



September 4, 2024

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Hello Friends of UCP:

I am writing today to share an update on the status of the annual UCP Holiday Gift wrap event at the Capital City Mall. We recognize that volunteering time at the gift wrap booth has become a tradition for many individuals and families - whether as volunteers, donors, or both. **We appreciate the time that so many volunteers have given over the busy holiday season - and the countless dedicated donors who bring their gifts, often from outside the mall, to be wrapped at UCP's holiday gift wrap booth.**

However, after careful evaluation and discussion, we determined that the current challenges surpass the benefits of operating the gift wrap booth. These challenges include some stark realities:

- Supply costs have gone up by as much as 100%
- Volunteer cancellations have steadily been on the rise for several years, but more troubling has been the increase in no-shows (volunteers not showing up nor providing notice) particularly in the last year
- Operation of the booth is time intensive from December 1-December 24, and we are in a staffing transition at the current time
- Booth coverage is required from mall opening to close, including the extended holiday hours

Therefore, **we have notified the Capital City Mall that we will not be operating the gift wrap booth in December 2024.** The decision to continue the event in future years will be made after a more extensive evaluation has been completed.

Although we realize that news of this decision will be disappointing for many, we hope you will consider some of the other opportunities for continued involvement with UCP. **There are variety of options available to match the time and talents of any volunteer.**

#### **Board Committee Volunteer**

- Community Relations & Development
- Program & Services Committee
- Human Resources Committee
- Operations & Finance Committee

#### **Special Event Committee Volunteer**

- UCP Magic Night, (black-tie dinner/dance)
- UCP Schmidt/Kramer Golf Tournament

### **Program/Administration Volunteer**

- Community Participation Supports (weekdays)
- Family Support Services (evenings or weekends)
  - Bowling activities
  - Fall festival (October)
  - Craft night (December)
- Maintenance Volunteer: Residential Homes and Administrative Sites
  - Spring clean-up
  - Fall clean-up
  - Deep cleaning
  - Painting
  - Assisting Maintenance staff
- Administrative Volunteer
  - Manual survey entry
  - Mailing preparation
- Marketing Volunteer
  - Photography
  - Videography
  - Graphic Design
- Participant/Staff Activity Volunteer
  - Fall festival (October)
  - Winterfest (December)
  - Holiday Party (December)

If you are interested in exploring any of the volunteer opportunities further, please reach out to Jennifer Taylor at [jennifer.taylor@ucpcentralpa.org](mailto:jennifer.taylor@ucpcentralpa.org)

**Additionally, if you can support us financially, watch for news about our 2024 Holiday Wish List.** The scope of the items is broad... and so is the price range, with ideas from across UCP's service lines. You can have an impact, meet a need, and make a wish come true... simply by purchasing an item from our dedicated wish list. Stay tuned for more information at [www.ucpwishlist.com](http://www.ucpwishlist.com).

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to me at [janeen.latin@ucpcentralpa.org](mailto:janeen.latin@ucpcentralpa.org) or 717-737-3477. Thank you for your understanding.

Sincerely,



Janeen Latin  
President/CEO