



2024 ANNUAL REPORT

Together Towards Tomorrow

DEAR FRIENDS,

As we reflect on 2024, we are filled with excitement about what we have accomplished, and also have great anticipation for our 75th year and those that will follow. We realize that our success is built on the foundation laid by those who came before us, and at the same time we are deeply grateful for the dedication of those who continue to carry forward the tradition of providing innovative services.

UCP of Greater Cleveland is a dynamic group of people who have dedicated their lives to empowerment and the simple notion that everyone deserves the chance to be a part of the community. The individuals and families we work for showcase their ability, determination, and resolve each day during therapy, in school, at work, or through meaningful activities and outings. Our employees bring diverse expertise to the table, yet each individual shares the same passion as they go about their work with pride and true commitment. Our Board of Directors remains steadfast in their dedication to a world of inclusion and ensuring this Agency will stand the test of time. We move forward with the support of our donors, our partners, our volunteers, and our advocates.

Throughout this report, you will read about the impact of our services, not just through the numbers, but through stories of real people right here in Northeast Ohio. You will learn about the work we are doing outside of the walls of UCP, as we strengthen partnerships and focus on collaboration. You will see how we are diversifying our services, our revenue, our team to promote both immediate and lasting change. And we do this all keeping our core values at the forefront.

As we look ahead, we will continue to pursue our mission. Our strategic plan is a living document that evolves with time. We consistently look for ways to more effectively and efficiently provide

services and to be both proactive and responsive. Our current and future progress is only possible with the support of everyone who is a part of Team UCP. Thank you for your part in making this year and all the previous years meaningful and prosperous. We look forward to working towards tomorrow together.

All the best,

Beth A. Lucas
President & CEO



Our Mission:

TO EMPOWER CHILDREN AND ADULTS WITH DISABILITIES TO ADVANCE THEIR INDEPENDENCE, PRODUCTIVITY, AND INCLUSION IN THE COMMUNITY.



Center of Excellence for Children

LeafBridge Programs are based on a philosophy of early intervention and holistic, family-focused care. Licensed physical therapists, occupational therapists, speech-language pathologists, educators, and social service professionals work with family members to design programs that enhance physical, mental, and emotional development. LeafBridge offers Skilled Therapy Services, Educational Services, Camp Programs, and Case Management for children up to 22 years of age with a variety of developmental delays and disabilities.



Center of Excellence for Adults

OakLeaf Services is dedicated to ensuring that adults with disabilities are able to live the highest quality, most productive life possible while achieving maximum independence in the community. The Agency's approach of person-centered planning recognizes that every person served is unique and has individual skills, needs, and preferences. We work directly with each individual and their family or support team to engage them in appropriate programming. OakLeaf Services offers two facets of programming for adults: Community Employment and Community Inclusion.

Our Core Values:

- INCLUSION
- COLLABORATION
- COMPASSION
- INTEGRITY
- EXCELLENCE
- PERSON-CENTERED

Moving Together Towards Tomorrow:

STRATEGIC PLAN PROGRESS UPDATE

In 2024, UCP of Greater Cleveland celebrated 25 years in our Wolstein Center location in University Circle. When the building first opened in 1999, we were the first provider in Ohio to offer services to both children and adults with disabilities at one site, delivering continuity of care and creating a true community.

Now, we continue to lead the way in empowering children and adults with disabilities through comprehensive programs and innovative services. 2024 marked the first full year of implementing our current Strategic Plan. Working together, our team made significant progress in each of our four objectives:

1 DIVERSIFYING
PROGRAMS & REVENUE

2 CULTIVATING
TALENT

3 MODERNIZING
AGENCY

4 FORGING & FORTIFYING
RELATIONSHIPS

[FLIP PAGE TO LEARN MORE →](#)



1 DIVERSIFYING PROGRAMS & REVENUE

Our Strategic Plan prioritizes purposefully growing our programs to fill unmet needs for individuals with disabilities and, at the same time, exploring other funding sources to enhance financial stability.

