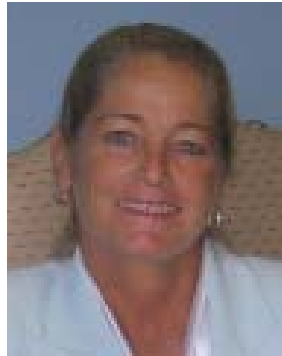


Wings of Love

a publication of UPARC Foundation, Inc.

Securing the Future for People with Special Challenges

Summer 2009



UPARC FOUNDATION UPDATE

by Cathy Holland
Executive Director

Out On A Limb

As I step back into the role of Executive Director of the UPARC Foundation, I do so with humility, pride and ready for the "ride" that lies ahead. In the almost 22 years since I served UPARC Foundation, many amazing things have happened ... but what stands above all is the continued improvement in the quality of life UPARC offers its 'client family.' I remember when we struggled for zoning to place our group homes in any neighborhood. Today, our group homes are among the nicest homes in their neighborhoods, and our clients are living longer and better lives.

UPARC Foundation has been blessed and guided by great minds and strong leaders with a continued commitment to the future of UPARC. In 1982 when the UPARC Foundation was formed, our mission was to build a solid endowment whose earnings would offset the anticipated budget cuts from our government sources. So far, so good.

In light of our current economy, we want to be able to offset these same continuing budget cuts and be there, ready and able, to support any emergency needs UPARC may have that would affect the services we provide.

UPARC Foundation has endured a great deal of changes and challenges in the past few years. Our Board of Trustees remains committed to the mission and to our continued growth. We are fortunate to have a competent and stable staff of 2 and a half. Our events continue to be volunteer led and well supported. I thank you for your support and invite you to continue being a part of our future.

It's my goal to go out on a limb, as that's where the fruit is. I look forward to seeing you there.



UPARC, INC. UPDATE

by Tom Buckley, Ph.D
Executive Director

There is always one constant in life, "that is if one truly believes and is inspired by your mission, you will always succeed in life." This has never been more true than

UPARC remaining strong and expanding through the volatile uncertainty with today's recession. Throughout my 21 years of service at UPARC I have never witnessed both Boards, volunteers and parents exemplify such incredible outcomes by maximizing special events, opening two new children's homes, purchasing eight new vehicles and receiving an enhanced level of funding from the Foundation. This achievement is demonstrated by your actions and unwavering commitment to the people we serve.

Annually we receive \$75,000.00 from the Federal Government to purchase new vehicles. Our biggest concern today is the health and safety of transporting the children we serve and our elderly Alzheimer's residents. The new 2010 vehicles, designed to serve children with disabilities, will alert the driver everytime a child stands up. Miraculously and thank God for those individuals who supported UPARC politically in receiving these vehicles. This year we received \$400,000 five times more than our annual typical transportation award. UPARC must match 10%, (\$40,000) of the Federal funds awarded and we are humbly seeking these funds from you, our community. \$400,000 will provide two new vehicles for the children's safety and well being, and six vehicles for the adult day programs, group homes and Alzheimer's residents.

At this time of need there are many organizations who believe it is a time to downsize. While other providers across the nation are closing programs, UPARC is opening two new children's homes and adding vehicles. This recession is a time for us to adapt not to downsize. UPARC will not lose focus in its unwavering commitment to provide quality services and support for the children and adults we serve. I invite you to join us in enhancing the quality of life for the people we serve.

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Cathy Holland

Wings of Love is published quarterly by UPARC Foundation, Inc. for the members, staff, contributors, volunteers, families and friends of the UPARC Foundation and UPARC. For more information about UPARC Foundation, please call 727-797-8712, or visit the Foundation's website at www.uparcfoundation.org. For more information about UPARC, please call 727-799-3330 or visit www.uparc.com. UPARC Foundation is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization that is certified as tax exempt in the State of Florida.

BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



UPARC consumer, Patrick Carmichael & Foundation Trustee, Elizabeth McMahon at the 2008 POD's PGA Tournament at Innisbrook Resort

ELIZABETH McMAHON
UPARC Foundaton Board Member

Elizabeth McMahon currently serves as Vice President, Wealth Management Advisor with Branch Bank and Trust (BB&T) in St. Petersburg. Active in banking and community service in Tampa Bay since 1978, Elizabeth joined the UPARC Foundation Board in 2006 and currently serves as Chair of the Planned Giving Committee. She has served in various capacities for: Suncoast YMCA, Clearwater Chamber of Commerce, Directions for Mental Health, Florida School for the Deaf and Blind, The Arts Center, Leadership Pinellas ('86) and various professional groups. She is currently active on St. Petersburg College Foundation's Planned Giving Committee and is a member of the Pinellas Estate Planning Council.

In a sorority at Florida Southern College, Elizabeth found working with children with Autism and Cystic Fibrosis a very rewarding experience. When she discovered UPARC, Elizabeth met with Volunteer Coordinator, Deborah Simeone to see if such a position were available. She learned about the advocate program, People First, for clients who need a client advocate.

Patrick Carmichael is 56 years old, and lives independently through UPARC's Supported Living program. When Elizabeth and Patrick were first introduced, he wasn't very social. Their friendship developed slowly and now, three years later they have become best buddies. Once a week, Elizabeth and Patrick go out to dinner, he loves McDonald's. Another favorite for Patrick is to visit PetsMart or Wal-Mart. They also go to Church sometimes with Elizabeth's family or visit the beach. Patrick likes to go "do things," but they'd better be fun! Patrick has grown to trust Elizabeth and they have developed a very special bond.

If you ask Patrick about Elizabeth, his face lights up. "We're best friends, she's planning my birthday party" Patrick is so fortunate, he has a birthday about every 3 months! Elizabeth says that "being a part of Patrick's life has positively impacted mine. If anyone is thinking about joining this program, don't wait, I highly recommend it".

If you're interested in becoming a client advocate, call Deborah Simeone at 727-799-3330 x 7632.

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**EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR**
Thomas Buckley, Ph.D.

NEWS FROM UPARC



ADVOCACY PICNIC
April 25, 2009



Phillipe Park in Safety Harbor was the sight of the Annual Advocacy Picnic. Over 150 clients, Paul B. Stephens students, volunteers and sponsors enjoyed the afternoon full of fun and food. There were games, activities for the children, and performances by the band Rockus. Many thanks to the Kiwanis Club of Palm Harbor and UPARC volunteers for their wonderful help.

WINDING CREEK HOME OPENS

In 2008, the Florida Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD) requested that UPARC expand our Behavior Intensive Program and open a home designed to meet the needs of six (6) children. The children demonstrate intense behavioral challenges such as physical aggression, self-injury, and elopement. They have a history of multiple residential placements, school expulsions, Baker Acts and juvenile justice system actions. The constant instability and uncertainty in their lives leads to even more emotional and behavioral problems.

The goal of the Winding Creek Group Home is to accept and unconditionally serve these children in their home, with a positive environment and the right services to meet their needs. An intense staff to child ratio provides an abundance of individualized attention, positive reinforcement, skill development training, and crisis support. The use of sedating medications can be reduced as caregivers effectively manage their problem behaviors in the safe environment.

Applications for Winding Creek greatly exceeded capacity and confirmed the need for this vital program. We extend great appreciation to the Clearwater Community Women's Club, Eckerd Youth Services and Fifth Third Bank for their generous support of Winding Creek. Planning and fundraising efforts are underway to open another home by the end of 2009.

The six boys, ages 9-16, that moved into Winding Creek are already showing improvement in their behavior and lives. The smiles on their faces prove the increased sense of self-worth, confidence, and responsibility for their home. You can almost hear the laughter in the backyard when you look at the pictures.



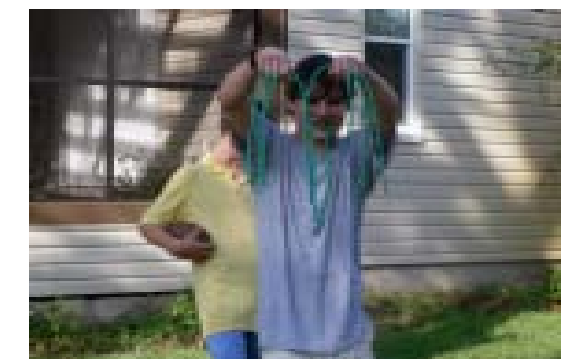
Our "Newest" Home



The Winding Creek family at play



Happy Face!



