

# PROGRESS



A Publication for the Friends of Unified Community Connections

SUMMER 2024

## Tee-rific News: Annual Golf Classic Raises \$66,710

Unified's 18th Annual Golf Classic raised \$66,710 in support of our programs and services for individuals with disabilities. Held on May 6 at the Elkridge Club in Baltimore, 83 golfers played the green, and at the end of the day, sponsors and friends of Unified joined the golfers for a cocktail reception and award ceremony on the club's beautiful deck. Sandy Spring Bank was the Presenting Sponsor, and the tournament included a masters putt contest and a new hot shot cannon option.

Thank you to our sponsors and everyone who joined us. We are especially grateful to Golf Classic Chair Matt Lenihan and his committee: Sarah Lieb, Scott Rodgville and Mike Schiller.



▲ Proudly displaying a check for \$66,710 are (l. to r.) members of Unified's board and Golf Classic committee: Bill Foxburrow, Matt Lenihan, Sarah Lieb, Scott Rodgville, Blake Curry, Amy Kreitz, Rob Freedman, Lauren Bussard and Mike Schiller.

◀ Ken Zraggen from The On Course Experience LLC offered golfers an opportunity to shoot the hot shot cannon.

◀ Congratulations to the team from Maury Donnelly & Parr for having the lowest net (l. to r.): Ryan Siegler, Rick Hunter, Jim Werking and Tom Zink.

Save the date for next year's Annual Golf Classic on Monday, May 5, 2025, at the Elkridge Club!

### Thank You to Our Sponsors

#### Presenting Sponsor

Sandy Spring Bank

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St. John Properties

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## Around the Agency



▲ Roommates Jeff Spake and Lloyd Reese take in the history during a visit to the Gettysburg battlefields.



◀ Individuals from the Hagerstown Community Development Services program visit Hershey Park.



◀ Annie Moeller went cherry picking at Orr's Farm Market in West Virginia.

◀ Christina Huffer enjoys the view from Ohiopyle State Park in Pennsylvania.

▶ John Maffley cools off at his community living group home in Cumberland.



## Development News

Thank you to the following donors for their generous recurring gifts this spring:

**Snowden and Nancy Stanley donated \$3,200 from the John Stanley III Memorial Fund of the Baltimore Community Foundation** to fund half the cost of the Mandt Certification for two members of Unified's staff.

**Betty Thomas and Karen and Jeffrey Nattans donated a combined \$13,000** toward a matching gift opportunity for donations designated for Unified's Residential Fund to help maintain our community living group homes and assist with repairs and emergency expenses.

## Board and Leadership News

**Congratulations** to Unified board member **Marc DeSimone** who was recently appointed as a judge to the Baltimore County Circuit Court. He has served as an assistant public defender in the Appellate Division of the Maryland Office of the Public Defender for 17 years.



**Congratulations** to **Angela Strauch Lane, M.S., CCC-SLP**, director of Unified's Assistive Technology Center, who was awarded the Workforce and Technology Center Partnership Award from the Maryland State Division of Rehabilitation Services' Rehabilitation Technology Services program.

## Welcome New Board Members

**William "Bill" Foxburrow** is senior vice president of Firsttrust Bank and brings more than 18 years of experience in the banking industry. He previously worked for M&T Bank holding several positions including senior vice president and senior relationship

manager. He has also worked for Wilmington Trust Company, BBVA Compass and First Horizon National Corporation. He served on the board of the Baltimore Community Mediation Center and the Towson University Entrepreneurship Advisory Board. Bill holds a Bachelor of Arts in economics from the University of Texas Austin and a Master of Science in finance from Loyola University Maryland. He is a graduate of the Association of Corporate Growth University, Maryland Chapter.

**Emily Sutorius** owns Emily Sutorius State Farm Insurance and brings more than 13 years of experience in the insurance and financial services industry. She opened her agency in 2016 in the Parkville/Baltimore community. Emily is a member of the Parkville Carney Business Association and partners with many women in small business. She is passionate about making a difference in people's lives and helping families plan and recover from the unexpected. Her older brother was born with cerebral palsy, and her parents are his full-time caregivers, so she understands firsthand the challenges many families face. Prior to joining the insurance industry, Emily lived in Europe and worked for a nonprofit that mentored American students living abroad. When she is not working, Emily loves traveling with her husband and two dogs.