In 2024, UCP expanded our program offerings while also developing new funding sources:

- LeafBridge Therapy obtained funding from the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council to expand our innovative Club chAT program, which is not funded by insurance or government sources. Philanthropic support is critical to help us grow the program and make it accessible to more families.
- OakLeaf Partners opened a Project LIFE site in Oberlin in collaboration with Lorain Joint Vocational School (JVS). This comprehensive, multi-year transition program helps students who need significant support develop, practice, and strengthen skills that lead to successful integrated employment. This program is sustained through a new funding stream for UCP.



2 CULTIVATING TALENT

Our team members are undeniably one of our greatest assets. Investing in this vital resource is key to ensure UCP's continued growth and success.

In 2024, we prioritized comprehensive training, robust mentoring, and the development of meaningful relationships across program areas and at all levels:

- Leadership and management teams engaged in training sessions focused on innovative leadership techniques and effective team dynamics.
- OakLeaf program staff completed Crisis Prevention Training, equipping them to deescalate sensitive situations through proven strategies.
- Team members in our LeafBridge Alternative Education program participated in monthly training sessions on a variety of topics, including enhancing their skills using augmented communication tools.
- Team members from every program established an Employee Engagement Committee to foster the collaborative spirit that defines our community. The committee held an agency-wide cookout as a "thank you" for the hard work of all our team members.



3 MODERNIZING AGENCY

Technology and the world as we know it continues to change at a rapid pace. To ensure long-term success, UCP strives to remain on the cutting-edge in our field.

In 2024, we made many updates in our programs, facilities, and approaches, which shape the work we do:

- OakLeaf Adult Day Services implemented a new curriculum, Step Up to Social Connection, which focuses on a different topic each week. Small groups watch videos on the topic, discuss together, and end the unit with a community outing to practice what they learned. Oftentimes, groups use our new Promethean smart board to facilitate discussions, enabling people of all abilities to participate.
- We began a "refresh" of our large-group space in OakLeaf Adult Day Services, now known as the Community Life Engagement area, or C.L.E. Thanks to the support of generous donors, we began updating the C.L.E. to provide it with a fresh and modern feel.
- In response to the increasing need, LeafBridge's Assistive Technology Mobility Clinic now has a dedicated room. This space houses the latest equipment needed to help individuals access the world around them through computer access, mobility, tools for reading/writing/speaking, ergonomic supports, and organizational tools, to name a few. Having a dedicated room will help to improve overall assessments, trials, and ordering and/or building specific devices for our clients.



4 FORGING & FORTIFYING RELATIONSHIPS

Community partners are vital to the success of our programs and empowering those we serve.

Relationships began and grew in 2024, offering valuable opportunities for everyone involved:

- LeafBridge partnered with Connecting for Kids to offer parent support groups for families of children with complex needs, creating a safe environment for open discussions about challenges and successes.
- With funding from UCP National and research support from Case Western Reserve University, a group of LeafBridge therapists began an initiative focused on educating physicians and families of young children on early warning signs to increase early detection and treatment of cerebral palsy, leading to better life-long outcomes.
- We connected with local schools to create volunteer opportunities for students. Enthusiastic students from St Martin de Porres did crafts and other fun activities with OakLeaf Adult Day Support participants. Hawken engineering program students embraced the challenge of developing innovative ways to make toys more accessible so people of all abilities can play with family and friends.



MEET EVE



Eve and her family joined the UCP community in 2015 through LeafBridge’s outpatient therapy services. She has since participated in both our intensive and traditional occupational, physical, and speech therapies. In 2021, Eve began to attend the Alternative Education program (Alt Ed) where her education and therapeutic goals were customized to align with her strengths. When she first began at Alt Ed, Eve’s communication was very limited, and she struggled to express her needs and wants. The adults in her life tried their best to interpret her body language, but she appeared to become discouraged when she didn’t feel understood.

In spring of 2024, LeafBridge helped Eve obtain her own augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) device, accessed with eye gaze technology. Eve quickly caught on and she now freely expresses her needs and wants. She is an eager participant in school activities and comments often to demonstrate her engagement and understanding. Eve now connects with her peers and adults to a greater degree than ever before.

