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UNITED CEREBRAL PALSY ASSOCIATION OF SUFFOLK RECEIVES QUALITY OF LIFE GRANT FROM CHRISTOPHER & DANA REEVE FOUNDATION

Hauppauge, NY – March 2009... Each year the Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation awards grants to non-profit organizations that provide services to individuals living with paralysis. This year the Foundation is proud to announce United Cerebral Palsy Association of Suffolk as one of the 145 recipients, receiving \$15,235 in aid.

The funds will be used by UCP to underwrite the purchase of adaptive medical equipment for its comprehensive, fully accessible Health Center in Central Islip. The items to be funded include a Barrier Free Exam Table, a Universal Power Procedure Table and an accessible Optometry Chair.

“On behalf of the Health Center staff and Long Islanders with disabilities, I thank the Reeve Foundation for funding equipment in our fully accessible Health Center and enabling us to promote life without limits for people with disabilities,” said UCP President/CEO Stephen Friedman.

“Conceived by the late Dana Reeve, the Quality of Life grants have helped non-profits throughout the world improve the lives of people living with paralysis,” said Peter T. Wilderotter, president and CEO of the Reeve Foundation. “The program also provides assistance for family members and caregivers, offering services such as counseling, support groups and educational conferences.”

The Quality of Life grants are awarded in 3 categories; Actively Achieving, Bridging Barriers and Caring and Coping. Each category is designed to promote active and fulfilling lives for those living with spinal cord injuries and other paralysis causing conditions. Individuals are encouraged to participate in sports, train for a job, operate specially-adapted computer technology, modify homes for wheelchair accessibility, access public transportation, participate in the arts, proactively maintain their health, and much more.

Since its inception in 1999, the Foundation has awarded more than 1,500 grants, totaling nearly \$12 million. Grants funded through a cooperative agreement with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have also been awarded. Recipients of these include non-profits that address the needs of people living with paralysis caused by spinal cord and other injuries, diseases and birth conditions, including (but not limited to) stroke, spina bifida, multiple sclerosis, cerebral palsy and amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS).

“Ten years have passed since Dana Reeve created the Quality of Life program,” said Wilderotter, “It is our hope that, in the years to come, we can continue to support programs that enable children and adults living with and affected by paralysis and their families the full range of activities that many of us take for granted.”

About the Reeve Foundation

The Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation is dedicated to curing spinal cord injury by funding innovative research, and improving the quality of life for people living with paralysis through grants, information and advocacy. For more information, and to review the entire list of Quality of Life grant recipients, please visit our website at www.ChristopherReeve.org or call 800-225-0292.

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