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Contact: Ron Napal
Phone: 917-364-3243
rnapal@ucpnyc.org

Contact: Christine Restani
Phone: 631-232-0011, Ext. 457
crestani@ucp-suffolk.org

East Hampton is Backdrop to United Cerebral Palsy Artists Exhibit

East Hampton, August 2008 – The East Hampton home of philanthropists Mrs. Georgia and Dr. Gerald Curatola served as backdrop for “Celebrating the Creative Spirit,” a reception, exhibit, and silent auction of original pieces of art created by adult artists with disabilities, who attend day programs at United Cerebral Palsy of Suffolk and United Cerebral Palsy New York City. In all, 26 works were on display, selling for a combined total of almost \$10,000. Several artists were on hand to discuss their techniques and how they have personally benefited from the creative arts programs at UCP.

The arts, a vital component to UCP’s day programs, provide an opportunity for participants to explore a variety of media. Many artists begin with little or no previous exposure. The UCP art programs foster and nurture the creative process, enabling each artist to develop hidden talents and open a world of self-discovery and expression. Each artist is compensated for the work sold at auction. Any additional funds raised directly support these exceptional art programs.

“We are grateful to Dr. and Mrs. Curatola for opening their East Hampton home as a venue for our artists to share an impressive body of original work with the East End community. It’s terrific to see the pride of our participants as they mingle with guests and are recognized for their creative achievements,” said Stephen Friedman, Executive Director/CEO of UCP Suffolk.

“Edward R, Matthews, CEO of UCP/NYC, added: Forty years ago, many of the adults who now paint in the UCP/NYC art programs lived in institutions where they languished because of their physical and communication challenges. Today they are active, participating members of our community and have discovered that their artistic expression transcends disability and stereotypes, and places them on a common ground where they can celebrate, and be celebrated for, their unique abilities.”

Additional paintings and drawings by these, and other UCP artists are available for purchase. Please contact UCP Suffolk @ 631-232-0015 or UCP NYC @ 212-683-6700.

About United Cerebral Palsy

UCP Suffolk, based in Hauppauge, NY, annually assists almost 4,000 children and adults with a range of disabilities and their families. Services include but are not limited to, job training and placement, physical therapy, individual and family support, as well as early intervention, preschool, school age, adult day and residential programs for children and adults. UCP also operates a comprehensive fully accessible Health Center. Of the program participants, 35% have cerebral palsy, while 65% have other developmental and acquired disabilities. For more information, visit www.ucp-suffolk.org.

For more than 60 years, UCP/NYC has been a powerful resource for people with disabilities and their families, and currently serves 13,000 individuals in 75 programs. Its mission is to provide the highest quality services in health care, education, employment, housing, and technology resources that support people with cerebral palsy and related disabilities in leading independent and productive lives. Further information about UCP/NYC can be found at www.ucpnyc.org.

United Cerebral Palsy of New York City
80 Maiden Lane, 8th Floor
New York, NY 10038
Ph. 212-683-6700
www.ucpnyc.org

United Cerebral Palsy of Suffolk
250 Marcus Blvd.
Hauppauge, NY 11788
Ph. 631-232-0011
www.ucp-suffolk.org