Our Alt Ed program includes periods of time where students of various ages can interact with each other. During this time, Eve has become a mentor to our younger students. In social groups and specials classes, she models communication, engagement, and active learning for peers. She often reaches out to hold the hand of a student seated beside her, showing her big heart and care for her fellow students. Her excitement about learning and connecting with others is contagious, and she has become a leader in our Alt Ed community!

LEAFBRIDGE HIGHLIGHTS

- Reached 998 children and young adults with disabilities and their families through therapy and educational services.
- Served 27 students in our Alternative Education (Alt Ed) program and 81 students through Camp LeafBridge and Extended School Year Services. Two students graduated and transitioned successfully!
- Grew our Assistive Technology (AT) program by expanding Club chAT, which enables children to use AT to interact with peers and have fun, as well as by receiving a grant from the Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation for AT equipment that facilitates inter-classroom activities in Alt Ed, such as our Art, STEM, Adaptive Play, and Media specials.



MEET ARCHIE

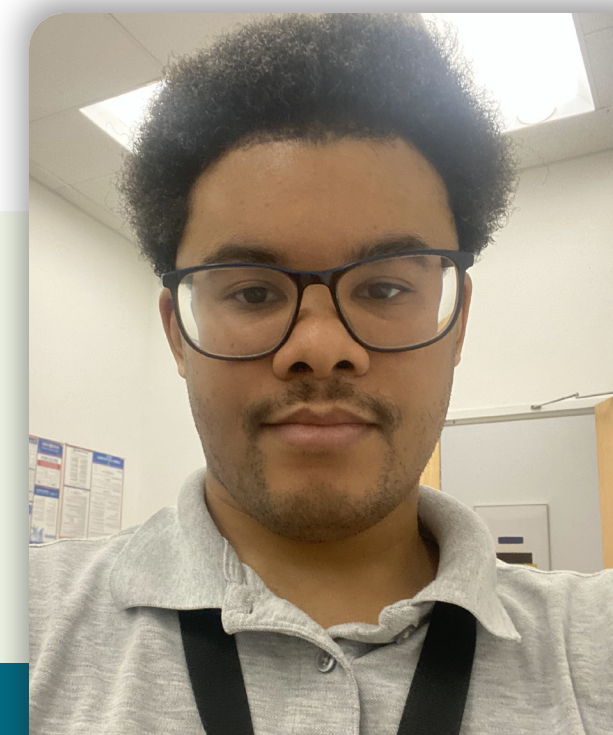
Archie is a young man with a bright future and big goals! We first met Archie in 2013 when he participated in our Interface program, which focused on increasing participants’ computer knowledge. He then joined OakLeaf Partners’ Group Employment program at the Cleveland Clinic Administrative Campus, where he worked for several years. During his time there, he grew his professional skills as he took on various tasks such as entering information into a database, completing mailings, and creating new hire orientation packets, all while improving his soft skills and communication.

Ready to take the next step in his career, in 2021 Archie began Career Exploration with OakLeaf Partners and started working in the mailroom at the Cleveland Clinic. In this position, he further developed his skills, delivering inter-office mail and navigating throughout the many buildings on the campus. Archie excelled in this role, and his supervisor saw him as a great asset to the team.

In April 2024, a mailroom position opened at Exela Technologies, located within the Cleveland Clinic in Independence, and Archie was encouraged to apply. He was hired and, with the assistance of a job coach from OakLeaf Partners, familiarized himself with the new environment and began to establish natural support systems. Archie enjoys his work at Exela and is well respected among his coworkers. OakLeaf support services check in occasionally and are proud to see what a valuable addition he is to the Exela team!

OAKLEAF HIGHLIGHTS

- Reached 428 adults with disabilities throughout Northeast Ohio. Placed 43 individuals in new employment opportunities throughout the community, earning total wages of \$808,000.
- Received funding for additional professional development for Employment Services staff from the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities’ Employment Quality Readiness Project.
- Received donations of materials and time from the Rocky River Home Depot to spruce up the garden beds at our Memphis House, beautifying the outdoor space.





