

UCP Letter

Dear :

Most people take simple every day things like going to work or living on our own for granted. However, these “simple” things are a challenge for people with disabilities. But thanks to people like you, United Cerebral Palsy of Los Angeles and Ventura Counties (UCP) has helped hundreds of children and adults with severe disabilities live more productive lives.

For over 55 years UCP has developed a community where people with disabilities can live as normal a life as possible. We have helped thousands of developmentally disabled people become more independent, and more productive members of society.

People like Craig Clifton, who was born with cerebral palsy. His family asked for our help when he was a just a child. We provided Craig with a caring and nurturing environment, where he developed life skills, and most importantly confidence in himself. Today Craig works as a computer analyst developing software for the new Los Angeles subway system.

Your UCP donor dollars go to support so much for so many. That’s why I’m proud to tell you that 85 cents of each dollar you give UCP goes directly to services for children, adults, and families struggling with cerebral palsy and other disabilities. That’s 20% more than what The Better Business Bureau (BBB) Wise Giving Alliance Standards For Charity Accountability says a charity should spend on programs and services.

In fact, Kiplinger’s Personal Finance Magazine ranks us as one of America’s 100 most efficient charities, UCP was one of only 16 of the 100 organizations listed to receive the highest ranking of A or better from the American Institute of Philanthropy, a charity watchdog group.

UCP exists to give every person we serve dignity and purpose in life. We do that by providing tangible daily services to more than 600 special individuals and their families in Los Angeles and Ventura County.

These include:

- 31 community based homes-where residents can live as independently as possible with the 24 hour a day care they need.
- 5 accessible apartment buildings-These one and two bedroom units provide safe housing in a warm environment. We have plans to build three more.
- 4 education centers for adults and 1 education center for children, providing a wide range of classroom activities including elementary education, arts and crafts, computer assisted learning, community living, physical therapy, supported employment, and community access volunteer programs.

- Independent Living Programs providing training and support for individuals living on their own in the community.
- Respitability, a unique program for families giving parents a brief “self-renewing” vacation from the 24-hour, seven-days-a-week responsibility of caring for a child with special needs.
- Research support, social and recreational programs and information/referral/community advocacy services.

As you can see, your donor dollars help UCP provide the highest quality care for children and adults with cerebral palsy and other developmental disabilities.

During the next few years, the disability community will face some of the greatest challenges yet. Too many individuals with disabilities remain unemployed or under-employed. And the federal courts continue to dismantle the rights guaranteed to individuals with disabilities under the Americans with Disabilities Act.

So unfortunately, while government funding decreases each year, the need for our services continues to increase. That’s why we depend on contributions from people like you, so that we can continue to provide developmentally disabled individuals with the highest quality care and training. We need your continuing support to make it happen.

Your gift will help us continue to meet the needs of developmentally disabled individuals and their families

UCP’s large variety of programs provides more direct care to severely disabled children and adults than any other charity in Southern California. I assure you, your last gift of \$100 was greatly appreciated. Because of your kind support, Craig Clifton and many others like him will continue to lead lives of happiness, dignity and purpose.

Your gift now will help us continue our more than half century of the best support and loving care for these special individuals.

Thank you again for your support.

Warm regards,

Ronald S. Cohen Ph.D.
Executive Director

P.S. One of the exceptional families we’ve helped are the Rudy’s. Their son Tyler was born with cerebral palsy and spastic quadriplegia. At 19 days old he was given little chance of surviving, but through a caring environment and a network of support he not only survived, but also thrived and has been mainstreamed since preschool. Most recently, Tyler had a straight- A average and was elected school president as a fifth

grader. He won his local PTA's essay contest, and read his first place entry to the entire PTA. He loves school government, math, karate, sports and has many hobbies.