Play "Meets" Creativity!

MEET THE UPARC FOUNDATION STAFF



CATHY HOLLAND, Executive Director

Cathy rejoined the UPARC Foundation staff in April, almost 22 years after she filled the same position. As Executive Director, her focus is stewarding existing donors and acquiring new ones. Cathy believes introducing people to the amazing work being done at UPARC is the best part of her job. She and husband of 19 years, Roger Dombrowski reside at Moon Lake in New Port Richey. In her free time you can find them on the water fishing and exploring.



VALERIE FLANNIGAN Operations Director

Valerie has been an integral part of the team for over 3 years. Her areas of expertise include office management, special events and donor recognition programs. Valerie and her husband are great Rays and Bucs fans. They have 4 children and 3 grandchildren.



MARCI WILLIAMSON Finance Manager

Marci joined the team in June after working at Meadows Business Systems. Her background in accounting and administration is being put to good use in our office. Marci is a sports enthusiast, playing tennis, running and biking. She has been married to Brad for 20 years and has a 9-year old daughter Katie.

INSERT YOUR NAME HERE! Administrative Assistant

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

You could join our team by volunteering a few hours in our office. The schedule is flexible and duties vary every day, but range from answering the phones and stuffing envelopes to event planning. We could use help getting our upcoming events organized and we promise to make it fun! Please call us at 727-797-8712 and let us know when you're available.



**CLEAR SKY
BEACHSIDE CAFE**
Donates Proceeds
On Tuesday,
September 22nd

Dan Shouplin, Manager and Co-Owner of Clear Sky, is donating 20% of all guest checks to UPARC Foundation, September 22. Open for breakfast, lunch and dinner, Clear Sky is located beachside at 490 Mandalay Avenue in Clearwater Beach. Call 727-442-3684 for reservations. Recent reviews on TripAdvisor say the food is delicious and location "picture perfect". Dan has been involved with UPARC Foundation since 1990 and was an original UPARC "Ranger". The Rangers were formed with the mission to involve up and comers in UPARC philanthropy. Keep your eyes open for a UPARC Ranger Reunion in the fall!

HOLIDAY GREETING CARDS

Coming in October look for holiday greeting cards from the UPARC Foundation. These one-of-a-kind cards will feature meticulously reproduced, beautiful artwork from our very own clients. Make sure to take advantage of this opportunity to share these wonderful cards with friends and family while supporting The UPARC Foundation, while supplies last.

UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS

10th ANNUAL LEIGH NOLAN MEMORIAL POKER RUN November 1, 2009



Hop on your motorcycles and let's play poker! We'll meet at Quaker Steak & Lube on 49th Street in Pinellas Park. Registration for one hand is \$15 or you may purchase three hands for \$20. Registration begins at 8:00am and first bike out will be at 8:30am. The course will include stops at Southside Choppers, Barney's Motorcycles, Fletcher's Harley-Davidson, Acropol Inn, and Crabby Bill's in Indian Rocks Beach, ending back at Quaker Steak and Lube where you will have the opportunity to purchase an extra card to add to your hand.

The "chance" grand prize is this 2009 Harley Davidson Iron 883 motorcycle with a custom trailer. Come and enjoy food, live entertainment, a Chinese auction and lots of fun.



25th ANNIVERSARY FESTIVAL OF TREES COUNTRYSIDE MALL November 23-29, 2009

We're moving the 25th Anniversary of the Festival of Trees to the newly renovated Countryside Mall where over a million people will have the opportunity to view and purchase over 100 beautifully decorated holiday trees while doing their holiday shopping. Classic Boutique will once again feature their spectacular Swarovski Crystal decorated tree. Registration is currently underway for Tree Decorators, please contact us for additional details if you or your friends would like the opportunity to decorate and showcase your one-of-a-kind tree. A limited number of prelit trees are available at no charge, so don't delay in submitting your registration form. This year's event is being Chaired by Steve and Cyndi Heller. Leeward and Kerry Bean are Co-Chairing the festivities.

Our spectacular Premier Night Party featuring hors d'oeuvres from some of Tampa Bay's finest restaurants along with great entertainment await you. A silent and live auction will complete the evening. Premier Night will begin at 7:00 pm on Sunday, November 22. For more information or to purchase tickets please contact the Foundation office at 727-797-8712.



SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES ARE AVAILABLE
Call 727-797-8712 for Information

FUNDRAISING EVENTS in 2009



FROM 1897 TO TODAY "BACK TO THE FUTURE"

The "Back to the Future" celebration of the Belleview Biltmore Resort's amazing history was quite a party! The "Last Night" party on May 31ST raised over \$75,000 for UPARC Foundation.

Themed ballrooms were filled with over 500 party guests as live bands played late into the night. Ghost hunting tours of the hotel, gourmet food, an auction and raffle kept everyone busy during the final party at the "White Queen of the Gulf".

Special thanks to Chris Daily and Mary Lynn Hawkins, Co-Chairs and the entire committee for this great event. As soon as the hotel's renovations are completed, we'll announce the "Back to the Future, Part II" in 2012.



Photos Clockwise from Left: Jeanette & Dr. William Hale, Ghost Tour Hostess, Cathy Holland, Kathy & Rowland Milam, Chris & Tim Daily, Marion & John Rich with Henry B. Plant. Photographs courtesy of Tampa Bay Magazine.

FASHION TAKES THE RUNWAY

Were you one of the beautiful people watching the latest fashions strutting down the runway? If you were at the Belleview Biltmore on February 26th you know how exciting it was. The 6th Annual Open Your Heart Fashion Show raised over \$55,000 for UPARC Foundation. More than 600 guests attended the event.

Special thanks to Georgette's Boutique and Shoe Salon, Emcee Jack Harris, Event Chair, Kathy Minieri and the entire Fashion Show Committee. Next year's event is being Chaired by Gwen Hoover.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR
The 7th Annual
Open Your Heart
Fashion Show
February 18, 2010
at Innisbrook
Resort



6th ANNUAL OPEN YOUR HEART FASHION SHOW SPONSORS

Diamond Heart
The Minieri Family

Producing Heart
Brighthouse Networks

Platinum Heart
Cynthia & Charles Caldwell, Shirley I. Long

Gold Heart
Barbara & Jim Bourland, Hawkins Construction,
Gwen & Harry Hoover,
Kathy & Rowland Milam, Mudra Foundation

Silver Heart
Angela & Tim Bouchard, Dawn & Earle Cooper,
Karen C. Crown, Melody & Jerry Figurski, Mary
Lynne & Lonnie Hawkins, Leila & John Hudson,
Lloveras, Bauer & Stevens, Physicians Weight
Loss, William Blackshear, M.D., Raymond
James Financial, Regions Bank, The Suglia
Family

Table Sponsors and Captains
Mary Hoegstrom, Wendy Kennedy, Jane King,
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Anita Simone, Joan Bates, Linda Behnke,
Clearwater Yacht Club, Chris Daly, Georgette
Diaz, Julie Featherstone, Diane Gobo, Mary
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BACK TO THE FUTURE SPONSORS

Tiffany Room
Sharon & Ralph Spano in memory of Michael Spano,
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& Jerry Figurski, Sally Green & Gene Fleming, Larry Hineman,
Lenore Holcombe, James Spencer



THE AMAZING "OMELETTE PARTY"

April 3rd was a night of splendor for the 42nd Omelette Party held at the home of Dr. Phyllis Murphy and Mark Hagopian. This fabulous black tie affair was attended by over 350 guests who enjoyed a fine art and jewelry sale, dancing to the fantastic music of South Town Fever, and a delectable dinner prepared by Carlouel Yacht Club. The event raised over \$70,000. The Omelette Committee also hosted a pre-party event for approximately 50 UPARC clients which gave them the opportunity to experience the fun and excitement of this wonderful, fun filled event.

A special thank you to Co-Chairs, Molly duPont Schaffer and Janice Birch and the entire Omelette Committee. Next year's event is being Chaired by Karen Grove and Brenda Whitehead.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR
The 43rd Annual Omelette Party
April 16, 2010

43rd ANNUAL OMELETTE PARTY SPONSORS

Silver
duPont Registry, Johnson, Pope, Bokor, Ruppel & Burns, Joan &
Michael Kline, Lewis, Birch & Ricardo, P.A., Nichols Foundation, Inc.,
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Bronze
Acme Sponge & Chamois Co., Inc., Bollenback & Forret, P.A., Boos
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