



October 2022

Dear Friends of UCP Heartland,

I hope everyone is doing well and staying warm in the middle of October. As I am writing this, it is a bit chilly outside and there was a freeze warning this morning. I believe warmer temperatures and typical fall weather is coming back later this week, so no reason to panic. On a side note, like many of you, I thought this year was going to be a special post season run for the Cardinals, but unfortunately it did not work out and they had a disappointing early exit. On a positive note, the regular season certainly had some exciting moments with the farewell of 2 Cardinal greats, Yadi and Albert!!!

National Disability Employment Awareness Month

The month of October marks the 77th annual National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM). The purpose of this designation is to provide education about employment issues for people with disabilities and most importantly, celebrate the many contributions of workers with disabilities here in Missouri and across the country. When I think about UCP Heartland's Employment Resource team and the intentional process of getting to the outcome of WORK is inspiring. This is exactly why UCP Heartland's Employment program exists...people with disabilities aspire to work regardless of their challenges, but some need a little support to get them to this point.

I am proud of the UCP Heartland Employment group, the partnership they have with their clients, the business community and what they have accomplished together to make work dreams a reality for so many people. Last year the employment team supported 228 clients including a summer work experience program for youth. Over the past 2 years, the UCP Heartland Employment team has partnered with 119 businesses in the St. Louis and Central Missouri area who have hired people with disabilities that have come through the UCP Heartland Employment program. In that same period, our Employment team, in partnership with the individual supported, has placed 160 individuals in competitive jobs in the community with an average hourly wage of \$13.12/hour.



A key part of UCP Heartland's mission is we want people to thrive at WORK. Society, as a whole, has a lot of progress to make in this area, but those numbers above validate impact. Expanding this impact is my hope in the future and we have a great group of people to make this happen.

Finally, if you know a person who is living with a disability and has a desire to work but needs support, reach out to UCP Heartland. If you are, know of, or are acquainted with a business owner or hiring manager at a company and they are seeking a diverse and dependable workforce, don't hesitate to reach out to UCP Heartland so we can follow-up.

Gibbs Center for Independence Fall Classic

We are so grateful to the Jefferson City community and their incredible generosity to UCP Heartland's Gibbs Center for Independence and embracing people with disabilities. The inaugural Fall Classic, held at the Capital Bluff's Event Center, had over 300 people in attendance and raised over \$315,000. During the time I have been with UCP Heartland, one thing I have always admired is the organizations priority to look for ways to improve services and to expand our reach. Hallie, Karen, and the entire Gibbs Family have been instrumental in the advancement of services in Jefferson City over the years. We are so grateful for this support and cannot thank them enough for the role they played in making the Fall Classic such a success. The money raised at the event will be utilized to double the size of the Gibbs Center for Independence over the next few months! The space next to our current location is becoming available at the beginning of November and we have building improvement plans to expand our current space by over 6600 square feet. This additional space will allow us to double the number of clients we serve over the next couple years, while allowing us to expand Pre-Employment service to support individuals with disabilities aspiring to work competitively in the Jefferson City community and the surrounding area.



We are so excited about this expansion opportunity with the goal to make an even greater impact. Thank you to all the sponsors, attendees, and our outstanding planning committee members for making this an AWESOME evening for UCP Heartland, our staff, and the people we are honored to support every day.

UCP Heartland Autism Services-St. Louis

We are so excited about the opening of UCP Heartland's Autism Clinic in St. Louis City. We have been offering this service over the past year, but the opportunity to have a space dedicated for this program was much needed as we have grown. One of the unique aspects of our Autism Services is we are building equitable access to Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) Therapy for children throughout the St. Louis metro area. We are proud to be one of a few ABA therapy providers who accepts children and families who rely on Medicaid for their health insurance.

UCP Heartland's mission is to provide children and adults living with differing abilities extraordinary care and support they need to thrive in school, at home, at work, and in their community. We are so thrilled to bring our mission-centric ABA Therapy Clinic to the City of St. Louis where children of all diverse and socio-economic backgrounds can have timely, quality services in their community! I invite you to join us our at our Open House on Wednesday, October 26th. You are welcome to come visit us between 3:00pm until 6:00pm with the Ribbon Cutting at 4:30pm. Our brand-new Clinic is in the heart of Dogtown at 6325 Clayton Avenue.



As always, thank you for your continued support and do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Clint