Hello.

MI-UCP
Introducing MI-UCP.

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.

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 touch screen laptop is helping Nacier close the disability divide.

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 touch screen 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.

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.

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.

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.

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