2024 COMMUNITY HIGHLIGHTS

- 2024 marked the 25th anniversary of moving into our Wolstein Center building in University Circle. When it opened in 1999, we were the first provider in Ohio to serve children and adults with disabilities in the same location. This comprehensive and community-centered approach to our services continues to this day.
- Our 38th Annual Tee Up for UCP Golf Outing was our best yet! Held at the beautiful Canterbury Golf Club, this year's event had perfect weather and raised a record-breaking amount - over \$160,000.
- We held our 10th Annual Gala, Puttin' on the Ritz, at the Crawford Auto-Aviation Museum, back where the event was first held in 2015. Guests perused the exhibits while enjoying gourmet fare and taking a ride on the Euclid Beach Carousel! And all for a great cause! The event raised nearly \$180,000 to benefit our programs and services.
- Lindsey Buckingham from WKYC Channel 3 visited us to tell the story of Tyrone Peacock, an artist, podcaster, husband, and friend who participates in our Adult Day Program. She interviewed Tyrone and his wife, Annmarie, about their experiences, goals, dreams, and more.



2024 SUPPORTERS HIGHLIGHTS

- Local community members raised much-needed funding to support our programs by holding some fantastic events. The Nedly Open Golf Outing raised over \$20,000, Ben's Patio Party raised over \$16,000, and the Team Tyler Golf Outing raised over \$7,000!
- The Ohio Elks Association continued to support us, donating over \$50,000 from local lodges!
- Board Member Ryan Sowers selected UCP to benefit from his annual Santa Sowers campaign. He raised nearly \$23,000 to provide holiday gifts to the people we support and to benefit our programs. Santa Sowers came to our Wolstein Center, bringing holiday gifts and cheer to the children and adults there! News 5 Cleveland WEWS highlighted his efforts this year.

2024 STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

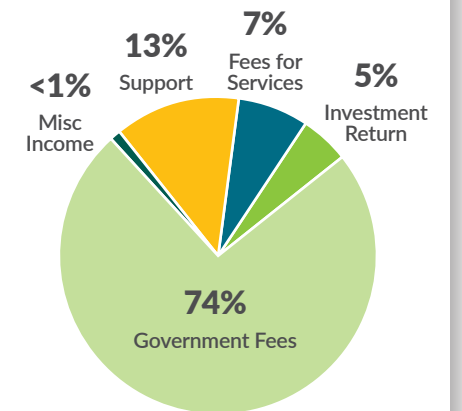
United Cerebral Palsy Association of Greater Cleveland, Inc.

SUPPORT AND REVENUES	2024 TOTALS
Support	
Event Revenue, Net	\$267,517
Grants	\$351,289
United Way Services	\$17,909
Contributions	\$1,117,634
Total Support	\$1,754,349
Revenues	
Government Fees	\$10,220,145
Fees for Services	\$998,332
Miscellaneous Income	\$49,010
Total Revenues	\$11,267,487
Investment return designated for operations	\$752,234
Total Support and Revenues	\$13,774,070

EXPENSES	
Children's Services	\$5,821,916
Adult Services	\$3,697,004
Group Homes	\$2,767,114
Fundraising	\$384,240
Management and General	\$1,090,066
Total Expenses	\$13,760,340
Investment income	\$156,130
Realized and unrealized gains on investments	\$441,584
Investment return designated for operations	\$(752,234)
Change in net assets from non-operating activity	\$(154,520)

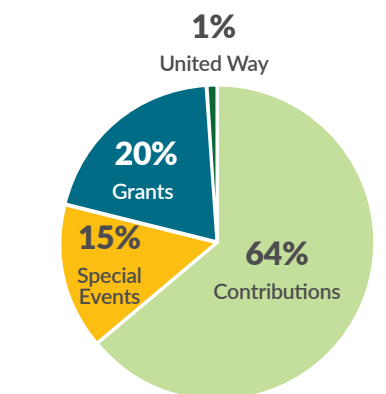
The financial information presented is taken from the 12/31/2024 financial statements and was unaudited at the time of printing.

2024 Support & Revenues



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2024 Support



Special Events	\$267,517
Grants	\$351,289
United Way	\$17,909
Contributions	\$1,117,634
Total Support	\$1,754,349

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