

CANCER  
PARKINSON'S DISEASE  
DEMENTIA  
OSTEOARTHRITIS  
STROKE SURVIVOR  
ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE  
ACQUIRED BRAIN INJURY  
DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY  
70 YEARS STRONG  
CEREBRAL PALSY  
TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY  
MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS  
AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER  
SPINAL CORD INJURY  
MENTAL ILLNESS  
SEIZURE DISORDER  
LEARNING DISABILITY  
SPINA BIFIDA  
COPD  
HEARING IMPAIRMENT  
WE ARE  
MORE THAN  
OUR NAME



## December 2019 Newsletter at UCP-LI

# UCP-LI Employment Connection

### The Employment Connection

The Employment Connection is proud to provide individuals hope and fulfillment of living a life without limits. The Employment Connection helps individuals in conjunction with our coaches to disseminate valuable information and pointers on job search, including conducting career assessments, search for job openings, completion of online job applications, receive guidance and help preparing your resume, participate in webinars and recording and practicing job interviews on video.



### The Employment Connection

(<http://theemploymentconnection.com>) is the “leader in connecting Long Island businesses to qualified workers with disabilities. Businesses today need qualified workers of all types to meet their hiring needs and diversity guidelines. People with disabilities need satisfying and meaningful jobs that match their skills and interests. Connecting the two is what we do! We’ve provided services to thousands of Long Island job seekers since 1994.”



UCP Long Island has an active relationship with The Employment Connection. We successfully place participants in jobs with its assistance and job coaching. Thanks to Linda Browne and Joel Evans, on their assistance in these connection stories.





## UCP-LI Success Stories Employment Connection Placements:

### Ronald McAuley

Ronald has worked at Target in Farmingdale for over 13 years. His position is that of a cart person mainly working Monday to Friday on a part-time basis. Recently, he was recognized for his outstanding job performance and selected as one of Target's "Dedicated Business Owners." Ronald's supervisor stated that Ronald has an excellent attitude and he is always willing to go the extra mile to help out in the store. Ronald is especially helpful when the store is short of staff. He readily works extra hours if needed. Ronald is a true team member who is well-respected by his supervisors and co-workers and thoroughly deserves his recent award. Gary Rowe serves as his job coach.

- Joel Evans, Volunteer



### Matt Schill

Matt has been employed by the Stop & Shop supermarket in East Northport since 2007. He works in maintenance and anywhere else that he is asked. That includes bottle recycling, sanitation, and stocking shelves. Recently, Matt received additional responsibilities: picking in-store items for fulfilling Peapod orders.



Matt has a great attitude and when needed, he will come in on very short notice to help out. Because of his outstanding work ethic, a short while ago, Matt was honored as "Employee of the Month." [Please note: several of UCP's participants work in the East Northport Stop & Shop.] Gary Rowe serves as his job coach.

-Joel Evans, Volunteer





## Samantha Buonamico

In October 2018, UCP Long Island assisted one of its clients Samantha in applying for a janitorial position at LA Fitness in Lake Grove. Sam quickly heard back from Matt Dicristian, the Operations Manager, who asked her to come in for an interview. Matt provided Samantha with a full description of the job and was open to UCP providing job coaching. Once Samantha was hired, she quickly proved to be a competent worker and Matt noticed this. He then reached out to UCP to ask if they had any more workers that would be interested in a janitorial position. Since then UCP has referred several candidates to LA Fitness, with great results. Her job coach is Veronica Reyes.

**-Joel Evans, Volunteer**

## JAQUAN GILES

Citizens First has existed for more than 25 years with the mission “to protect and advance the well being of all individuals with disabilities.”

Today, Citizens First is more active than ever. Last month, it elected a new president, Jaquan Giles. In addressing the group before his selection, Jaquan spoke: “Good morning, my name is Jaquan Giles, and I’m running for the position of President of the Citizens First self-advocacy group. A position I’m no stranger to. In 2013, I previously served as President and then I advised other Presidents on how to run the group effectively. I encouraged them to learn from earlier mistakes, as I have learned from them. Moving forward, we as a group need to further evolve and extend our reach even further beyond this building. I believe we are more capable than ever before.”

## **Citizens First Self-Advocacy Group: An UCP-LI Success Story**



First Citizens, also recently sponsored a celebration in honor of the anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act. There was a strong attendance and every participant received a gold medal. The ADA Act is a key resource in the struggle against discrimination regarding disabled persons.

One other example of First Citizens’ involvement in the community was the participation of a large contingent of officers and others in September at the annual Long Island Regional Self-Advocacy Conference. The full-day conference is run by the Self-Advocacy Association of NYS. This year’s topic was “It’s My Life, My Plan.” **-Joel Evans, Volunteer**



## SUPPORT US

### DID YOU KNOW UCP of LI...

*Spends over 92 cents of every dollar on programs and services.*

### WAYS TO SHOW SUPPORT FOR THE PEOPLE WE SERVE

### *FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!*



### WE LOVE OUR VOLUNTEERS

Volunteering can range from a few hours to a long-term relationship.

