

PROGRESS



A Publication for the Friends of Unified Community Connections

SUMMER 2022

Hagerstown Center Focuses on CDS

Community development services (CDS) provide the individualized support people living with disabilities need to enjoy full lives within their communities. Unified's Hagerstown Center is making CDS a priority. "All of our services are community based," says Michele Sutton, director of services for Washington County. "We support an individual in having a meaningful day."



Participants in Unified's CDS program visit Cool Spring Nature Preserve in West Virginia.

Most of the individuals who participate in Unified's CDS program live with their families or on their own. They may participate in Unified's CDS program one on one with a CDS staff member or within a group. Individuals have the freedom to structure their days doing the things they want to do or participate in groups with individuals who have similar interests and goals.

"Every participant has a CDS goal and a voice in what they would like to do to meet their goals," Michele explains. She and her staff plan daily activities and outings five days a week to support these goals and to enhance the growth and development of skills that are needed to accomplish basic community tasks and be active within the community.

A typical day for a CDS group begins with getting picked up by one of Unified's accessible vans. The activities are as varied as the individuals who participate. Recent activities include bowling, fishing, a trip to the beauty salon for mani-pedis and visits to a variety of parks, lakes, petting farms and museums.

Michele says, "Unified's CDS program is a team effort. We love to see participants excited about an activity, and we are always looking for opportunities to broaden their experiences. We receive a lot of feedback from our staff who are with the individuals every day, and we use it to guide our programming and enrich the quality of life for the people we support."

Development News

Thank you to Snowden and Nancy Stanley for donating \$3,200 from the John Stanley III Memorial Fund of the Baltimore Community Foundation to support our staff receiving Mandt certification training. This train-the-trainer program allows Unified to send employees to a four-day intensive Mandt training course where they acquire the skills to become Mandt instructors and train all new direct support staff at Unified in new approaches to prevention, de-escalation and intervention when providing behavior supports. The Stanleys have a long history with Unified in helping to fund programs that support, train and retain our direct support staff and give them the opportunity to enhance their skills and knowledge and ultimately allow them to provide better care to the individuals we support.

Check out our new, user-friendly website!

Visit www.unified.org.

Welcome New Board Member Kimberly A. Reno

Kimberly A. Reno is a retired group financial lead for Gannett, a publicly traded publishing company. Kimberly held this position at Schurz Communications from 2003-2019, before the privately held multimedia company was acquired by Gannett. She has also served on the board of the Maryland Symphony Orchestra in Hagerstown, Maryland, where she was treasurer and committee chair of the endowment fund. Additionally, Kimberly served as a board member and treasurer of the Washington County Community Action Council, an organization founded in the 1960s to combat poverty. Kimberly holds a master's degree from Walsh College and a Bachelor of Arts and a Bachelor of Science degree from Lawrence Technology University and is a certified public accountant. She currently resides in Michigan, making her Unified's first virtual board member. Kimberly's late husband worked in Unified's Finance Department.



Single-resident Apartments Latest Innovation in Residential Services

Unified now offers single-resident apartments within our portfolio of residential options. True to our mission to support people with disabilities in achieving independence, we are custom renovating the lower levels of some of our community living group homes and turning them into accessible apartments. These apartments empower individuals to live independently with the security of having convenient access to Unified's dedicated residential staff and wide range of support services.

Unified currently operates 46 community living group homes throughout Maryland, serving 150 individuals 21 years and older. By the end of July, Unified will have six completely renovated apartments ready for occupancy with several others under construction. Apartments will be available in our community living group homes in Cumberland, Frederick, Hagerstown and the Baltimore area. These fully accessible apartments will feature all-new amenities including new floors, totally remodeled kitchens and bathrooms and an array of safety features.

Lenward Nealy, regional operations director of Hagerstown and Cumberland, shares how comfortable and attractive these apartments are and how excited our individuals are to have their own private space. He says, "There has been a great deal of interest in these apartments, some of which are already occupied."

