



# *j*ourneys

The official newsletter of United Disabilities Services Foundation

## Getting Down with DJ Dillon

*Dillon makes no excuses. He works hard, dreams big, and inspires others.*

**Dillon Strouse** is full of life and always seems to be laughing. Dillon was diagnosed with Cerebral Palsy when he was a baby and has never let his condition damper his spirits or his outlook on life. In fact, in many ways, his challenges have inspired him to greater things.

At the age of 21, Dillon decided he wanted to work, support himself, and just be a “normal guy” and not be defined as the “guy in the wheelchair.” He made his dream of starting his own business a reality by launching his own DJ and party planning business, Strouse Entertainment. He is also a motivational speaker. The success of his business has allowed him to hire and oversee a part-time staff of nine and he recently purchased two homes, intending to branch out into real estate.



**Your generous donations keep  
Dillon spinning the music!**



Dillon's independence is enhanced through his individualized wheelchair from UDS Custom Wheelchair Seating where he has been a client since his childhood. As he grew up and transitioned from wheelchair to wheelchair, UDS staff members were there to assist him at every turn. According to Dillon, “UDS Custom Wheelchair has been there with me through the years. Being in a wheelchair full time puts tremendous pressure on my body. Dave and Scott have created the most comfortable seating possible for me throughout my life.”

Your donations have allowed Dillon to chase his dreams and grow into the man he always knew he could become.

***Won't you please consider a donation to UDS Foundation today so that folks just like Dillon have the opportunity to live fulfilling lives and chase their dreams, too?***

Dillon has one more very big dream; he wants to marry and have children - just like many others. He is working towards his goal of financial independence so he can make this dream come true as well.

Your support is vital to UDS and important to Dillon, he urges, “Please make your gift to UDS Fountain today. Your gift today can help my dreams come true and for so many others just like me who have big dreams!”

**Your donation today will help Dillon and others like him!**

Donate today safely on our website: [www.udservices.org](http://www.udservices.org)

# Message from the CEO



Dear Friends of UDSF,

About a year ago, UDSF moved into our new campus at 2270 Erin Court. We consolidated multiple rental locations into our newly purchased home. We felt that this would allow us to grow and expand the scope of our services. We also felt this environment would be a great place to work and would help us to recruit and retain talented and caring employees.

*An ultimate goal was to create a great customer experience and exceptional customer care.*

I appreciate the opportunity to update you with our progress. UDSF has seen excellent growth of 5.2% in the last 6 months and expanded our number of PA counties currently served to 50. We look to be statewide in all 67 counties in 2020. Our care management caseload has grown by several hundred new clients. Our CWS and Mobility and Rehab programs are serving 8-10 additional clients per month. Our Home Modifications program has grown over 10% as well and is the springboard for launching a new UDSF entity.

To sustain our growth and expansion we have added 27 new employees at Erin Court. We also won a National Award for our Quality of Care and received our three year national quality assurance accreditation which signifies that our organization is well managed and has met a high standard of quality of care. We are well on our way in moving forward with our goals.

**Thanks to you, we are enhancing abilities and changing lives for the more than 5,000 individuals with disabilities that we serve.**

Blessings to you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "William J. Kepner". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Bill Kepner

*If you haven't seen our new home, please contact us to schedule a time to visit for a tour. Our deepest appreciation goes to those of you who have pledged or contributed to our Building Independence Capital Campaign for our new home. You have left a wonderful legacy for continuing services to those we serve in our community.*



View of Lobby from the main entrance of the Erin Court location.

***PS: We are trying something new by using this electronic method to send our newsletter instead of mailing it. Please let us know if this works for you.***

# Meet Michael and His Service Dog Lux

## LUX OPENS A WHOLE NEW WORLD FOR MICHAEL AND HIS FAMILY



Lux is a graduate of the UDS Service Dog program. He received extensive training and official certification and his specific talents and abilities are geared toward assisting his person, Michael.

Michael was a non-verbal boy with Autism and began participation in the program two years ago after his family had tried special schools and other treatment methods.

**Lux's presence in Michael's life has impacted him – and his entire family – in profound ways.** Based on a behavior assessment of milestones, Michael's development went from that of an 18-month-old to that of a four-year-old, thanks to Lux.

Michael's parents, Janice and Kerry, shared the following with UDS:

***"Having Lux made Michael connect to his world, which made all of his therapy sessions more effective - creating positive, unpredicted gains in his ability to function in all areas of life."***

Michael no longer wanders off and has learned to focus. As Lux learns commands step-by-step, Michael begins to process, One, Two, Three directions and concepts. When Michael is upset, he asks Lux to lie down with him – which calms him. Amazingly, Michael now talks, makes direct eye contact, responds to his name, and communicates his wants or needs and lets us know if he is hurt. Michael wears shoes now and keeps clothes on, even a life jacket."

***None of this would be possible without the support of folks like you. The UDS Service Dog Program is supported 100% by donations from the community. You can make a difference in the lives of kids like Michael by donating today!***

Janice continued: ***"The family's quality of life has improved tremendously. We can do so many more things together as a family like going to the mall, eating in the food court, attending swim meets, concerts, picnics and other family outings with our other kids with Michael fully participating."***

**Your donation today will help us train more dogs like Lux!  
Donate today safely on our website: [www.udservices.org](http://www.udservices.org)**

**Thank you for your support!**

SAVE THE DATE



# Celebrate A Starlit Night

UDS Foundation Annual Fundraising Gala

Friday, May 17, 2019

Fireside Tavern, Strasburg, PA

## **Celebrate an evening with the stars!**

This year we will kick off our Annual Gala by rolling out the red carpet.  
Please join us for a great evening of fun and excitement!