To sign up or for further questions, please e-mail [info@ucp-li.org](mailto:info@ucp-li.org).



Make a meaningful, long-term gift that will cost little or nothing now and can create income opportunities for you and your family.

[LEARN MORE](#)



[DONATE](#)



Please contact the Office of Development at 631-232-0015.



Happy Holidays to you and yours.  
Wishing your friends and loved  
ones nothing but joy and well-  
wishes!



**HAPPY HOLIDAYS!**

Santa's Little Helper pondering his next move to  
help his boss spread the Holiday cheer!



## **ASHLEY'S STORY**



### **Ashley at UCP's Adult Day Program**

#### **Early On**

April is a UCP of Long Island "parent", whose daughter, Ashley – her "princess" – graduated from the Children's Center in June. Ashley, now 21, was born with Cerebral Palsy; her graduation was joyously celebrated by her entire family. "My father flew in from Trinidad for Ashley," April shares, her pride in her daughter overflowing. "Her happiness is all we want."

**Isn't that what we all want for our children?**

Parents of a child with a disability have to work hard to find the support



Once again, after visiting other programs, April decided that UCP of Long Island offered a full range of Adults Services that proved to be the best match for Ashley. This August, Ashley enrolled in UCP's Adult Day Habilitation Programs.

These months have been an adjustment for the whole family. Ashley – always social – has made friends and is getting used to her new schedule and her surroundings. April and Ashley are working with staff to select services that reflect Ashley's needs and interests. As an adult, there are many choices available to her. Ashley's program day will include on-site and community-based learning to

and services that will help ensure their child's safety, learning, and yes – happiness. April recalls her diligent search, nearly 20 years ago, to select a school for Ashley. She visited many different schools before deciding The Children's Center was the perfect match for her then 2-year-old daughter.

"Really, it's just a happy, warm place." April shares, thinking back. "And Ashley *loved* that school from day one. I remember, on her first days of school, waiting for the bus – she was so tiny but so excited! I was nervous, but she was super excited to go." Ashley grew up at The Children's Center, making friends and receiving the personalized care and support she needed to learn, grow, and thrive. Those were happy years.

Fast forward nineteen years to graduation day: Ashley is beaming, alongside family, friends and staff. Mom April, Ashley's sister, Ariel – and UCP of Long Island – are by Ashley's side as she transitions from The Children's Center to the next, adult chapter of her life.

So, Ashley is 21. An adult. Now what?

All smiles on graduation day!

**Last spring, Ashley was one of 250+ students with a disability to graduate from Long Island schools and transition to adult programs.**

Once again, April searched to find the best program for Ashley, one that would meet her on-going adult needs. ***Fortunately, April has always been focused on transition services.***

In the years leading to Ashley's graduation, April researched adult day habilitation programs that were person-centered, that provided opportunities for recreation and socialization, and that would help Ashley become more independent.

increase her independence, build her social and communication skills, and enable her to pursue her interests and hobbies.

**“UCP is so important to us...”**  
April shares. **“It is so good to know your kids can go somewhere where they are happy and accepted.”**

**For 70 years, UCP of Long Island has been a trusted and supportive resource.**

**Thankfully, we ensure that moms like April, and all families with a loved one with a disability, aren't alone.** We provide the compassionate care and individualized programs for children and adults that help each individual we serve live a ***Life Without Limits***.

**But we can't do it alone. We need your help.**

Most importantly, the program would need to incorporate the things Ashley loved, such as music and crafts.

**DONATE**

**[CLICK HERE TO DONATE](#)**

## **David Fox: Beautiful Poetry**

**David Fox is an UCP individual and a published author!**

**His free poetry book, released late in 2019, entitled "Critters, Creatures, and Creations" is available now!**

**David is another great example of UCP'S *Life Without Limits*.**

**We sat down with David for a one-on-one chat.**

***"I like the freedom of expression. Poetry***



**David Fox, quietly eats his lunch in the UCP-Long Island Marcus Boulevard lunchroom. He is**

allows me to express that."

-David

*Critters, Creatures and Creations*



By David Fox  
Copyright 2015, 2019  
Foxtales  
www.foxtalesny@weebly.com  
foxtalesny@outlook.com

PO  
ET  
RY



wearing a beige sweater covered by a big green winter jacket. It currently sits at 30 degrees on this Wednesday morning in the middle of December. As he digs into his plastic container, which seems to be layered with healthy rice, David comes across as humble and hungry.

