

AROUND THE AGENCY



(left)
Individuals from our Frederick residential program enjoyed a trip to Ocean City.



(below)
In September, three individuals moved into our new residential home in Hagerstown. They are enjoying their big deck, great views and the comforts of home.



(above)
Our residential home on Center Street in Frederick recently re-opened.

(right)
Our Cumberland region held an '80s theme party.



Executive Plaza III
11350 McCormick Road, Suite 1100
Hunt Valley, MD 21031-1002
410-484-4540

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Baltimore, MD
Permit No. 3348

PROGRESS

A PUBLICATION OF UNIFIED COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

CONNECTING
PEOPLE WITH
DISABILITIES
TO LIFE'S
POSSIBILITIES

FALL 2017

HOODSTOCK XIV RAISES \$81,500

More than 350 guests decked out in tie-dye and jeans attended Hoodstock XIV, the family-friendly music festival fundraiser, held in October at the American Visionary Arts Museum. Bands included returning headliner Roses n Rust along with The Wafflers and 33 West. Music featured classic artists from the 1960s and '70s with a splash of contemporary. Dinner, beer, wine, raffles and a silent auction added to the fun. Hoodstock began in 2004 as a neighborhood event and has since grown into a major fundraiser for Unified Community Connections. Hoodstock XIV raised a record-breaking \$81,500.



Headliner band, Roses n Rust (l to r): Russ Causey, Anna Barthelme, Derek Gabbard, Claire Spurrier, Nate Carper, Dot Adamson Holly and Steve Spurrier.



THANK YOU
TO OUR
SPONSORS

Baltimore Ravens Senior Advisor for Player Development and Unified's board member O.J. Brigance presented this year's Samuel A. Tucker Memorial Can Do Award to Nelson Fuentes, praising him for being a positive role model, even as he continually works to improve his independence. Unified's CEO Diane Coughlin spoke about the meaning of this award and how Samuel Tucker exemplifies how we are defined by our abilities not our disabilities. Nelson thanked the many people who have supported him, changed his life and allowed him to become the person he is today.

A special shout out to Hoodstock chair Russ Causey and his committee, Kathy Bradley, Barry Brill, Lauren Bussard, Briana Gregory, Angela Lane, Matt Lenihan, Larry Musher, Nick Richardson and Carol Sholes. Many thanks to the Unified staff and volunteers, our generous sponsors and everyone who supported this year's event.

Save the date for next year, Saturday,
Oct. 13, 2018, at the American
Visionary Arts Museum.



Tie-Dye Diamond

Melanie Dorsey & Daniel Standish, Family of Mary Elizabeth Beukema

Peace and Love Platinum

Jennifer & Russ Causey
M&T Bank
Saiontz & Kirk

Flower Power Gold

Bruce Grau & Associates
Diane & Dave Coughlin
Sandy Spring Bank

Groovy Silver

100.7 The Bay
A.V. Rauth & Sons, Inc.
Anonymous
Aquanetta & Jim Betts
Sheri & Barry Brill
CMD Outsourcing Solutions, Inc.
Coach & Equipment Bus Sales, Inc.
Gorfine, Schiller & Gardyn
Lenny Kline
Light Street Dental
Merritt Properties

Metro Data

Gracie & Larry Musher
Offit|Kurman, Attorneys at Law
Anita & Nick Richardson
Synergy Financial Group
USI Insurance Services

Far Out Bronze

Amicis
Anonymous
Anthem Bay Brewing Company
Kathy Bradley & Sandy Goodman
Chesapeake Telephone Systems
Dimensional Health Care Associates
FASTSIGNS of Owings Mills
Matt Lenihan
Brian Lund
Leah & Jeff Maddox
Scott Panian
RTW, Inc.
Carol Sholes & Bob Wallace
SoBo Café

Very Cool Friends

Business Food Solutions
CDW
Ike & Bettie Causey
David, Sheri & Claire Cooper
Rob Czerwinski & Briana Gregory
Dataprise
Emily Evans, State Farm Insurance
Everhart Veterinary Hospital
Freestate/ABC Medical
Goldsborough Independent Insurance Services
Steve & Nancy Gregory
JLL
Law Offices of Myles L. Lichtenberg, P.A. t/a MylesTitle
Lincoln Financial Group
Lyon Distilling Co.
Mammojam
Paul Mauritz & Caroline Baker
NAMI Metropolitan
National Seating and Mobility
Fran & Michael Neuman
Ilene & Michael Salzman
Kathleen & Stan Schneider
Windstream

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:

- United Way of Central Maryland #24
- Combined Federal Campaign #70735
- Maryland Charities Campaign #52-0696384
- 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.

OUR MISSION:

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

CONGRATULATIONS

TO CAN-DO AWARD WINNER

NELSON FUENTES



Unified President and CEO Diane Coughlin, Chandra Brigrance, Can-do Award winner Nelson Fuentes, Unified Board Member OJ Brigrance and Rebecca Tucker.

This year's 2017 Samuel A. Tucker Memorial Can Do Award winner is Nelson Fuentes, who currently participates in Unified Community Connections' Supported Employment Program in Hagerstown. Nelson was nominated because he has overcome many challenges in his life, yet continues to maintain a positive attitude and extraordinary work ethic.

He began receiving residential services from another provider at a young age, and there were times in his past where Nelson got involved with the wrong crowd, but through guidance and support, he learned from those experiences and made positive changes to improve his adult life.

Today, Nelson is a very kind and helpful person, and he continues to work very hard to maintain his independence. He currently lives independently with his dog Chico in his own apartment with supports in place. He works at Tony's Pizza in Williamsport, where he is known for being dedicated to his job and completing all his shifts and duties as assigned. His supervisor Jim gives glowing reviews on his work ethic and performance.

