



Hello.

MI-UCP



Introducing MI-UCP.

MI-UCP

Let's close the disability divide.

Our Programs & Services

Person Centered Advocacy Program

The Representative Payee Program

Benefits Counseling

Work Incentive Planning & Assistance (WIPA)

Promoting Opportunity Demonstration (POD)

Assistive Technology and Employment

The Michigan Loan Funds

Ramps for Independence

QuickRamps for Kids

Bellows Fund

It's estimated that 1.4 million Michiganders live with a disability. As a group, they have been marginalized and ignored for far too long. Often being denied access to education, housing or employment, leaving many struggling with financial stability and independence.

All this has created a disability divide.

We are MI-UCP, formerly UCP/Detroit and UCP/ Michigan. With a 70-year history of service, we've joined together for one mission: ***"To enable all Michiganders with disabilities to live to the best of their abilities and ambitions."***

Sharing the stories of the people we serve will highlight and give you a better idea of how MI-UCP is closing the disability divide.



A portable wheelchair ramp is closing the disability divide for Elijah.



Elijah is a 17 year-old young man with cerebral palsy who depends on a wheelchair and his mom, Augusta, to get out into the world. After shoulder surgery, Augusta began having difficulty helping her son move through life. She contacted MI-UCP about the QuickRamps for Kids Program, filled out the application and soon had the ease of getting Elijah out for a walk in the neighborhood.

Augusta remarked, *"The ramp that we received from MI-UCP, it helped us to get him in and out of the house more safe."*

If a permanent wheelchair ramp is needed, MI-UCP offers the Ramps For Independence Program designed to improve the quality of life for people with disabilities, seniors and veterans by making their housing more accessible.





A touchscreen laptop is helping Nacier close the disability divide.

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Assistive Technology

Assistive technology includes any item, piece of equipment, or device that enables someone with a disability to increase their independence and improve their quality of life. The Michigan Loan Funds help people with disabilities purchase assistive technology with low-interest loans.

Nacier is a tall, lanky 16 year-old who has a love of sports and family. He also has a cognitive learning disability. His grandmother, Geraldine, was trying to figure out a way to help him. *"I met Kathy (from MI-UCP) and I was telling her about all the problems Nacier was having in school."*

A program from MI-UCP, called the **Bellows Fund**, provided Nacier (and Geraldine) with an assistive technology grant for a new touchscreen laptop, giving his schoolwork a major boost and his grandmother peace of mind.

Geraldine felt fortunate, *"I'm on a fixed income, so I couldn't afford it myself. I'm really thankful for that."*

Contact MI-UCP today about the impact **Assistive Technology** grants or loans and can make.



Wearable Therapy[®] is one way Jack keeps going after his dreams.

Diagnosed with cerebral palsy, Jack's right hand was mostly fisted from muscle spasms and weak from non-use. In just three months of using the BioSleeve from Axiobionics (a new MI-UCP partner), there was reduced atrophy in his right arm, Jack's hand is now opened and relaxed, and his arm usage increased from 25% to 50%. This has made it easier to tickle his mom, dad and brother.

His dad, Rob, says, *"Today he plays golf, plays baseball, soccer, he can drive a tractor..."* Colleen, his mom, adds, *"What I love about Jack is that he has the tenacity to keep trying."*

MI-UCP is an important resource for parents to connect and find solutions.





For John, closing the disability divide is all about bill-paying, budgeting, and being kind.



Understanding and advocating for her rights is what it took for Kristen.

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Financial & Employment Services

The Representative Payee Program provides people with disabilities budgeting and bill-paying services. WIPA (Work Incentives Planning & Assistance) is a project that helps Social Security Administration disability beneficiaries to better understand and use work incentives to start or return to work.

Although John has cerebral palsy and is legally blind, he loves to draw. *"I use the colored pencils better because they're thinner. It's not hard to use,"* John says.

While school was a very hard thing because of his lack of vision, he has been living on his own since the age of 18. John started having difficulty balancing his budget and simply paying bills. The Representative Payee Program at MI-UCP stepped in to help.

John is grateful. "Helping me pay my bills and everything. They've helped me out in that way and that is a big job... I could not do it because of just finances and being able to keep track of money."

"MI-UCP has just made my life very wonderful."

The MI-UCP Representative Payee Program is ready and willing to help today.

Person Centered Advocacy

This program provides parents with the knowledge and emotional support to advocate for the rights of their child. Our navigators provide all people with disabilities with referral services, specialized trainings and workshops.

Benefits Counseling

A program for people with disabilities who have questions about how they can either return to work or be employed.

Kristen was born with a form of muscular dystrophy called spinal muscular atrophy, or SMA. She did not let this stop her from attending school and joining the workforce. Due to her employment, she was concerned about losing Medicaid benefits, which she relies on for all of her home and community based care services. MI-UCP Benefits Counselors provided critical information about work incentives to ensure she would not lose medical benefits.

Kristen had this to say, *"Learning how to self advocate and that whole spirit of self-determination is something that has carried on with me ...If you're somebody that cares about closing the disability divide, then you should support MI-UCP."*

Learn more about what Benefits Counseling and Person Centered Advocacy can mean for you.





Please join us.

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Planned Giving

Support MI-UCP by leaving a lasting legacy through planned giving. You can identify MI-UCP (Michigan United Cerebral Palsy) in your will, trust, as an insurance beneficiary or through other gift plans.

Everything MI-UCP does, every day, is done to close the disability divide. From assistive technology to portable and permanent wheelchair ramps. Providing significant financial and employment services, parent training, innovative therapy, advocacy and being a trusted resource for critical information.

At MI-UCP, we believe everyone has the right to live to the best of their abilities and go as far as their ambitions will take them.

To learn more, you can contact our office at 248-557-5070 or visit mi-ucp.org

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