



UNITED ANGELS FOUNDATION

2023 ANNUAL REPORT



United Angels Foundation supports parents and families of individuals with special needs by delivering high quality parent education, increasing access to resources and supporting advocates and self advocates through community programs.

As the Executive Director of United Angels Foundation, I am afforded the unique privilege of reflecting upon our shared journey each year, and it is with great appreciation that I extend this letter to you. It is because of you – our dedicated sponsors, our diligent board members, our invaluable community partners and, most importantly, the families we serve, that our mission transcends mere aspirations and takes form in the vibrant tapestry of programs, services and events that create the beautiful community and network of support for those we serve.

Our mission and vision is to support families through every challenge and celebration, at every juncture of life's journey. Commencing with the genesis of understanding a diagnosis, transitioning through educational environments, and leading into the vistas of adulthood and beyond, our aim is to provide enriching programs and services to support both the individual with special needs as well as the entire family. Our core philosophy is that the best way to support a child with special needs is by supporting their parents and caregivers. Through fostering a community of empathy and solidarity, we elevate the potential for everyone, regardless of ability, to lead a life replete with health, fulfillment, and productive contributions to the communities we are a part of.

The efforts and achievements of our work are a testament to the generosity of numerous individuals. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who has supported UAF, whether through financial donations, the donation of your time, or the sharing of resources. Your contributions are deeply appreciated!

Looking to the future, we see the prospect of continued growth, of exploring innovative ways to unite families, of nurturing a community that thrives on camaraderie, and of enhancing the lives of individuals with special needs.

Together, we are not just a Foundation; we are a beacon of hope, a harbinger of change, and a testament to the power of collective action. Thank you for your steadfast support and for being a part of our journey.

With much gratitude and sincere appreciation,

Sylvia Lam
Executive Director
United Angels Foundation

Membership Growth

2023 brought over 175 new member families to the United Angels Foundation community! In addition to connecting through newborn visits, resource fairs, social media and word of mouth, a generous grant from BLIP Billboards allowed us to spread awareness through digital billboards across the Wasatch front.

A significant grant from The Adobe Employee Community Fund provided funding to enhance our general programs and services to support the expansion of our membership.

Total Member Families

2,071

Solutions for Success



Utah's Premier Conference for the Special Needs Community: Solutions for Success featured local experts and self advocates at the beautiful doTERRA campus in Pleasant

Grove. This year's conference focused on **"Strengthening Relationships and Creating Unity in our Communities"**. We offered three tracks including a new educator track for teachers and professionals that awarded continuing education units.

Conference Attendees

102



Birth/Diagnosis & Early Childhood Programs: 150+ Participants

Our newborn and new diagnosis visits connect parents who are new to the special needs community with other families that have a child with the same or similar diagnosis. Thanks to a grant from Intermountain Community Care Foundation, these visits provide a safe place to connect, ask questions and bond over shared experiences.

In 2023, **we introduced the engaging PIWI Playgroup, which is grounded in the principles of The Pyramid Model—a nationally recognized program emphasizing the social and emotional development of children.** Parents and caregivers receive valuable education and resources while enjoying special moments with their children and getting to know UAF families.

We continued our partnership with BYU's Museum of Art to offer a special Van Gogh to Playdough class for UAF families. This parent-child class helps prepare children for school through experiences like story time, sensory play, music and, of course, art!

Community Programming & Events: 2,300+ Families Participated

Our community gatherings are the hearth where families converge, creating connections through the sharing of resources, swapping insights, and the simple, yet profound, exchange of a knowing smile. The strength found in our collective spirit is something we deeply understand and cherish.

In 2023, our event calendar grew significantly as we introduced a variety of fresh experiences. This expansion featured the jubilant **Spring Carnival**, the **UAF Summer Camp** thanks to a generous grant from the City of Lindon, and the informative **Summer Resource Fair** in partnership with Ability 1st Utah.

Parent Lunches	101
Classic Skate	221
Spring Carnival	134
Summer Resource Fair	67
UAF Summer Camp	165
Summer Park Days & Member Meet Ups	332
Freedom at the Pool	369
Hee Haws Family Fall Festival	283
Halloween Carnival	202
Holiday Party	478
Virtual Bingo Parties	40

Educational Seminars: Virtual Webinars & In-Person Workshops

We had over 300 families attended our 2023 workshops and 1700+ views on our resource library YouTube channel (@UnitedAngelsFoundation). Our monthly educational seminars help parents and caregivers access important information to help them better support their children. We work with local experts to help bring awareness to resources close to home and also feature nationally recognized speakers in the field of special needs. Our YouTube channel continues to provide a video resource library to families both here in Utah and across the country.