As other individuals eat their lunch at nearby tables, David sits alone as it seems this plastic container of rice doesn't stand a chance.

A contributor of many poetry magazines, David comes across as smart and down to earth.

Recently, David published a free book of poetry entitled Critters, Creatures, and Creations.

David is a true inspiration and a true testament to serve a Life Without Limits. Despite being born with Cerebral Palsy and having suffered from mental illness in his 20's, David has written poems for children and adults for over 20 years. His poetry has appeared in Bell's Letters, Ceremony, Great South Bay Magazine, Humoresque, The Oak, Opossum Holler Tarot, Performance Poet's Association Literary Review, Poetic Expressions, Poets' Roundtable, Reflections, SMILE, Tale Spinners (Canada), Visions, Wanton Words, Whispers of Poetry and Write On!! Poetry Magazine.

David started writing at the young age of 14 and continues to this day.

What made David fall in love with poetry? "I like the freedom of expression. Poetry allows me to express that", David said.

For Critters, Creatures, and Creations, David collaborated with his younger sister Jessica Fox, who provided illustrations for each of his poems.

In addition to writing poems, David lives a very active life. "I play miniature golf, I go bowling and play volleyball," David describes.

His true passion though is writing poetry. "I wanted to do a collection of poems about nature in regards to children. I thought it was a cute idea," David said.

When he isn't writing or playing sports, David raves about UCP-LI's day trips.

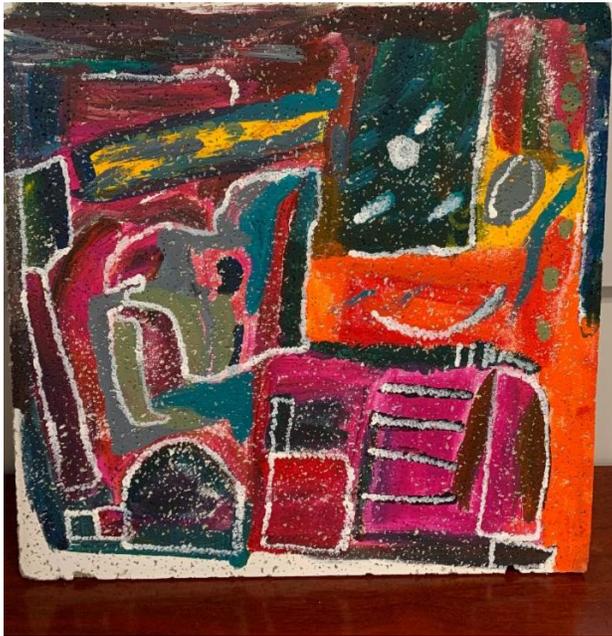
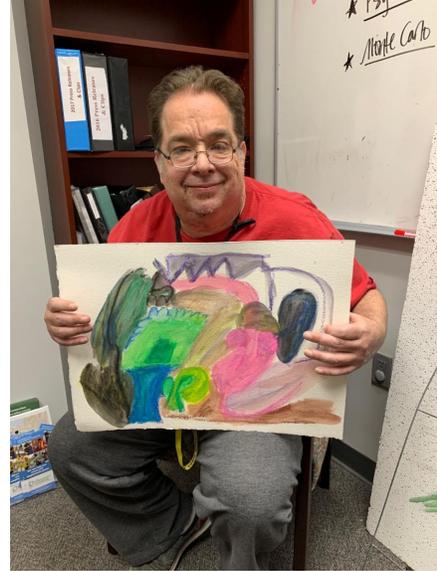
"I love the day trips to the mall and going to Walmart. When the weather is warmer we volunteer and hand out food to the homeless and do some prayers," says David.

Living in his own room at the Silverleaf Resident House, he enjoys his room and freedom.

"My room is private, I get to email whenever I want, the house is very close to UCP-LI, it is very



As Lowell continues at UCP-LI, we are excited to see what he has in store for all.



## Meet Jean Caligiuri: 49 YEARS AT UCP-LI

### In The Spotlight

"What success means to

me here at UCP-LI is when an individual never smiled before and then they smile for the first time, it's a miracle."

-Jean

Jean Caligiuri celebrated 49 years working at UCP-LI on January 4th, 2020. Let that sink in for a moment. 49 years, over those 49 years, nearly a half a century, the country has seen nine different Presidents. Gas has risen \$2.00 a gallon and the cost of a baseball ticket was just \$3.00. Jean has seen it all at UCP-LI. She wears as many hats as anyone. Her responsibilities include a wide range from her direct title of Quality Insurance Coordinator to over-seeing all the incident reviews. She also takes part in The Human Rights Committee and acts as the Home Community Support Coordinator.