## Summer Smile in a Basket

Unified's management team surprised the residents of our community living group homes with gift baskets – a team-building project they named "Summer Smile in a Basket." The management team came together to assemble the baskets and then divided into teams to personally deliver them to each group home. The baskets contained arts and craft supplies for wreathmaking and painting kindness rocks, unfinished wooden birdhouses ready for decorating and an assortment of sensory items such as bubbles and popper fidget bracelets along with instructions and suggestions for different activities.

"The baskets brought an element of fun and excitement to each home and gave our management team the opportunity to directly interact with the individuals we support and be reminded of why we do what we do," says Chief Operating Officer Angela Hanft. "We support some very talented and artistic individuals and look forward to seeing what they create."

The idea for the baskets came from Angela Strauch Lane, M.S., CCC-SLP, director of Unified's Assistive Technology Center, who has years of experience creating silent auction baskets for Hoodstock.

President and CEO Amy Kreitz has set a goal for the management team to plan at least two activities a year, and the Summer Smile in a Basket is one of many fun and engaging projects the management team has carried out in recent years. Past activities include door decorating contests, decorating visors for July 4, spring planting and the extremely popular Christmas caroling at the day centers and group homes.



▲ Unified's management team met in the Sparks office to assemble the gift baskets (l. to r.): Angela Hanft, Vickie McGilton, Angela Strauch Lane, Lauren Bussard, Gary Lane and John Mauck.

▲ Brenda Miller paints a birdhouse from the Summer Smile in a Basket project.



## Meet Our New Director of Human Resources



Unified welcomes **John Mauck** to our leadership team as director of human resources. John brings over 25 years of experience, spanning various industries including education, hospitality, automotive, government contracting and library and information services. He previously worked as an HR consultant in an executive role for a library management company serving the federal government and communities in seven states.

"Joining Unified has given me a unique opportunity to blend my human resources expertise with meaningful community service," says John. "In my short time here, I have witnessed firsthand the profound impact Unified has on those we serve. This experience has been incredibly rewarding, and I am grateful for the chance to contribute to such a transformative mission."

John is a senior certified professional through the Society of Human Resource Management (SHRM) and a senior professional of human resources through the Human Resources Certification Institute. Dedicated to volunteerism, he holds the volunteer position of state director for the Maryland SHRM and has served in leadership roles for SHRM for more than 15 years. He is also the conference chair for the board of the Frederick County Maryland SHRM.

John earned his bachelor's and MBA degrees from Shepherd University and is currently pursuing a doctoral degree at Hood College. His doctoral dissertation focuses on talent management strategies for a multi-generational workplace.

John is highly regarded within the HR community and a sought-after speaker on a variety of HR topics. Unified looks forward to the impact John's leadership will have on our ongoing efforts to foster an innovative, inclusive and supportive community for all.



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## Hoodstock Turns 21!

Our beloved Hoodstock is all grown up. Twenty-one years ago, Russ and Jen Causey sparked the inspiration for Hoodstock when they hosted a neighborhood gathering in their backyard and Russ and his friends performed folk-rock music from the '60s and '70s. Guests passed the hat in appreciation, and the musicians donated the money to Unified, starting an annual tradition that has become a major fundraiser in support of our programs and services for people with disabilities.

Exciting news! This year, Hoodstock XXI will be held at a new venue, the Baltimore Museum of Industry, offering free on-site parking, a full dinner buffet, spectacular views of the Inner Harbor and the opportunity to tour a few of the museum's interactive exhibits. Roses n Rust will headline a roster of talented local bands including the Wafflers and many familiar faces.

A highlight of the evening will be the presentation of the Samuel A. Tucker Memorial Can Do Award to recognize an individual who receives supports from Unified. O.J. Brigance, a senior advisor for player development for the Baltimore Ravens and a former Unified board member, will present the award.

Join us for a fun evening of live music, dancing, beer and wine, raffles and a silent auction. Dress is casual, and feel free to wear peace necklaces, cool shades and your grooviest tie-dye and bell-bottoms.

### Get Ready for Hoodstock XXI

**When:** Friday, October 18, 2024, 7-11 p.m.

**Where:** *New Location!*

**Baltimore Museum of Industry**  
1415 Key Highway  
*Free on-site parking*

**Event Headliner:** Roses n Rust

**Tickets:**

\$50 in advance

\$55 at the door

\$10 for kids ages 6-12, *children under six are free*

Visit [unified.org/hoodstock](https://unified.org/hoodstock) for tickets and sponsorship opportunities.

## Remember Unified

Please remember Unified as you make your plans for charitable contributions this year. Every dollar we receive helps the individuals we serve live more independent and fulfilling lives. **To make a donation, visit [unified.org/donate](https://unified.org/donate).**

### OUR MISSION:

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