



Utah Parent Center Annual Report 2022

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Letter from our Executive Director

Dear Friends,

Happy New Year! 2022 was certainly a busy and productive year here at the Utah Parent Center. In some ways the year brought with it a sense of post pandemic calming of the waters so to speak. We served more families in 2022 than the Utah Parent Center has in any other year. Our staff continue to provide critical support and services to families throughout our beautiful state and our partnerships are growing and strengthening.

Internally, we continue to make progress on our five year strategic plan goals. We have improved operational processes, solidified a hybrid work model, strengthened our financial position, and expanded our programs and teams.

As we plow ahead into 2023, we will reflect on our successes from 2022 and continue to move the bar forward to ensure that we are a valuable and helpful resource for families impacted by disability and special healthcare needs across Utah.



Mission

The mission of the Utah Parent Center (UPC or Center) is to help parents help their children, youth and young adults with all disabilities to live included, productive lives as members of the community.

We accomplish our mission by providing accurate information, empathetic peer support, valuable training and effective advocacy based on the concept of parents helping parents.*

*The term parent is broadly defined to include anyone serving in that role.



Our Leadership Team

Executive Director- Joey Hanna

Associate Director- Esperanza Reyes

Fiscal Manager- Sherrie Wignall

Development Team- Jessie Dennerline, Marieka Creek

Executive Assistant- Cassandra Shaw-Myers

Governing Board of Directors

The UPC is governed by a parent-majority Board of Directors that includes parents whose children have an array of disabilities and represent a range of ages. Board membership also includes:

- Individuals with disabilities
- Special education professionals
- Representatives from agencies and organizations that provide service and support to people with disabilities, including state-level
- Representatives from urban and rural communities
- Various other professionals

Driven by their personal as well as their professional commitments to the statewide mission of the UPC, our Board of Directors guides and oversees the operations of the Center and has planned strategically to enhance the programs and services of the Center.

Board leadership has been instrumental in helping the UPC transition into new leadership, author a strategic plan, and maintain and build meaningful community relationships.



Governing Board of Directors 2022-2023

George Squires, MA, Chairperson
Northwestern Financial, Wealth Advisor, Retired

Eric Stoker, Chairperson Elect
Utah Developmental Disabilities Council, Information Specialist, Self Advocate

Jean Boyack, MBA, JD, Treasurer
Utah State Division of Services for Aging and Adult Services, Program Administrator II, Legal Services Developer

Matthew Wappett, PhD, Secretary
Institute for Disability Research, Policy and Practice at Utah State University, Executive Director, Parent

Cagney Smullin, MPA, Past Chairperson,
University of Utah College of Social Work, Administrative Manager

Amberly Dattilo, JD, Board Member
Disability Law Center, Attorney, Parent

Brady Murray, CFP, ChSNC, Board Member
Capstone Partners of Utah, Managing Partner, Parent

Efren Corado Garcia, Board Member
Salt Lake County Mayor's Office, Diversity and Inclusion Officer

Jessica Lamb, M.Ed, Board Member
Utah State Board of Education, Dispute Resolution and At-Risk Specialist, Parent

Kathryn Jenkins, Board Member
Entrepreneur, Parent

Joey Hanna, Ex-Officio (non-voting) Member
UPC Executive Director, Parent

Note: UPC Board composition must maintain a majority of parents of children, youth, and young adults with disabilities.



A special thank you to outgoing board members for their time and dedication to families impacted by disability across the state of Utah.

Allyson White
Candice Greenwald
Max Roth
Patsy Milligan
David Nixon

Community Partnerships

The UPC is able to reach families across the entire state because of our extensive network of community partners. Some of our key partnerships include: USBE, Department of Health and Human Services, as well as Utah school districts and charter schools across the state.

Additionally, the UPC has an Advisory Board that consults with the Development Team, as well as a Youth Advisory Board. The Youth Advisory Board consists of a diverse group of youth, ages 14-22, who provide feedback on the UPC's Transition University program. Transition University helps teens impacted by disabilities prepare for adulthood. The board also provides feedback on other related programs designed to serve their population and gives youth self-advocacy experience.



