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Greetings Friends of UCP-CDS:

It is my hope this letter finds you well. I am very honored to have been selected to serve as Executive Director of United Cerebral Palsy - Center for Disability Services (UCP-CDS). I am looking forward to reuniting with old friends and meeting new ones! I want to thank Pam Heavens for kindly serving as our Interim Executive Director over the past several months. Pam will continue working for us as our Community Access Advocate. We are so blessed to have Pam involved in our work.

As we enter the Season of Giving and the Season of Possibilities, your continued support of UCP-CDS is one of the many blessings for which we give thanks, especially during this time of year.

In light of the tremendous toll that COVID-19 has taken on all of our lives, I assure you that we have met, in fact, surpassed, CDC requirements to ensure the safety of our staff and those we serve. We adhere to regulations on social distancing, PPE equipment and wellness. The UCP-CDS team remains vigilant in stopping the spread of COVID-19 as we safely educate our students and adults with life learning skills. When re-opening our building is deemed to be safe, these protocols will continue.

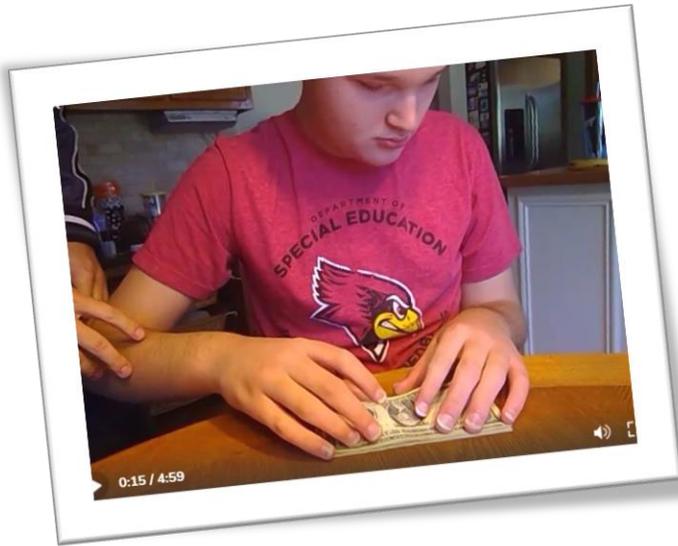
It is hard to believe we are celebrating 65 years of helping children and adults with developmental disabilities achieve their full potential. Although we had intended to commemorate this incredible milestone in person, COVID-19 forced us to delay the event to a later, undermined date.

*Nothing is **Impossible**; the word itself says I'm **possible!** – Audrey Hepburn*

"If the challenges of living with a disability weren't enough, COVID-19 has put yet another barrier between students and their education by forcing them to engage in e-learning technology. All students require their own touch screen I-pads or computers to continue with the curriculum and our existing technology is not compatible with their needs. Additional, more advanced equipment will allow us to provide each student with their own equipment so they too can have a similar experience as their typical peers." Joni Bolek-School Program Director

"Marty has been enrolled in our Community Day Services program since 2006. He comes to work eager and ready to take on each day. He enjoys practicing his writing skills, going on outings, and loves to earn his paycheck. Before the pandemic closed many schools and facilities, Marty was enrolled in our janitorial program, called "Germ Busters". Marty learned how to clean windows, sanitize tables and chairs, and clean classrooms and bathrooms. He took great pride in his work, enjoyed working with a team of fellow clients. He has stated that his job as a "Germ Buster" is very important to him." Cassie Farley-Adult Services Supervisor





Children and adults enrolled in our programs receive individualized services to accommodate their needs and disabilities. Students enrolled in the Melvin J. Larson School continue to receive services through e-learning. However, their assistive technology devices are either outdated or unsupported. Each student needs their own individualized equipment and curriculum to further their education and goals.

Effectively conducting E-Learning in our school and enhancing opportunities for adults enrolled in the Community Services Program will continue to be a challenge in the coming year, however it will not be **impossible**. Providing students with their own technology and supplies and expanding programs like “Germ Busters” will assist with the return of students and adults. These programs are **possible** because of supporters like you!

As we enter another season of thanksgiving and celebration, please consider making a donation that will bring joy and will truly create **possibilities** for students and adults, like Marty. A monthly gift of just \$25.00 will provide enough supplies to sanitize every classroom and community area. A monthly gift of \$50 will provide one child with an I-Pad, including upgraded programs to continue their studies.

Possibilities: What a powerful word! I ask that you support the programs offered UCP-CDS as we work together to harness compassion and togetherness during this time of great uncertainty. We are strong as a community and we are united with endless **possibilities!**

Thank you for making a difference in the lives of the children and adults that we proudly serve each year.

Please accept my best wishes for a bountiful Thanksgiving and blessed Holiday Season!

Sincerely grateful,

Michael D. Hennessy
Executive Director

