

A quarterly newsletter linking donors to causes in our community

## Agencies offer helping hand to those with special needs and their families

Showing a child how to feed himself. Teaching a young woman a job skill. Giving a parent a much-needed respite. Every day in Northeast Ohio, organizations provide critical services to children and adults with disabilities and their families.

In this year-end issue of Donor Connections, we take a closer look at five nonprofit agencies that help children and adults with special needs reach their fullest potential for the benefit of themselves, their families, and their communities: **Achievement Centers for Children, Deepwood Foundation, Hattie Larlham, HELP Foundation, and United Cerebral Palsy of Greater Cleveland.**

Strengthen

Support

Hope

Connect

Succeed

Trust

Believe

Build

Invest

### Hattie Larlham creates

### *opportunities* for kids, adults



Children at Hattie Larlham can explore the accessible outdoor sensory playground while developing their large-muscle skills.

**H**attie Larlham's mission began in 1961, when she opened the doors of her home to one small child.

In the half-century since the nurse decided to quit her hospital job to care for a neighbor's developmentally disabled baby, the nonprofit organization that carries Hattie Larlham's name has grown to serve more than 1,500 children and adults annually in Northeast Ohio.

"We have certainly taken Hattie's calling to heart, and will continue to fulfill her mission and vision," said Dennis Allen, chief executive officer of Hattie Larlham. "For 50 years, we have been committed to bringing comfort, joy, and achievement to people with developmental disabilities."

While the Center for Children with Disabilities in Mantua, Ohio, remains at the core of Hattie Larlham's service, the organization has evolved in recent years by creating social enterprise businesses

## United Cerebral Palsy *serves* wide range of needs

**U**nited Cerebral Palsy of Greater Cleveland does not believe in limits, for itself or the people it serves.

Take a look at the agency's name, and you'd think it helps only people with cerebral palsy. Think again. While it's true that UCP started as an organization exclusively for children with cerebral palsy, it has expanded its reach to include people of all ages with all types of disabilities.

"Our mission is to empower children and adults with all kinds of disabilities to advance their independence, productivity, and inclusion in the community," said Patricia Otter, president and chief executive officer of UCP of Greater Cleveland.

UCP serves more than 1,500 children and adults annually, from early intervention for infants and children's therapy to lifelong adult residential and vocational supports. Its focus extends even beyond people with disabilities. UCP believes in a holistic, family-centered care model.

"We take the view that the person will thrive if the entire family is thriving, so we help directly in as many ways as we can," said Otter.

Grants to UCP can make a difference in a variety of ways:

- \$50 provides support for community outings for adults participating in habilitation programming
- \$100 purchases therapeutic exercise equipment for children or adults
- \$1,000 provides one year of aquatic therapy for one child

For more information, call (216) 791-8363 or check out [www.ucpcleveland.org](http://www.ucpcleveland.org).



Children work with physical therapists at UCP to improve their gross motor and balance skills.

## Achievement Centers help people *grow* to fullest potential

**E**xpectant parents carry high expectations for their children, as they imagine who they'll become and what they'll accomplish. What happens, though, when a child is diagnosed with special needs?

"Sometimes the dreams we have for our children may have to be adjusted," said Patricia Nobili, CEO of the Achievement Centers for Children. "This can be painful for parents, but then also leads to appreciating the beauty and uniqueness of their child." That's when families often turn to ACC for help.

With locations in Highland Hills, Westlake, and Strongsville, ACC strives to enable and empower children with disabilities and their families to grow, learn, play, and prepare for lifelong achievement. Last year, the organization provided nearly 4,000 individuals with comprehensive services that include education, therapy, family support, autism services, recreation, and adapted sports.

"It's our job to make sure these children have the opportunities to be all they can be," Nobili said.

Grants can help the Achievement Centers for Children provide services for people with special needs and their families:

- \$610 gives a child, teen, or adult one week of residential camp at Camp Cheerful
- \$2,000 creates a monthly support group for parents for one year
- \$5,400 supports a child in the Intensive Physical Therapy Clinic, 5 days a week for three weeks

For more information, call 216-292-9700 or check out [www.achievementcenters.org](http://www.achievementcenters.org).



The second season of ACC's Adapted Football League, which is open to anyone age 7 or older with a disability, will kick off in spring 2012.

# Deepwood Foundation *enriches* quality of life

**A** printout of Sara H.'s medical history is almost as tall as she is. Page after page documents the challenges the toddler has faced in her short life: immature brain development, failure to thrive, pneumonia.

