

March 2021

Dear Friends of UCP Heartland,

I need to start off this communication by giving a BIG Heartfelt Thank You to UCP Heartland donors and everyone that participated, supported, and helped make the 2021 Virtual Gala and Auction and incredible success. I will be honest, we went into this year not knowing what to expect and what WE accomplished together was extraordinary. \$268,000 raised and was the most money raised in the 31 year history of the event. We hope to see everyone back in person next year!!!!

In a recent communication, the UCP Heartland 2021-2024 Strategic Plan was included. I hope you had a chance to read it, but if not.....you can access on our website. A key strategy in order to accomplish one of our priorities of "Expanding UCP Heartland's Reach" was to develop and implement an Autism program for children based on Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) principles. As a result, and with Board of Directors support we are developing an ABA Therapy program in Columbia, Missouri and then we hope to expand the service. We chose the City of Columbia because of our strong reputation of services to children in this area and we believe it is a wonderful opportunity to extend our children's services because of the successful work of the Child Development Center (CDC) program over the years.

The UCP Heartland ABA Program will provide high quality therapy using evidenced-based practices in a setting where the environment becomes a learning tool. We will use a hybrid approach as the therapy will take place in a facility in Columbia or a child's natural setting such as, home, school, day care/preschool, etc. Services that will be offered include but are not limited to.... 1:1 ABA Therapy, Speech Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Verbal Behavior, Early Intervention, Toilet Training, Desensitization, Feeding Programs, Alternative Communication, Group Learning, Social Skills, Community Training, Behavior Intervention, Transition Planning, Functional Living, and Parent and Care-Giver Training.

UCP Heartland will be leasing a facility in downtown Columbia, approximately 3 miles from the current CDC operations. The lease has not been secured as this is being written, but we will communicate the address when it is finalized in the upcoming weeks. We are excited about the central location but also close enough to the CDC where synergies can be built between both facilities. UCP Heartland has plans to make small improvements to the space in order to accommodate the therapy services.

Our target date to begin this program and services is Summer 2021. We will certainly keep you updated on our progress over the next several months and are excited to expand our children's services in an area that will have the great impact.

If you have any questions or would like to learn more, please do not hesitate to reach out.

As always, thank you for your support of UCP Heartland and believing in the individuals we are honored to serve.

Sincerely,

Clint