In the early 1990's, Jean was the former coach of the Suffolk Seagulls, a Disabled Competitive Sports Team that was unstoppable. They participated in a variety of sports, including Track and Field, Power Lifting and Wheel Chair Racing. She coached for 14 years.

"The most joy that it brought to me was how we taught the individuals how to compete naturally," Jean said.

Capturing medals across the Island and eventually the nation wasn't so much about the trophies and hardware. To Jean, it showed that no one should be limited to anything in life based on their circumstances.

There are so many wonderful miracles that happen at UCP-LI, but none stand out more than the look of pure happiness attained by the individuals.

"What success means to me here at UCP-LI is when an individual never smiled before and then they smile for the first time, it's a miracle," Jean says.

"When they warm up to you and they realize they have a skill and use it, it is sheer bliss," Jean continues.

"It can be as little as picking something up and putting it in a box or as extreme as them realizing that they can do wonders with their lives," Jeans says.

Jean has a confident look to herself, decades of knowledge, years of experience. She has seen it all, heard it all, experienced it all. Yet, everyday, she comes to work and it is like for the very first time.

"We work for the individual. We advocate



success," Jean adds.

"Whatever program an individual is in, and whatever they are working on, whether it be a painting, a song, any type of fun project, it isn't about the end result, it's about the journey," Jean says.

Jean over the years discusses the growth and support UCP-LI has seen.

"The growth has been amazing. Over the past few decades, we have received unbelievable support and it brings tears to my eyes," Jean says with watery eyes.

"Like I mentioned, everyday here is a miracle. I have seen children grow to be adults. From being hit with such a difficult circumstance from birth to achieving amazing things through their lives," Jean says.

When not working, Jean has many hobbies and loves. She loves the band Alabama and the musician Billy Joel.

Her favorite vacation spot is Italy. She loves watching reruns of Downtown Abby and "anything on PBS."

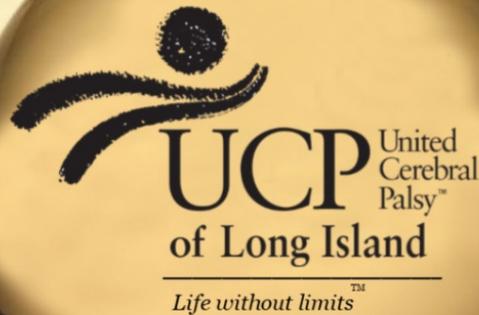
When asked what her three dinner guests would be if she had to choose from anyone, her answer was exactly what you might think it would be, compelling and thoughtful, just like her.

"My three dinner guests would be Michelle Obama, because she is a strong, decisive woman, but just as compassionate. I would have my family, because they will be there to carry on the tradition and Angela Lansbury, a versatile actress, who is a very strong and creative woman," Jean adds.

Jean has been a rock at UCP-LI for nearly a half of century. She has impacted so many lives in a positive way. Individuals, staff and anyone who has ever met her would attest to that. Michelle Obama and Angela Lansbury, too.



# Psychic Thursday 2020



*With the*  
**Psychic Sisters**

**MARCH 5th**

**6PM-9PM**  
**(Doors open at 5:00)**

**\$50 PER PERSON**  
**Refreshments**

**UCP-LI Offices**  
**MULTI-PURPOSE ROOM**  
**250 Marcus Blvd**  
**Hauppauge, NY 11788**

To purchase tickets:

Courtney Scully - 631.232.0011 ext. 402 - [cscully@ucp-li.org](mailto:cscully@ucp-li.org)

[www.ucp-li.org](http://www.ucp-li.org)

Register online \$50.00 plus \$4.00 processing fee: <https://specialevents.ucp-li.org/psychicthursday>

FOR QUESTIONS REGARDING NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS CONTACT:

CHARITIES.BUREAU@AG.NY.GOV OR (212) 416-8401



## 2020 SPECIAL EVENTS

- YPG Brewery & Trivia Night • Thursday, April 9th**
- A Night In Monte Carlo • Wednesday, April 22nd**
- Psychic Thursday • Thursday, March 5th**
- Golf Classic • Monday, June 15th**
- Gold Coast Invitational • Monday, August 3rd**
- 5K Walk & Wheel • Saturday, October 3rd**
- Life Without Limits Gala • Thursday, October 22nd**
- Handbag Bingo • Sunday, November 15th**

For more information about the events or sponsorship opportunities,

Contact the Office of Development:

[dev@ucp-li.org](mailto:dev@ucp-li.org) • 631.232.0015 • [www.ucp-li.org](http://www.ucp-li.org)

To learn more visit:

[www.ucp-li.org](http://www.ucp-li.org)

**DONATE**

UCP of Long Island | 631-232-0015 | [DEV@UCP-LI.ORG](mailto:DEV@UCP-LI.ORG) | [www.ucp-li.org](http://www.ucp-li.org)