



September 2021

Dear Friends of UCP Heartland,

I think I say this every year around this time, but “I can’t believe it is already mid-way through September and coming up on the end of year 2021.”

Direct Support Profession Recognition Week

September 12-18th is designated as Direct Support Recognition Week across the country. It was an opportunity for not only UCP Heartland, but our partner agencies, other providers, and our communities to say thank you and highlight the incredibly compassionate and dedicated work of DSP’s. The current public health crisis has exposed how critical the DSP role is in caring and supporting people who rely on us every day. If you know a Direct Support Professional or happen to connect with someone working in this field, it’s never too late to say THANK YOU! They are the heart and soul of our mission and everything we do to support people with developmental disabilities to be productive, independent, and included in our communities.



UCP Heartland Autism Services Grand Opening

On Thursday September 16th, the Columbia Chamber of Commerce, other partner agencies, and UCP Heartland celebrated the grand opening of our newest service and program space. We had approximately 50 community members attend the ribbon cutting and take a few minutes to spend some time with our amazing staff and tour the new Autism Therapy space, located at 25 South 4th Street Columbia, Missouri. If you are interested in learning more about our Autism Services, please watch this informational short video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HVkXbFzZI-I>

Or email us at autismservices@ucpheartland.org. Laura Barnes, Clinical Director, and her team are ready to serve and support through this awesome therapy service.



Virtual Wing Ding 2021

UCP Heartland is certainly keeping the annual Wing Ding alive during the public health crisis. After last year's 2020 Wing Ding had to pivot to a virtual setting, our goal was to get back to an in-person event in 2021. Unfortunately, with the continued rise in COVID-19 cases, we felt it was in the best interest of all parties to host another virtual event. No surprise, it again was a success. We were able to secure 11 fantastic judges and 7 participating restaurants (delicious wings by the way). \$24,000 was raised. A special thank you to our generous community partners.

HOW IT WORKS:
WING DING 2021

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**VISIT PARTICIPATING RESTAURANTS.
TASTE WINGS.
VOTE FOR YOUR FAVORITE.
DONATE TO SUPPORT PROGRAMS THAT
HELP PEOPLE WITH DEVELOPMENTAL
DISABILITIES.**

September 9th, 2021

WING DING!

UCP Heartland
St. Louis

Just as FUN. Just online.

Sponsors:
GFI Digital
Mutual of America
US Foods
NuMotion
Cass Information Systems, Inc.
PNC Bank
The Daniel and Henry Co.
Brown and Crouppen
Color Art

United Way Greater St. Louis

UCP Heartland is honored to be a United Way Greater St. Louis Safety Net Partner. We understand our responsibility and full of gratitude of their investment in our programs and services enhancing lives of people with developmental disabilities. The United Way of Greater St. Louis is in the early stages of the 2021 campaign, and it is vital for members of the community and our metro area businesses to invest in the incredible impact made through the 160 member agencies.

I am excited about our upcoming site visit with a group of United Way Greater St. Louis volunteers in late September. It allows both entities the opportunity to learn about accomplishments, challenges, areas of improvement, and how together, we are making a lasting impact on constituents. Thank you, United Way of Greater St. Louis, for this process and your commitment to the safety net partners.



**United Way
of Greater St. Louis**