These renovations are costly and are being partially funded from our Residential Fund that has been growing over the past nine years with donations from our caring and generous donors. Leading this effort have been the Thomas and Nattans families whose daughter and sister Patricia has been living in a Unified community living group home since our residential program began in the 1980s. To encourage support of our apartment initiative, the Thomas and Nattans families are offering to match up to \$10,000 in donations to the Residential Fund.

Visit unified.org/donate to donate to the Residential Fund.

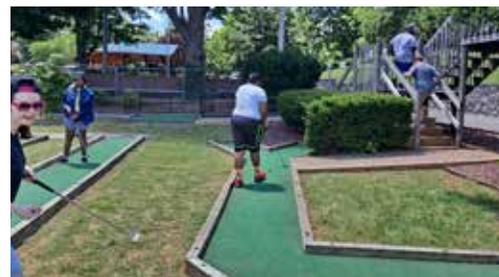
Around the Agency



▲ Participants in Unified's community development services (CDS) program visit Kepler Theatre.

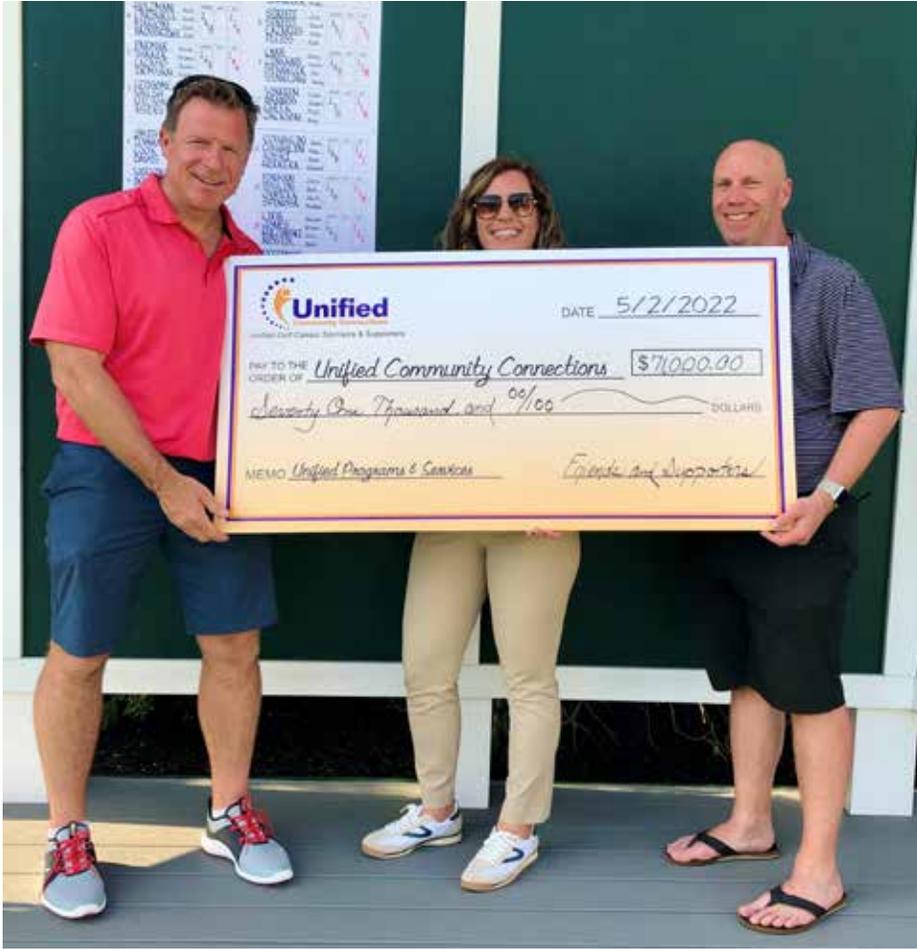


▲ Sharon Rayman from Hagerstown is taking riding lessons again.



▲ CDS program participants play miniature golf.

16th Annual Golf Classic Raises More than \$71,000



Proudly displaying a check for \$71,000 are (l. to r.) board and committee member Matt Lenihan, Director of Development Lauren Bussard and committee member Scott Rodgvile.

