossroads Day Center join us for the day.



Co-Chairs Julie & Jeff Bainbridge present check for event proceeds to Unified Board Chair, Penny Lynch, and Unified President & CEO, Diane Coughlin.

We especially would like to thank our golfers and all of our generous sponsors whose support helped to make this tournament such a financial success.

GET READY FOR HOODSTOCK XIII

Mark your calendars, get out those tie dye shirts, and plan to join us on Saturday night Oct 22, 2016, at the American Visionary Art Museum for Hoodstock XIII. In its thirteenth year, Hoodstock is a family-friendly event with great food, beer, and wine featuring local bands, including headliner Roses n Rust, playing the music of the '60s and '70s as well as raffles, a silent auction, and just a night of fun.

Always a highlight of the evening is the presentation of the Samuel A. Tucker Memorial Can Do Award to one of the individuals we support, recognizing their ability, rather than their disability.

For sponsorship and ticket information, go to www.unified.org.



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OUR MISSION:

TO SUPPORT INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES IN ACHIEVING
INDEPENDENCE, PRODUCTIVITY, AND THE QUALITY OF LIFE THEY SEEK.

DEVELOPMENT NEWS

FAMILIES SUPPORT UNIFIED

Thanks To Kay Hartleb

Over the last two years, Kay Hartleb, whose son Keeps lives at Unified's Montclair residential home, has arranged for a DJ to come out to Crossroads each month to play music at a dance for the individuals in the Crossroads Day Program. Crossroads tries to make each DJ visit special with a themed dance, such as Black & White, where everyone wore black or white, and some folks even wore gowns and tuxedos. These dances are very popular with individuals and staff alike.

Kay has also made significant financial donations annually to the agency. This year's donation went to help purchase a Ford Conversion Van for the residential home where her son lives. The van can accommodate three wheelchairs and has fold down seats for the staff who take the individuals out on social outings or to medical appointments.

George & Betty Thomas Support Residential Fund

Once again, George and Betty Thomas have offered a matching gift in support of the Residential Fund, which they helped establish four years ago. The fund now has more than \$50,000 in it to be used for emergency repairs and regular maintenance to our residential facilities. The Thomas' daughter, Patricia, has been a part of Unified's programs for the past 50 years, starting at two years old when she attended the Delrey School. If you would like to make a gift in support of our Residential Fund, you may donate online through our website www.unified.org.

MERRITT PROPERTIES GIVES \$10,000 TO DELREY FOR NEW STANDERS

Merritt Properties continues to be a major supporter of Unified Community Connections, and especially the Delrey School, having donated \$10,000 each year since 2008. Unified's continuing goal is to maintain the quality and safety of its services and facilities in order to provide the best care possible for the individuals we support. For Delrey, part of that includes upgrading equipment to continually provide the best therapies for its students and to stay current and competitive with other agencies. This is especially vital for the school's physical therapy department, where the equipment gets a lot of wear and tear, and the field is constantly changing and improving to offer the best in support and assistance. Examples of this are the school's current standers. Standers are equipment that allow for our students in wheelchairs to be placed in a standing position to facilitate bone and muscle development and maintain range of motion in addition to encouraging better functioning of the body's internal systems. We thank Merritt Properties for giving us \$10,000 to purchase two new top-of-the-line standers for Delrey students to use. These two standers offer frames where the student can stand with their arms free to participate in other activities, while receiving their physical therapy at the same time. They also provide head and side supports for proper and functional alignment.

FOURTH PDA SESSION HOLDS GRADUATION

The fourth session of the John Stanley III PDA Mentor Program graduated two Professional Development Associates (PDAs) in June: Dana Johnson from the Crossroads Day Center and Tisha Diehl from the Cumberland Residential Program. Through this mentoring program, day program and residential PDAs gain one-on-one practical training and managerial skills to advance professionally within the field and move into higher positions in the organization. This program is funded by Nancy and Snowden Stanley in memory of their son John, who received support from Unified Community Connections.



Front row: (L to r) Mentor Kelly Barnett, Frederick program; mentee Dana Johnson, Crossroads Center; Nancy Stanley; mentor Teresa Helbig, Harvey Winter Home.

Back row: (L to r) Diane K. Coughlin, Unified president and CEO; Snowden Stanley; and mentee Tisha Diehl, Harvey Winter Home.

NEW BOARD MEMBERS AND CHAIR . . .



GEORGE N. ENSEMAT

Board Member

George N. Ensenat has over 25 years in banking. He is currently a branch manager for Hamilton Bank and manages a \$160 million branch.



TONJA SEASE, MPH

Board Member

Tonja Sease, MPH, is a clinical research professional. She is currently a contract clinical studies project lead for Northrop Grumman Electronic Systems.



MIKE BOLTON

Board Member

Mike Bolton currently works at Safeway in Westminster. He has received residential services for the past 24 years through Bello Machre.