Advisory Board 2022-2023

Neil Mahoney - Founder, ABW Wealth Advisors

Sean McCarty - Portfolio Manager, Zions Bank

Mark Richards - President, Wasatch Recovery

Rachel Mitchell - Board Secretary
Occupational therapist, Parent

Kyle Hepworth - Partner, Tanner LLC

Jonathan Groberg - Partner,
Northwestern Mutual

Mark Durrant - Partner, Dorsey &
Whitney, LLP

Brooke Barragan - Owner, Brookey
Bakes, Parent

UPC Programs

The Utah Parent Center is the main resource and training Center for all disability related information across the state. Our four main focus areas are: **educational needs**, **healthcare needs** (both mental and physical), **transition services** and **community access**. Below are a few of our programs that support these areas.

PARENT TRAINING AND INFORMATION RESOURCES

The Parent Training and Information (PTI) project is the “heart” of the UPC and has been continuously funded since 1983 by a grant from the US Dept. of Education. The goal of the project is to provide accurate and objective training, consultations, information and peer support to parents and youth with disabilities in Utah. It spans all of IDEA (from Early Intervention through Post-High Transition Services, 0-26 years of age) and all topics within it. Includes a network of support through Regional and National Technical Assistance Centers within the Parent Center network.

UTAH FAMILY VOICES

UFV provides statewide assistance to families of children and youth with special healthcare needs as they navigate and access health care and family support services. Resources include information about the Affordable Care Act, benefits of Medical Home, emotional and peer support, customized training, newsletters and fact sheets.

TRANSITION UNIVERSITY

A comprehensive curriculum for helping families learn in-depth information about the transition to adulthood for youth and young adults with disabilities. Transition University takes a holistic approach and discusses topics that span all aspects of life for the youth.

Education and Training



Healthcare Needs



Transition Services



Community Access



UPC Programs

AUTISM ACROSS THE LIFESPAN

This new autism website consists of resources, information, and tools for each stage of a child's development . We've included videos, developmental monitoring, support, tips, special education resources and therapeutic interventions for families. [Click here](#) to visit the site.

EARLY HEARING DETECTION AND PREVENTION (EHD)

The goal of this project is to provide accurate and objective training, consultations, information and peer support to parents of children who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing between the ages of 0-3 about system navigation, including health care and Early Intervention. child.