Having overcome much adversity to successfully integrate into his community, Nelson is a positive role model for others and continues to work towards more independence. In fact, he is currently working on getting a moped license to improve his mobility and freedom. Congratulations, Nelson – we applaud your efforts to live your best life!

DEVELOPMENT NEWS

SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR ANNUAL GOLF CLASSIC

Registration is open for our 13th Annual Golf Classic scheduled for April, 20, 2018, at the Elkridge Club in Baltimore. This fun day-long event includes 18 holes of golf, lunch, cocktails and hors d'oeuvres along with contests and raffle drawings. Sponsorship opportunities range from \$50 to \$6,000. Non-golfers are welcome to attend as hole sponsors, and tickets to our lively after-tournament cocktail party are also available for purchase. All proceeds from this event benefit children and adults with disabilities. Last year's event raised a record-breaking \$92,000 to support Unified Community Connections.

To register, visit www.unified.org. For more details, contact Lauren Bussard at (410) 484-4540, ext. 2461 or lbussard@unified.org.

MERRITT PROPERTIES HELPS DELREY EXPAND ITS IPAD TECHNOLOGY

We are extremely grateful to Merritt Properties, LLC, for their generous \$10,000 donation toward the expansion of iPad technology in the Delrey school's speech-language department. iPads, in conjunction with specifically-designed communication apps, are powerful therapy tools as well as primary communication devices for our non-verbal students. iPads are an ideal communication device option because of their accessibility and multi-sensory capability. iPads are also exciting and captivating and a great tool for holding the attention of a student during therapy. Being lightweight and portable, they are easily used in and out of the classroom. Merritt Properties' philanthropy will go far toward helping us enhance the lives of countless individuals and their families.

GIVE THE GIFT OF INDEPENDENCE THIS HOLIDAY SEASON!

During this special time of year, Unified Community Connections is especially grateful for our many supporters. It's gifts from caring people like you that have allowed us to fulfill our mission of supporting individuals with disabilities in achieving independence, productivity and the quality of life they seek for more than 60 years – and for that, we are thankful.

Without your generosity, we could not provide our core services including Day Programs, Residential services, In-Home Supports, a No Boundaries Assistive Technology Center, supported Employment, Transportation and Children's services through the Delrey School. As we enter a new year, we need your renewed support. Please consider making a donation today to help us continue providing hope and opportunities for children and adults with disabilities. Visit www.unified.org to donate online today.

RECOGNIZING OUR DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS



Direct Support Professional (DSP) Recognition Week, held this year from Sept. 10–16, is a special time to thank our staff who provide direct support to individuals with disabilities and others who need assistance with basic services and information to lead self-directed lives, contribute to society, and support efforts that enhance inclusion in their communities. This definition does not encompass all that each of you at Unified do on a daily basis. While DSP jobs can be rewarding and fun, they can also be challenging, both physically and emotionally.

Each and every day you touch the lives of the men and women Unified supports through your advocacy and compassion, whether it is in their home, community or day program. Often, you work long hours, varied schedules, weekends and holidays, as the individuals count on you for their health and happiness, and we count on you for our success. We are very thankful for everything you do for the people we serve at Unified.

CONGRATULATIONS

PDA MENTOR PROGRAM GRADUATES



(l to r back): Snowden and Nancy Stanley with PDA graduates Amanda Kruike, Eugene Djoumboui Lienou, Samantha Murray and mentors (l to r front) Jeff Garlitz, Tessa Jones and Michele Sutton.

The fifth session of the John Stanley III Memorial PDA Mentor Program graduated three Professional Development Associates (PDAs) in August: Amanda Kruike, Cumberland Residential Program; Eugene Djoumboui Lienou, Frederick Residential Program; and Samantha Murray, Hagerstown Day Program. Through this six-month 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 agency. This program is funded by Nancy and Snowden Stanley in memory of their son, John, who received support from Unified.

LET YOUR WHEELS HELP TURN OUR WHEELS . . .

Let your wheels turn our wheels when you donate your car or vehicle to help children and adults with disabilities in Maryland. Unified Community Connections has a vehicle donation program that helps connect people with disabilities to life's possibilities through our adult day programs, residential homes, employment opportunities and the Delrey School. Cars, vans, trucks and other vehicles are accepted, and we provide free towing. Donating your vehicle may also be tax deductible. It's easy to donate your vehicle.

Just call 1-800-4Wheels today or donate online by visiting www.unified.org and clicking on vehicle donation.



GARY VOSBURG

NAMED NEW PRINCIPAL OF DELREY SCHOOL

Unified welcomes Gary Vosburg as the new principal of the Delrey School. "I believe any child regardless of their disability can learn when given the correct modifications to the general education curriculum," says Gary. He brings more than 40 years of experience in human services. "The means measuring success for an intellectually disabled student should not be measured against the same standards as nondisabled peers. When a child leaves Delrey, participating on a regular basis in a supported employment environment is just as successful as their nondisabled peers who pursue college degrees."

Prior to Delrey, Gary was assistant principal of Villa Maria School at Dulany Valley, which provides educational and clinical services for emotionally disturbed children. He also has experience leading programs in achieving compliance with licensing regulations and earning accreditation. Gary received an Extraordinary Service Award from Prince George's County Public Schools, where he worked with children with autism as a special education teacher. He served as principal of Villa Maria School's campus in Harford County, principal of two schools for Maryland Treatment Centers; and principal, admissions and discharge director and group home director for the Focus Point Program for emotionally disturbed adolescents.

Gary holds an advanced certificate from the Maryland State Department of Education, a master's degree equivalent in generic special education for grades six to adult and certification as an administrator II. He has a master's degree in school administration and a bachelor's degree in dramatic arts and social sciences from George Mason University.