

Wings of Love

a publication of UPARC Foundation, Inc.



Summer 2010

A Spirit of Hope for the
Developmentally
Challenged

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Mark your calendars for these upcoming events benefitting UPARC Foundation:

- WINE TASTING - August 7, 2010
@ The Wine Shop, Largo, FL
- SPECIAL ART BY SPECIAL HANDS -
August 26, 2010 @ Syd Entel
Gallery, Safety Harbor, FL
- TOWN HALL MEETING - September,
2010 @ UPARC, The Long Center,
Clearwater, FL
- GOLF CLASSIC - Oct 13, 2010
@ Belleair Country Club, Belleair,
FL, Shotgun start 1:00 pm
- FESTIVAL OF TREES - Nov 12-16, 2010
@ The Long Center,
Clearwater, FL, Premier Night -
Nov. 12 @ 7:00 pm
- OPEN YOUR HEART FOR UPARC
FASHION SHOW AND LUNCHEON -
Feb 24, 2011 @ Innisbrook Resort
and Golf Club, Palm Harbor, FL
- OMELETTE PARTY - April 8, 2011

2010 Annual Omelette Party for UPARC

The forty third Annual Omelette Party was held Friday, April 16, 2010 at the waterfront home of David Forrester and Edna Morris in Belleair, as well as at the adjacent property donated to The Town of Belleair by longtime UPARC supporter, Ms. Eleanor Thompson. This black tie gala raised \$120,000 which will directly benefit UPARC programs and services. There was a live band for dancing while chefs and staff from Carlouel Yacht Club prepared omelettes and poured champagne for attendees. After cocktails and an opportunity to view and purchase fine art and art created by UPARC clients at Harborside, guests were ushered across the small canal bridge to the new Belleair park. There, a large tent was set up with the band, food, and drinks for party goers to enjoy the waterfront view.

This year's party was chaired by Dr. and Mrs. Jeff Grove and

Dr. and Mrs. Gene Whitehead, all of Belleair. "It is a unique setting for the party—having the tent next door to our host home," said co-chair Brenda Whitehead. "It makes it so much more special knowing that a supporter of UPARC owned the property that was used." Earlier in the day, the event committee hosted a get together under the tents, at which UPARC clients were met and entertained by their "Pen Pals" from St. Paul's 4th grade class. Everyone in attendance enjoyed the Patriotic songs and flag flying festivities.



Photo courtesy of Bob Colmer
Dr. and Mrs. Jeff Grove and
Dr. and Mrs. Gene Whitehead

iBudget Update

The Agency for Persons with Disabilities, (APD) which is the state agency that provides funding for the majority of all UPARC participants has developed a new methodology for assessment and funding. APD has tried unsuccessfully over the last several years to devise a system which would accurately assess the level of need of each individual. In addition to the problems with past assessments, it has been difficult for APD to accurately forecast the projected expenses of all participants. During this Legislative session, the Legislature approved APD's implementation of the iBudget. The current plan has the iBudget being implemented in phases, as some individuals will receive additional dollars in their annual plan for services while others will receive a reduction in funding from their annual plan. It is imperative that all concerned parties of UPARC participants have input into the assessment process to insure that it accurately reflects the needs of their loved ones. The assessment instrument, the QSI will yield a score which based upon a mathematical formula (algorithm) will determine the individual's level of funding for services. For more information, go to www.apd.myflorida.com/ibudget.

In Memorium



Rudy Stanish the "Omelet King"

"Being able to make a perfect omelet is as essential a skill for living the good life as is making a perfect cup of coffee."

These are the words of the late Rudolph B. (Rudy) Stanish, the "Omelet King".

Chef Rudy was the inspiration behind the annual UPARC Omelette Party which has become one of the premier events of the year in Pinellas County.

UPARC Foundation would like to honor Chef Rudy for his many years of inspiration and service to UPARC.