Luckily, Sara has a loving, supportive family and early intervention assistance from the Lake County Board of Developmental Disabilities to help meet many of her needs.

Some of what Sara needs, though, is not covered by insurance and governmental funding, and those costs quickly add up. So when Sara needed a prone stander to allow her to bear weight on her own two feet, the Deepwood Foundation was there to help her family pay for the equipment.

Deepwood Foundation, which is the charitable arm of the LCBDD, aims to meet funding and assistance needs for people with disabilities in Lake County.

"We bridge the gap between what people have and what they need," said Rikke Coach, Deepwood Foundation's executive director.

Created by parents, families, and professionals in 1996, the foundation serves up to 400 people a year and supports several programs providing camp and after-school scholarships, therapeutic and specialized equipment, health and safety items, emergency referral and assistance, advocacy, community education, and other



Whether it's providing adaptive equipment or sponsoring therapeutic horseback riding, Deepwood Foundation works to meet the needs of children and adults with disabilities.

support not available through LCBDD and other traditional funding sources.

A grant to Deepwood Foundation can accomplish the following:

- \$300 supplies winter clothes and boots for one person
- \$600 buys a communication device
- \$1,500 provides a gently used hospital bed

For more information, call 440-350-5208 or visit [www.deepwoodfoundation.org](http://www.deepwoodfoundation.org).

## continued from page 1... **Hattie Larlham creates opportunities**



Hattie Larlham employs 165 people with developmental disabilities in its social enterprise businesses that offer meaningful employment and vocational training in Cuyahoga and Summit counties.

that offer vocational training, with locations in Cleveland, Akron, and Hudson. These include Hattie's Café & Gifts, Hattie's Doggie Day Care & Boarding, Hattie's Vending, and Hattie's Garden.

Contributions can help Hattie Larlham purchase equipment to continue improving the lives of children and adults with disabilities:

- \$160 buys an oximeter probe for accurate and non-invasive oxygen monitoring
- \$530 buys a P.D. vest to provide quick compressions to clear respiratory passageways
- \$1,350 procures a Hoyer lift to safely move people with limited mobility

To find out more information, call 330-274-2272 or visit [www.hattielarlham.org](http://www.hattielarlham.org).

# HELP allows participants to *live* on their own terms

**E**veryone wants to live the best life possible, and having a developmental disability does not change that desire.

The HELP Foundation is dedicated to providing those with special needs the services necessary to live the way they choose.

“Our clients know that their lives are not going to be the same as most other people but they are determined to



HELP Six Chimneys, a 46-unit apartment building in the MidTown neighborhood of Cleveland, has assisted hundreds of people in their quest to live independently since it opened in 1983.

have the best life they can, and they work to achieve that,” explained Doug Knoop, HELP’s development director.

That’s where HELP comes in. As a leading provider of residential and support services for children and adults with developmental disabilities since 1965, HELP cares for more than 500 people in 26 locations in Cuyahoga, Lake, and Summit counties.

In addition to housing, HELP offers its clients an Adult Day Support Program that encourages participation, companionship, interaction, and social experiences. This year, HELP added an Adult Vocational Habilitation Program to its service, allowing participants the unique opportunity to mix vocational training with their day support activities at the same location in Euclid.

HELP’s outreach is not limited to adults. The foundation also provides a summer continuing education program customized to the needs of each child and young adult.

“The program is designed to help kids hold on to their educational skills over the summer,” Knoop said.

Grants can support HELP in the following ways:

- \$250 provides therapeutic sensory devices
- \$500 furnishes apartments
- \$750 pays for therapeutic art programming

Learn more by calling 216-432-4810 or visiting [www.helpfoundationinc.org](http://www.helpfoundationinc.org).

## How to recommend a grant to these and other organizations

Complete the grant recommendation form enclosed, or access your Advisor Xpress account through the Donor section of the foundation's website. For more information, please call or e-mail the Gift Planning and Donor Relations team.



The Cleveland Foundation  
1422 Euclid Avenue, Suite 1300 Cleveland, Ohio 44115  
Phone: 216-861-3810 or 877-554-5054 Fax: 216-861-6754  
Lake-Geauga Office: 440-354-3956  
E-mail: [giftplan@clevelandfdn.org](mailto:giftplan@clevelandfdn.org)  
[www.ClevelandFoundation.org](http://www.ClevelandFoundation.org)