

April 8, 2009

Creator of MOVE Visits The Children's Center at United Cerebral Palsy Association of Suffolk, Inc.



Hauppauge, NY -- The Children's Center at United Cerebral Palsy Association of Suffolk, Inc. recently welcomed Linda Bidabe, founder and creator of the Mobility Opportunities Via Education® (M.O.V.E.) program. MOVE was founded on the belief that the ability to move is the first foundation stone in building personal dignity.

Bidabe spent the day at the Commack school visiting classrooms and students. She demonstrated various positions and uses for specifically designed MOVE equipment. Teachers and staff benefited from a problem solving sessions with Bidabe where she also demonstrated the best uses for adaptive equipment such as gait trainers, regular tables, regular classroom chairs, adapted chairs, mobile standers and forward leaning walkers. She explained how the prompts could be reduced over time eventually minimizing dependence on special equipment.

In October 1997, The Children's Center at UCP Suffolk implemented the M.O.V.E. curriculum and program into its Education Program. In March 1999, The Children's Center was named the 2nd M.O.V.E. Charter Model Site in the world, which helped launch a concentrated focus of function and purpose of movement in the day-to-day activities of each student at the Center.

The MOVE Curriculum for Children was developed in the 1980's by Bidabe, a special education teacher, to respond to a growing concern that students with severe, and multiple disabilities attending public schools were not learning critical mobility skills needed to benefit fully from their educational programs. In fact, many of these students were graduating from school at age 21 with fewer skills than when they entered school at age 3 due to the secondary complications from their motor impairments. Since its inception, the MOVE Curriculum has expanded into two programs (The MOVE Curriculum for Children and the MOVE for Adults Program). Currently, the MOVE Program serves all age groups from birth to death, is used in more than 25 countries and has been translated into 13 languages.

For information on programs offered at the UCP Suffolk Children's Center including the MOVE program visit www.thechildrenscenter-ucp.org, or call Marianne Derbyshire at 631-543-2338.

UCP Suffolk is based in Hauppauge, NY., providing programs and services for more than 4,000 children and adults with a wide variety of disabilities annually, sixty five percent of whom have a disability other than cerebral palsy. The Children's Center offers early intervention, preschool and school age educational programs. Programs for adults include adult day services, job training and placement and residential opportunities. UCP also operates a comprehensive, fully accessible Health Center. For information, visit www.ucp-suffolk.org or call 631-232-0011.

UCP Suffolk

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