Clearwater Yacht Club Fun Day

The Clearwater Yacht Club once again hosted its annual Fun Day for UPARC clients on Saturday, May 8th. This event, now in its 16th year, had its highest number of participants with over 250 clients and staff attending. Everyone had a great day of music, dancing, barbeque, swimming and a boat ride aboard pontoon boats provided by the Clearwater Marine Aquarium. Several of the guests even enjoyed a turn with the mic singing their favorite tunes for the group. This year's event raised \$7,500 to benefit UPARC programs and services. We would like to thank Tom and Beverly Brewer for their hard work and dedication in putting this annual event together. The wonderful memories created would not be possible without their generous support and that of the Clearwater Yacht Club and its members.



Clients enjoying Clearwater Yacht Club Fun Day 2010



Tom Wagner, UPARC Foundation Board Member, accepting check from Sandy Ramsden, Vice Commodore, Clearwater Yacht Club

Town Hall Meeting

The UPARC Town Hall Meeting was held on the evening of March 31st, 2010. The goal of this meeting was to arm the families and advocates of our clients with the most pertinent and accurate information possible to help them better care for their loved ones. Over 50 guests were in attendance. Speakers included Charles F. Robinson, Board Certified Elder Law Attorney who has served the local community for over 30 years, David Lillesand, a founding partner of Lillesand and Wolasky P.L. specializing in SSI disability claims, Medicaid, Special Needs Trusts and Estate Planning, and Travis Finchum, a Board Certified Elder Law specialist and Managing Partner for the firm of Karol, Hausman, Sosnik & Finchum, LLP. Mr. Finchum serves as Co-Trustee of the *Guardian Pooled Trust* which assists disabled individuals in protecting their assets for use during their lifetimes without disqualifying them for much needed public benefits. These three experts gave a very interactive presentation regarding **Planning for a Family Member with Special Needs.**

Sheldon Hershman, Interim Executive Director of UPARC, wrapped up the meeting with a presentation about the **iBudget: What Does This Mean for Florida?**

Those in attendance indicated that this was a very informative meeting. Please keep your eye out for the next Town Hall Meeting to be held in September of this year.

UPARC Initiates Blog

As our ever changing and fast paced world continues to evolve, the need to create linkages and communicate with our stakeholders becomes more essential. We welcome the opportunity to spread the mission of UPARC to community members, community leaders, family members, persons with disabilities, and all interested parties. We welcome your comments and contributions that will enhance the lives of persons with disabilities as well as promote the mission of UPARC.

You can find the Blog by going to the UPARC website at www.uparc.com and choosing "The Blog" from the menu.

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- Mrs. Georgine Brancato
- Mrs. Gwen Hoover
- Advocare Trust Inc., Ms. Susanna Schramek
- People First, Mr. Charles Rasberry
- Suncoast District DCF, Mr. John Samuelson



UPARC Foundation Event Photos



Golf Classic 2009 - Mary Lynn Hawkins and Melody Figurski



Festival of Trees 2009



Omelette Party 2010. Photo courtesy of Jen Reis.



Open Your Heart for UPARC Fashion Show and Luncheon 2010



Omelette Party 2010 - David Forrester and Edna Morris, Hosts. Photo courtesy of Bob Colmer.



Open Your Heart for UPARC Fashion Show and Luncheon 2010 - UPARC clients with Jack Harris.

UPARC WISH LIST FOR MAIN FACILITY AND CLASSROOMS

UPARC MAIN FACILITY @ The Long Center

- 1) Replace ceiling tiles
- 2) Replace door hardware
- 3) Paint UPARC sign or upgrade it
- 4) New table and chairs for multi-purpose room
- 5) Replace some of the exterior doors
- 6) Automatic door openers for select doors
- 7) New lockers for Habilitation centers

DEVELOPMENTAL ENRICHMENT PROGRAMS

- 1) Furniture, table and chairs - Couches, Lazy Boys, etc.