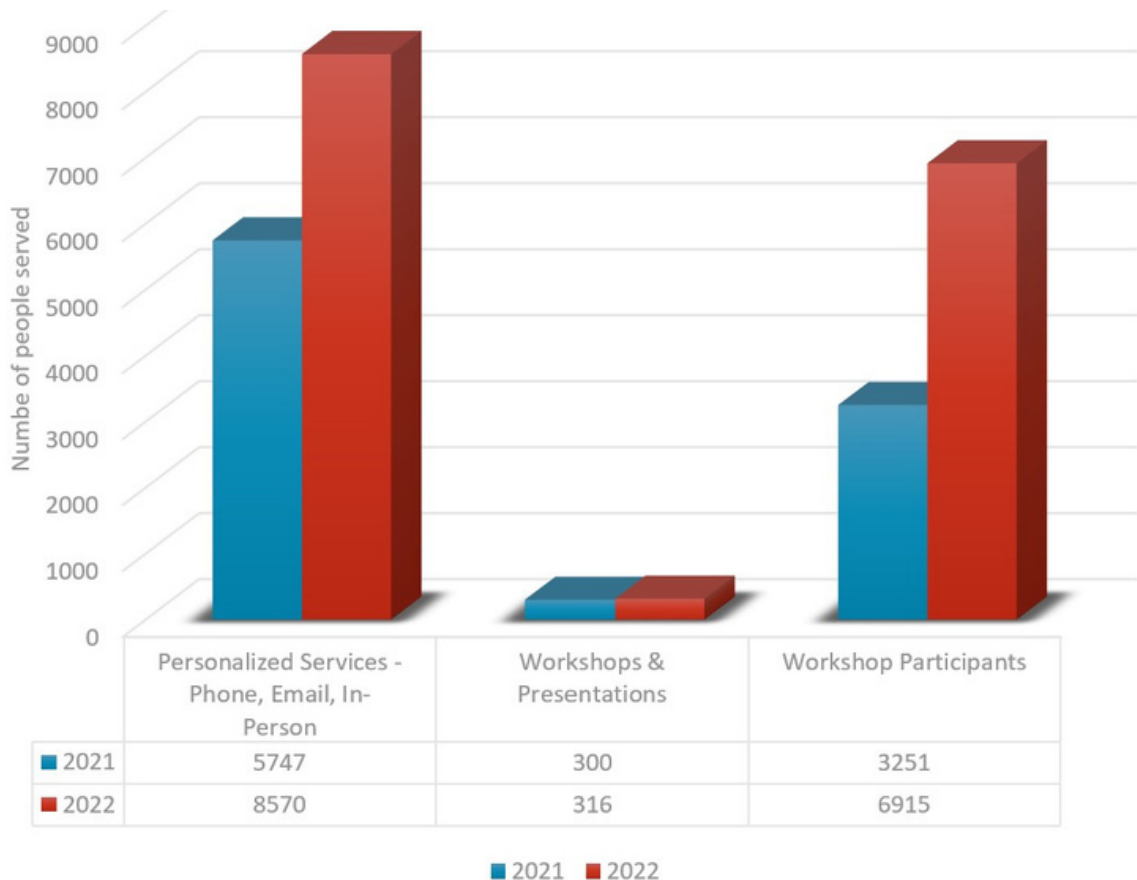
FAMILY TO FAMILY NETWORK

The Family to Family Network is a statewide parent support network run by volunteers. It is designed to educate, strengthen, and support families of persons with disabilities, especially those who are on the waiting list or are in services with the Division of Services for People with Disabilities (DSPD). Network leaders are parents of individuals with special needs and link families to local resources, services, and disability friendly events.



2022 Program Outcomes

- The UPC serves families statewide.
- The UPC provided direct personalized services to **8,570** individuals by phone, in person, or through email.
- Thanks to our staff's expertise, **85%** of personalized services were completed in 30 minutes or less.



- UPC projects provided in-person and virtual training at 316 workshops and presentations to **6,915** participants.
- Workshop Evaluations averaged **4.7** out of 5 for meeting families' needs, providing quality information, and relevant services.
- **24%** of the families served had Limited English Proficiency, including Spanish-speaking only, had low incomes or lived in rural areas of Utah.
- Supported parents in **491** school and other meetings, including IEP and Section 504 meetings.
- Website Views: **337,018.**

Achievements and Goals

At the UPC we are guided by a five year strategic plan that allows us to create measurable goals, monitor our outcomes and track our growth. Many of our goals are ongoing, but the plan is revisited in a leadership and board meeting each year. Below are some of our key focus areas.

Impact

Goal: Ensure services meet the needs of the parents and individuals who we serve. Inventory, prioritize and evaluate current services to ensure maximum impact.

Measured by: Parent surveys both within our organization and from our partners.

Engagement

Goal: Attract & engage key constituencies to further the reach of the UPC.

Measured by: New strategic partnerships tracked and monitored each year.

Sustainability

Goal: Ensure that the UPC has the resources needed to achieve its goals.

Measured by: Yearly financial audits done by an outside company and reviewed by our governing board.

Building Blocks

Goal: Build the infrastructure and systems that allow the UPC to operate effectively and efficiently.

Measured by: Internal and external audits and employee surveys.