A picture-perfect day greeted 84 golfers at the Elkridge Club in Baltimore for Unified's 16th Annual Golf Classic, presented by Dimensional Health Care Associates. After 18 holes of golf, golfers and sponsors enjoyed a lovely cocktail reception on the Elkridge Club's beautiful grounds. Thanks to all the golfers who joined us and the generous sponsors who gave their support, this year's Golf Classic raised more than \$71,000 to support the core programs and services that Unified provides to individuals with disabilities throughout Maryland. We know there are many organizations asking for your support, and we want you to know how much we appreciate all those who contributed to the success of this event. A special word of thanks also goes to our hardworking committee, Matt Lenihan, Scott Rodgvile and Chris Forhan.

Stay tuned for news about next year's tournament scheduled for Monday, May 1, 2023, at the Elkridge Club.



Sponsors from Firstrust Bank had a great day on the links (l. to r.): Robert Brando, Fred Cheeks, Todd Warren and Ray Jackson.

Thank You to Our Sponsors

Presenting Sponsor

Dimensional Health Care Associates Inc.

Fairway Fare Sponsor

Sandy Spring Bank

Bar Sponsor

St. John Properties

Cart Sponsors

Firstrust Bank

InterState Commercial

Maury Donnelly & Parr Inc.

Beverage Sponsors

Gorfine, Schiller & Gardyn P.A.

USI Insurance Services

Hole Sponsors

6teen30 Digital

ALCO Pharmacy

Bonnie Henson Communications

Sheri & Barry Brill

Chesapeake Telephone Systems

Coach & Equipment Bus Sales

David S. Brown Enterprises

Diane & Dave Coughlin

Gearhouse Services LLC

Amy & Josh Kreitz

Jennifer & Paul McKinnell

Morris & Ritchie Associates Inc.

Offit | Kurman Attorneys at Law

Ripple Branding

Risk Management Consultants

Unified Board of Directors



Everyone enjoyed socializing at the cocktail reception.

Get Ready for HOODSTOCK XIX

We are excited to celebrate Hoodstock XIX in person at the beautiful, concert friendly Winslow on FRIDAY, Nov. 18, from 7-11 p.m. Get your tickets now for our annual grassroots music festival showcasing the folk-rock music scene of the late '60s and '70s and featuring live music by Roses n Rust and other local artists. Enjoy dancing, food catered by Copper Kitchen, beer and wine, raffles and a silent auction. Dress is casual, and tie-dye, bell-bottoms and peace necklaces are always welcome.



A highlight of the evening is the presentation of the Samuel A. Tucker Memorial Can Do Award by Baltimore Ravens Senior Advisor for Player Development and former Unified board member O.J. Brigance. This special award is given to an individual we support in recognition of their ability, rather than their disability.

Hoodstock began in 2004 as a neighborhood event in the backyard of former Unified board member Russ Causey and his wife Jennifer's home in Federal Hill. While staying true to its laid-back, family-friendly roots, Hoodstock has become a major fundraiser for Unified, supporting the programs and services we offer to individuals with disabilities. We thank Russ for chairing this special event over the past 19 years.

Please note, all COVID-19 guidelines will be followed, and the venue is large and spacious with two levels.

When:

FRIDAY, Nov. 18, 2022, 7-11 p.m.

Where:

The Winslow, 333 West Ostend St.
with free on-site parking

Event Headliner: Roses n Rust

Tickets:

Visit www.unified.org for tickets.

\$45 in advance

\$50 at the door

\$10 for kids ages 6-12; children under six are free.

Become a Hoodstock Sponsor!

Visit unified.org/sponsor-an-event for details or contact Director of Development Lauren Bussard at 443-449-2461.



952 Ridgebrook Road, Suite 1000
Sparks, MD 21152
410-484-4540

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

New Terminology Same Great Services

As you read our newsletter, you may notice Unified is using the terminology **community living group homes** in place of **residential homes**. We made this change based on new criteria introduced by the Maryland Department of Health Developmental Disabilities Administration. Community living group homes are part of Unified's Residential Services program. We provide barrier-free housing, personal care assistance, life skills training and other supports 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year to support individuals in being productive and engaged members of their communities.

OUR MISSION:

To support individuals with disabilities in achieving independence, productivity, and the quality of life they seek.