PENNY LYNCH

Chair

On January 1, 2016, Penny Lynch assumed the role of chairman of the board for Unified Community Connections. She joined the board in 2010 and has served as chair of the Quality Assurance Committee. She is currently the department chair of special education at Francis Scott Key High School in Carroll County.

Penny succeeds Ilene Salcman, executive vice president of The L. Warner Companies, Inc. Unified appreciates Ilene's leadership, time and talent over the past four years. Kathleen Schneider, principal, Berkeley Research Group, is continuing in the role of vice-chair.

UNIFIED'S SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM INDIVIDUALS STAR IN SPECIAL OLYMPICS



PATRICK SPEAKER TO COMPETE IN SNOWSHOEING EVENT

Patrick Speaker won a silver medal in the snowshoeing event in the Maryland Special Olympics this year and recently learned that he will be competing on the global stage at the World Games Special Olympics next year. Patrick was one of 49 athletes representing Washington, Frederick, Allegany and Garrett counties in the Maryland Special Olympics, where athletes from across Maryland competed for the 4th year at Whitetail Ski Resort in Mercersburg Pa. "I bring my snowshoes and optimistic attitude to every match," says Patrick. "I look at myself as a normal kid who can do anything." Patrick has been working all year long for

this snowshoeing event, and he says that it is empowering to see it pay off. Patrick works at Martin's Grocery Store in Hagerstown through Unified's Supported Employment Program.



GOLD MEDAL WINNER SEAN CRIST FINDS BOWLING FUN

Sean Crist rolls a duckpin ball at Southside Bowl in Halfway. At 26 years of age, Sean is just like many guys his age. He has a job at Food Lion on Virginia Avenue in Hagerstown through Unified's Supported Employment Program, and he enjoys playing chess and especially going bowling.

As he watches the ball take down the pins, he turns to his mom and grandfather with a large smile on his face. Amid the flashing lights, loud music from the jukebox and sounds of pins being taken down by other bowlers, it's hard to recognize that Crist has autism. For some people with autism, the overstimulation of a bowling alley would be too much, but his mom Sheri said it doesn't bother her son. "He focuses," she said. "It's very calming and soothing for him." Sean is an active bowler who participates in fall and winter bowling leagues in the challenge division. Two years ago, he scored 200 in a duckpin game. He also won two gold medals in March at

the Special Olympics of which he is very proud. When Sean started bowling, his grandfather Duane said he became more self-confident. Sean said he likes bowling because it's fun. "I enjoy it, and it gives me a workout." Sheri described her son as "a very gentle, very laid-back young man. Very nice and very thoughtful of others."

AROUND THE AGENCY



Cumberland individuals have a day of skiing at Whitetail Ski Resort.



Individuals at Crossroads are learning relaxation techniques through yoga.



Paint Night is becoming a popular fundraiser at Delrey School.



A prom with a Mardi Gras theme was held in Cumberland on June 18th, and approximately 90 individuals and staff were in attendance.

FRANKLIN SQUARE HOSPITAL PARTNERS WITH CROSSROADS DAY CENTER

It started when Elizabeth Malik decided to do her Capstone Nursing Project at Unified's Crossroads Day Center after Unified's on-site nurse Michelle Smith reached out to the hospital for a speaker during Heart Month in February. Elizabeth is currently getting her master's degree in nursing from Towson University and working at Franklin Square Hospital. "Franklin Square has special expertise in working with patients with disabilities and has been very good to the individuals we serve," says Michelle.

Elizabeth spent time interacting with our individuals and has given five lectures on health topics such as high blood pressure and eating right. Her supervisor praised this unique Capstone Project and encourages those going into nursing to work with individuals with disabilities. She looks forward to other nurses doing Capstone Projects at Crossroads.

This initial project has encouraged others at Franklin Square, including a second-year resident who wants to go into family medicine, physical therapy students, and a podiatrist, to come to Crossroads to help meet the health care needs of those we serve and learn more about working with individuals with disabilities.

"We look forward to a long and continuing relationship with Franklin Square," says Michelle.



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WORKPLACE GIVING . . .

Did you know that if your workplace participates in the United Way Campaign, another federated appeal or has an in-house program, you can designate your support for Unified Community Connections through payroll deduction?

Agency numbers for Unified Community Connections are:

- Unified Community Connections-#24
- Combined Federal Campaign (Central Maryland)-#70735
- Combined Federal Campaign (Western Maryland)-#70735
- Combined Federal Campaign (National Capital Area)-#70735
- Maryland Charities Campaign-#8024
- Combined Charities Campaign-#8024
- Frederick County/City-#0522
- Frederick Private, Cecil County, Allegany County and other areas in Maryland-#53

Unified Community Connections is a proud member of Community Health Charities of Maryland.