Rachel's Story

We are the Glad family. As a family we have focused on volunteer work and giving back to our community. We are passionate about groups that have helped our family over the years. Nathan, now 16 years old, was born with a rare bone condition called Osteogenesis Imperfecta. This condition has opened our eyes to the needs for inclusion of those that have disabilities. Nathan has become quite the spokesperson for these organizations. While Nathan is cognitively-abled, his body is not. His physical limitations may be great, but his love for life, and desire to share happiness and goodness are far greater. In our journey we have needed assistance and the Utah Parent Center was there for us. Over 10 years ago, we started the education journey and started working with schools to put in place accommodations and services for Nathan to succeed in the general education classroom. This was confusing and overwhelming. I was connected to the UPC, attended a few of their workshops, and learned all we could to support Nathan. The information presented by those that understand living differently was invaluable. We are so grateful to those that put the time in to help make sense of all there is to learn when caring for someone with a disability. I'm Rachel, Nathan's mom, and I am very excited to be more closely involved at the UPC, and hopes to help other families feel as supported as our family did starting off 10 years ago.



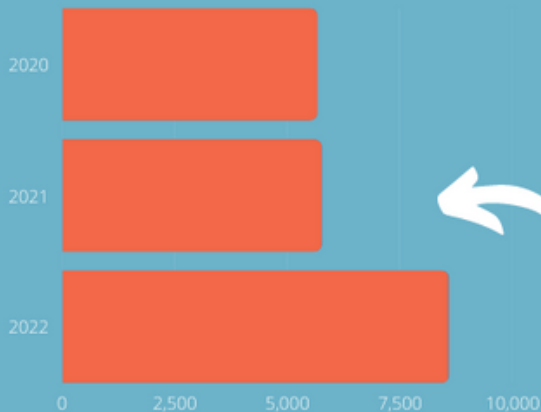
Looking Forward

In Utah, 1 in 5 people have a disability and the need for support grows each year. We currently have 12 unique Parent Consultants that are serving 19 different LEAs (7 charters and 12 school districts), including the recently added rural districts of Cache County, Iron County and Logan City. Our goal is to continue this growth so that we can serve more families, but we can not do it without the help of our community.

Our goals going into the new year are to **1) grow our community partnerships, 2) expand our reach into more school districts, and 3) reach more rural and non-English speaking families throughout Utah.** All of these tasks take time, advertising dollars and womanpower. The Center currently has 42 employees, all of whom are parents of children with disabilities and many who work part-time. Although our staff is very talented and passionate, we all have limitations due to our children's needs as well.

Each one of our programs needs more staff and more resources in order to grow. This is why we are searching for new partnerships and looking to foster the ones we already have both within the disability community and the community as a whole.

1 in 5 people in Utah have a disability



The Utah Parent Center
provides Direct Personalized
Services to a growing
number of people each year.

How You Can Help

You can be a champion for a child with a disability by becoming a monthly donor or by helping us set your company up on an employee giving program. You can also support us by sharing our information with those who need it and those who are passionate about our cause.

Sign up to become a monthly donor and receive an awesome inclusion hoodie. [Click here](#) or scan the QR code to support our important work today!

SCAN ME



Thank You

We thank the anonymous and named donors who have shared their resources in the form of in-kind and monetary donations with the Utah Parent Center throughout 2021 and 2022. With their generosity, Utah’s families, our families, have a more hopeful and prepared path before them on the road to diagnosis, advocacy, resources, community, and inclusion for individuals with special healthcare needs and disabilities.



Donors

ABS KIDS
ABW Wealth
Autism Council of Utah
Autism Friendly Homes
Autism Learning Partners
Bank of America
Blind Mule
Boostability
COSTCO
Dattilo Family
Deseret Management Corporation
Dominion Energy Charitable Foundation
GIV.CARE
Edwards Lifesciences
Facebook Data Center Grant
Fidelity Charitable
Health Choice Utah
JLL

Kennecott Charitable Foundation
Larry H. Miller Charities
Lifetime Products and the Mower Family
Max Connect Marketing
Miller Family Foundation
Northwestern Mutual
Premier FMS
Recovery Everything
Ross, Inc.
Smedley Financial
Sorenson Legacy Foundation
Special Abilities Network
Summit Vista
Tanner LLC
US Cold Storage
Verkada
Williamson Family Foundation
Zions Bank
Institute for Disability Research Policy & Practice