HABILITATION I

- 1) Hand held screw drivers (30 Clients)

UPARC WISH LIST FOR GROUP HOMES

Anclote

- 1) New windows
- 2) New kitchen-cabinets, appliances, backsplash
- 3) Four (4) complete new bathrooms
- 4) Exterior paint
- 5) Replace rear stockade fence
- 6) Two (2) A/C compressors and air handlers
- 7) Garage - Combination A/C heat unit for exercise room in garage

Dryer

- 1) New tile in all of house
- 2) New windows
- 3) Two (2) complete new bathrooms

Winding Creek

- 1) One (1) new A/C compressor and air handler
- 2) Sod for back yard
- 3) Cement for basketball pad

Falcon

- 1) Three (3) complete new bathrooms
- 2) Garage door
- 3) Tile and carpet
- 4) New kitchen-cabinets, appliances, backsplash
- 5) Sliding glass door

George Street

- 1) Large Rubbermaid shed
- 2) Tile flooring for two (2) bedrooms

Lakeview

- 1) New kitchen-cabinets, appliances, backsplash
- 2) New stockade fencing
- 3) Three (3) complete new bathrooms

HABILITATION II

- 1) Furniture, table & chairs

COMPUTER NEEDS - URGENT

- 1) 35 Dell Optiplex 780 PCs
- 2) 35 Dell S2009W flat screen monitors

OTHER PROGRAM NEEDS

- 1) Computer lab in Tarpon - 6 touchscreen terminals/monitors
- 2) Matching Bus Funds - \$40,000
- 3) Box truck
- 4) Lawn care services - all homes



UPARC client's new Shade Canopy in the Therapy Garden dedicated by the children of Trevor & Molly Schaffer and Dan & Nicole Doyle, Jr.

Indiana

- 1) New carpeting and tile flooring
- 2) Re-tile 1 shower

Cedar Trace

- 1) Garage door opener
- 2) Tile flooring
- 3) Exterior paint
- 4) A/C ducts
- 5) Barracuda automatic pool vacuum
- 6) Front door

Safety Harbor

- 1) New kitchen-tile, cabinets, countertops
- 2) Tile flooring
- 3) Sliding glass door
- 4) Two (2) new bathrooms-tile, vanity, toilet, tub

Alhambra

- 1) New front door
- 2) Tile flooring
- 3) One (1) new bathroom-tile, sink, toilet

Live Oak

- 1) New A/C ducts
- 2) New sliding glass door
- 3) Combination A/C heat unit for sunroom

Tarpon Woods

- 1) Pool heater
- 2) Barracuda automatic pool vacuum
- 3) Exterior paint
- 4) One (1) new bathroom-tile, vanity, toilet

Live Oak

- 1) New A/C ducts
- 2) New sliding glass door
- 3) Combination A/C heat unit for sunroom

Tarpon Woods

- 1) Pool heater
- 2) Barracuda automatic pool vacuum
- 3) Exterior paint
- 4) One (1) new bathroom-tile, vanity, toilet
- 5) Laminate flooring
- 6) Tile for one bedroom
- 7) Pop-up jets for pool

Welcome new UPARC Foundation Staff



Leslie T. DiPaci, Development Associate

Leslie joined the UPARC Foundation as Development Associate in January of this year. Coming to UPARC from the Interbay and Downtown branches of the Tampa Metropolitan YMCA. Leslie has twelve years of fundraising and special event experience with the Girl Scouts and both the Suncoast and Tampa YMCA's.

Leslie has lived in Tarpon Springs for 22 years.



Jolene Duff, Administrative Assistant

Jolene Duff came to UPARC Foundation as a volunteer in the fall. She was drawn to UPARC due to having twin sisters with mental and physical disabilities and wanted to give her time to an organization where she felt needed. In January she became Part-Time. Jolene is a Fine and Graphic Artist as well as a Fitness Instructor, teaching fitness (Yoga, Spinning, & Cardio) for over 18 years, which is another way she gives herself to others through health.

Board Tour

On February 25, 2010, a Board Orientation Tour was conducted for 20 Board members and staff from both the UPARC Foundation and UPARC Agency. Beginning at the Long Center those in attendance enjoyed a brief "get to know you" meeting and light breakfast followed by a quick tour of the Long Center UPARC facility. Then it was onto the UPARC van to tour the Tarpon Springs Center as well as the George Street group home for our medically elderly clients. Several other homes in the Upper Pinellas area were highlighted before the group visited the Harborside

Art Studio in Safety Harbor. There was a quick meet and greet with the clients and lunch was provided. They wrapped up back at the Long Center facility exhausted from a busy day!