**Festivities will begin with Silent Auction viewing at 5:30pm**

**Dinner, Live Auction, and Program follows at 7:00pm**

**Fireside Tavern**

**1500 Historic Dr. Strasburg, PA 17579**

*Let's reach beyond the stars to top last year's record-breaking totals  
in support of UDSF's services for people with disabilities.*

**Watch for your Save the Date post card in the mail this  
week and the formal invitations in the mail in March!**

# Challenger Football becomes a Family Affair



Katie and Kyle Pope

*I love football and this gave me a place to play.*

—Kyle, Challenger player

UDS believes that every child has the right to enjoy the fun of playing sports. Challenger Football and cheer-leading is unique to Lancaster County and includes young players and cheerleaders with developmental, cognitive, and/or physical disabilities for a season of non-contact (though action-packed!) football

UDS is fortunate to have the wonderful participation of so many players, cheerleaders, family members, and volunteers.

*For one player, Kyle, his time with Challenger turned into a family affair when his sister, Katie, was not content sitting on the sidelines. After working with Coach Randy, she became a volunteer referee.*

**The UDS Challenger Football and Cheerleading program provides the opportunity for young people with various disabilities to participate in a team sport – sometimes for the very first time in their lives!**

Kyle and Katie's mother, Renee, is thankful for this program that provides so many benefits to youth with disabilities. She said that since playing football with Challenger, Kyle has become more social and more aware of others' feelings and he has become more confident and built new friendships.

Katie appreciates the opportunity to volunteer with Challenger which she describes as "accepting and loving" and as referee she enjoys getting to meet everyone and "help make their experience better."

***Your support for UDS enables UDS to offer Challenger and other programs for individuals with disabilities. When you donate to UDS... Everybody scores, and everybody wins!***

*Challenger Football League games are held on Saturdays, beginning in August running through October. Held at Calvary Church, 1051 Landis Valley Road, Lancaster, PA 17601. Doors open at 9:30am, games start at 10:00am. Interested in learning more? Contact Jenn King: [jenniferk@udservices.org](mailto:jenniferk@udservices.org)*



*I help with Challenger because I love seeing special needs individuals smile and enjoy themselves.*

—Katie, Challenger volunteer

**Donate today safely on our website: [www.udservices.org](http://www.udservices.org)**

# UPCOMING EVENTS



## Lunch and Tour the New Building :

**Date:** Tuesday March 26, 2019

**Time:** 12:00pm

**Where:** UDS Headquarters — 2270 Erin Court, Lancaster, PA 17601

*You are invited as our guests to a lunch and tour of our new building at Erin Court .Contact Larry Aubrey to reserve your spot now. 717-715-8763*



## Service Dog Bingo :

**Date:** Sunday April 14th, 2019

**Time:** Doors open at 12:00pm, Game starts 1:30pm

**Where:** Farm and Home Center –1383 Arcadia Rd, Lancaster, PA 17601

## Annual Fundraising Gala:

### *“Celebrate A Starlit Night”*

**Date:** Friday May 17th, 2019

**Time:** 5:30pm

**Where:** Fireside Tavern – 1500 Historic Drive Strasburg, PA

*To purchase tickets call Larry Aubrey at 717-715-8763*



## Cause for Paws

**What:** 5K Walk, Run, or Wheelchair Roll

**Date:** Saturday June 8th, 2019

**Time:** 8:00am

**Where:** HACC Lancaster –1641 Old Philadelphia Pike, Lancaster PA

**Register here:** <https://www.udservices.org/event/paws-for-the-cause-5k-runwalkwheelchair-roll/>



# You Can Make A difference today by donating to UDS Foundation



As the holidays end and this new year is upon us, we continue to celebrate the generosity of our donors – like you – throughout the year.

**One way our donors contribute is through the gift of a vehicle.** You can donate an old car, truck, SUV, even a plane! to UDS Foundation. **A single vehicle donation makes a substantial impact by helping people with disabilities in your community.**

It's easy! Just visit our website at [www.udservices.org](http://www.udservices.org) and click on **Give to UDSF**.

Our partners at CARS will pick up your vehicle and handle everything from there. Once the car is sold the proceeds go directly to UDS.

*If you are ready to donate a vehicle:*

*You may call 855-500-7433 or*

*submit the online donation form at*

*<https://www.udservices.org/give/donate-your-car/>*

***I want to help people with disabilities  
Live fuller lives!***



Here's my gift of \$25 \_\_\_ \$50 \_\_\_ \$100 \_\_\_ Other \_\_\_

\_\_\_ This is a one-time gift.

Check (made payable to UDSF) enclosed:

Or: Charge my credit card \_\_\_

Or: Call me about my monthly giving. \_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Sec # \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

***Thank you!*** Please mail to:

Larry Aubrey, UDS Foundation,

2270 Erin Court Lancaster PA 17601

***\*Contributions to UDSF are deductible as the law allows.\*\****

**Or Donate online! <https://www.udservices.org/>**