Beyond providing educational seminars, UAF maintains a collaborative relationship with the **Legislative Coalition for People with Disabilities (LCPD)** and the **Rare Disease Advisory Council (RDAC)** to ensure that both staff and our member families are up-to-date on policy developments and forthcoming legislation that could impact the families we support. This partnership also facilitates a direct link to the policymakers instrumental in forming those policies.



We All Belong



WE ALL BELONG

During the 2022 legislative session, We All Belong board members engaged with lawmakers to convey our perspectives and push for enhancements to the Utah State Board of Education (USBE) policies and procedures. We also had the privilege to contribute our insights and assist in planning USBE's inclusion conference, addressing both educators and parents.

In a further effort to empower families, We All Belong conducted a webinar for UAF families focusing on the participation of Special Education (SPED) parents in the PTA. Meanwhile, **the educator track of the Solutions for Success conference saw 43 attendees who earned Continuing Education Units (CEUs),** equipping them with valuable knowledge to disseminate within their respective schools and classrooms.

Our annual rally not only marked a milestone of success **raising over \$3000 for future programming,** but also culminated in being **honored by ABA Inc. at their Disability Resource Fair.**

14TH Annual Walk With Angels



The annual Walk With Angels event unites the broader and special needs community in solidarity and celebration. This year, **Margaret Wines Park in Lehi was filled**

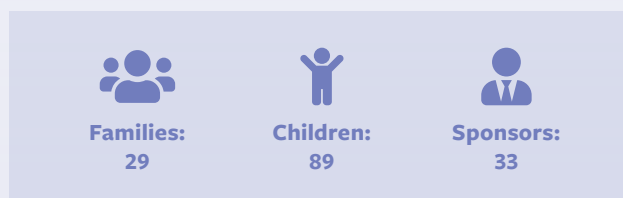
with the energy of over 1000 attendees and volunteers, all gathered to pay tribute to and raise awareness for our friends and family members with special needs. As a fundraiser, the event plays a critical role in ensuring that we can continue to offer our programs and services at no cost or at a subsidized rate for the families we support.



Sub4Santa



The UAF Sub4Santa initiative extends beyond simply gifting toys over the winter holiday season. It provides comprehensive support to families requiring assistance. We connect families with both short and long term services like utility programs, waivers, food pantries and medical treatment options in addition to offering vital essentials like clothing, school necessities, personal care items, therapeutic resources, and gas and grocery gift cards. This program grants families the chance to settle medical costs, cover household expenses, and regain their footing towards self-reliance. This year **we witnessed a heartwarming full circle moment as two families who had once benefited from our program stepped forward as sponsors.** Their generosity in **'paying it forward'** beautifully illustrates the substantial impact that timely assistance can have, not only for the families that receive it but for the community as a whole.



Transition to Adulthood: Teen Night & Young Adult Meet Up: 330+ Attendees



These acclaimed programs are designed to foster social and life skills within a nurturing setting, aiding participants in achieving self-reliance and forging true friendships. This year, **over 330 families engaged in a range of enriching activities**, from workshops enhancing conversational abilities to art classes, as well as various community excursions to the theater, bowling and more.

In-Person Activities	248
Virtual Meetups	83

Transition to Adulthood Parent Consultations: 75+ Families Served



Our dedicated Transition Specialist provides parents 1:1 support through the pivotal shift into adulthood for their children. Providing assistance with applications for SSI, Medicaid, and DSPD, and exploring avenues for guardianship, higher education, and career opportunities, we empower adults with special needs to lead lives of productivity and fulfillment, ensuring they are integral contributors to their communities.

In 2023, Transition to Adulthood Programs and Services received a grant from the Sorenson Legacy Foundation.

iPads4Angels



The iPads4Angels initiative **successfully distributed 86 iPads across 22 special education classrooms** throughout Utah.

These devices, provided at no cost to the teachers, are an invaluable technological tool that aids in enhancing students' academic achievements as well as their communication and behavioral skills.

Place iPads: 86	Classrooms: 22	Students: 300+

Sharetix



Sharetix offers UAF families the opportunity to enjoy a diverse array of cultural events without charge, including ballet, symphony, theater, and more. This program **enables parents and caregivers to arrange a restful evening out or involve the entire family, enriching their children with invaluable cultural exposure.**

Tickets: 734	Events: 34	In-Kind Value: \$30,019