There was a lot to see and learn about in those few short hours but for those in attendance, it was a great experience.



Agency and Foundation Board and staff visiting UPARC's Tarpon Springs Center



UPARC Foundation Board Members

UPARC FOUNDATION BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Mr. Jerry Prescott, *President*
 Mrs. Georgine Brancato, *President-Elect*
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 Mr. Stephen Gerlach
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 Mrs. Ellen Pope
 Mr. Tom Wagner

Honorary Members
 Agency Board,
 Mr. Greg Stock
 Mr. Ryan Griffin
 Mr. Steve Heller
 UPARC Agency,
 Mr. Sheldon Hershman,
 Interim Executive Director
Foundation Staff
 Mrs. Cathy Holland,
 Executive Director
 Ms. Leslie DiPaci,
 Development Associate

Mrs. Marci Williamson,
 Finance Director
 Mrs. Jolene Duff,
 Administrative Assistant



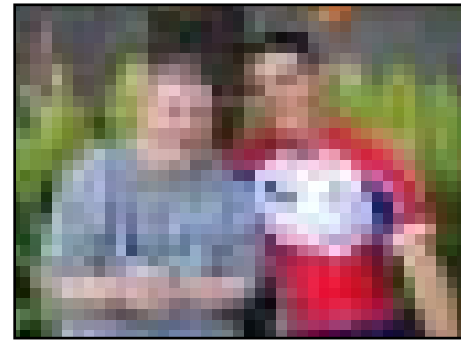
Push America Visits UPARC

On May 20, 2010 the Gear Up Florida Team visited UPARC's Long Center Day program. Since 1997, almost 300 Pi Kappa Phis have participated in Gear Up Florida. Each year, the team raises over \$80,000 to benefit people with disabilities. Gear Up Florida was created with one mission in mind: to reach out to as many people as possible across the State of Florida, spreading a message of acceptance and understanding on behalf of people with disabilities.

This 800-mile cycling event kicks off on the shores of Miami, travels through the Florida orange groves, reaches the Gulf coast, passes through Orlando, comes back to the Atlantic coast and culminates at the State Capitol in Tallahassee. The team spreads a message of acceptance and understanding to communities in Florida through newspapers, radio and television, civic groups and community leaders, reaching millions of people annually.

UPARC has been fortunate that the Gear Up Florida Team has chosen to make UPARC part of their annual itinerary. The Gear Up Florida Team shared a light breakfast with our consumers. It is a great event as you can see the mutual sharing and respect that takes place with two unique groups. The enthusiasm of the riders is clearly a motivation to our consumers, equally the openness and acceptance of our clients validates the purpose of their Gear Up Florida Team mission.

If anyone is aware of any sororities, fraternities or service organizations that would like to link up with UPARC, please pass it on to us.



Gear Up Florida Team cyclist with UPARC client

Vehicle Registration - Voluntary Check Offs, They Passed... Now What???

Senate Bill 1138 by Senator Fasano and House Bill 399 by Representative Kelly to create a voluntary check off box for donations on driver's license renewals and vehicle registrations has been signed into law by Governor Crist. Funds will be distributed quarterly to the Arc of Florida and be apportioned to local ARC's, such as UPARC, to provide services for persons with developmental disabilities.

Now you can help raise funds for UPARC programs just as easy as a stroke of your pen. When you renew your motor vehicle registration or driver's license at your local tax collector's office, simply check off the \$1.00 Voluntary Contribution Check-off Box for "Services for the Developmentally Disabled."

Driver's License Renewals have raised over \$6.5 million, benefitting organizations such as Prevent Blindness, Juvenile Diabetes Foundation, Family First and many others. Motor Vehicle Registration have raised over \$27 million for 14 various charities since 1984. Of the funds designated to the developmentally disabled through the DMV, 75% will be distributed to the local ARC Chapters for programs and services, 15% will be put aside for Training Services and 10% will be earmarked for Arc of Florida administrative fees.



Clients enjoying new DEP Classroom at UPARC/Long Center.

UPARC Clients "Giving Back"

The Community Service class at UPARC's Long Center Day Program creates and sells note cards and special occasion cards to raise funds to donate to social service agencies throughout our community. The students also volunteer monthly at local food pantries and nursing homes. Since 2008 the students have donated over \$450 to local organizations

such as the Humane Society, The Haven, Toys for Tots and the Food Pantry. In 2009, the students also collected stuffed animals for Hannah McMann's Holiday Teddy Bear drive for the children at All Children's Hospital.

Teddy Bears were made by the students in the sewing class and were donated to the children at The Haven spouse abuse shelter.



Clients creating cards

Planned Giving for UPARC's Future

Planned giving is a way for you to continue to make a difference even after your lifetime. A gift now or in the future can help the UPARC Foundation continue to play a vital role in providing critical service and support to the clients served by UPARC - this can be your legacy. Your planned gift to the Foundation, large or small, can have a big impact upon future lives of UPARC clients and families.

Tax savings, immediate income, future income for family members, and guaranteed payments later in life are just some of the benefits planned gifts can provide you and your family. Usually planned giving involves a financial or legal document. You may choose from a variety of planned gifts such as your Will, Gifts of Stocks and Bonds, Charitable Remainder Trusts, Charitable Lead

When you are good to others, you are best to yourself.
- Benjamin Franklin

Trusts, Gifts of Life Insurance, Gift Annuities, Gifts of Appreciated Property, Retirement Assets, and Bequests.

An estate planning professional can review your personal situation taking into account your special needs, and explain how specific federal and state laws impact your estate.

What is more important is that you take the initiative to make a plan. An effective estate plan will preserve your hard-earned wealth for your family and those charities you have contributed to over the years can continue to carry out the missions which you so loved and generously supported in your lifetime.

Are Volunteers Important to UPARC? YES!!!

Volunteers provide human and financial resources needed to continue to serve the children and adults who are counting on us! Volunteers share the spirit of hope throughout UPARC and our community! The following are just some examples of where you can help.

Advocacy - You can make a real difference in the life of a disabled adult by volunteering as a Citizen Advocate. Advocates provide one-on-one support and friendship to a UPARC client by sharing time at UPARC and in the community.

Caring Committee - Deliver tender loving care to UPARC clients and family members who are in area hospitals.

Adopt-A-Group Home - Individuals and community groups are invited to become

volunteers at one of UPARC's group homes or apartments. Needs range from hosting parties to sharing talents and hobbies.

People First - People First is a national organization that seeks to promote self-advocacy for persons with developmental disabilities. UPARC has a very active People First Club that needs volunteers to help plan and carry-out regular club meetings. There is always a need for guest speakers as well.

No special training or experience is needed - just a desire to help and a big heart! Give us a call and let us tell you more about our many volunteer opportunities. Whatever your skills or interests may be, we have just the place for you!



Grovie Dalzell at the St. Paul's Pen Pal Dance

Advocare Trust

The greatest concern of parents of children with special needs is, "Who will take care of my son or daughter when I am gone?" The workshops, habilitation centers, residential facilities and support coordinators will continue after the parent but the advocacy support of the parents will cease to exist.

This growing concern motivated a group of parents to launch an intensive study of the problem in 1985. On June 1, 1985, Advocare Trust, Inc. was chartered as a non profit corporation "for the purpose of administering to the needs of the beneficiaries of the corporation living in Pinellas, Pasco and Hillsborough counties." This corporation would provide advocacy to insure care & comfort, nurture and opportunities for their children.

With this charter, a corporation was born which is dedicated to the lifelong best interest of the sons and daughters of those who

enroll their children. At last there would be someone to assist the disabled adult in their decision making, someone who can make medical decisions, act as guardian, monitor their care and review their financial situation. Someone who does not work for the state or facilities to make sure their resources are utilized for their benefit, someone who will fight for them as hard as their parents did during their lifetime. As a non profit corporation, Advocare will exist in perpetuity. Siblings, friends and relatives will be assured there will always be someone to provide advocacy services for their family member. This someone will have the specialized knowledge and expertise necessary to navigate the system. The responsibilities will be placed in the hands of professionals supervised by concerned directors who are parents of persons with disabilities. For more information, please call Susanna Schramek at Advocare Trust at 727-791-3972.