

**I stay at UCP because....** When I started at UCP and learned the culture and the people we are serving, I realized how difficult the life could be for some people to do something by themselves. Then I learned that my stepdaughter has some disabilities, my heart was overwhelmed, and I wanted to learn how I can help her and to how to help others who are going through the same steps as me. I started doing some other volunteer work and became a parent advocate for my daughter. Seeing their crisis, their struggling, their smiles, my heart started loving the people I serve to and the people I work with. We create a view and an enjoyable environment where participants and employees can become a friend or a family as we are. When I was working with FMS, my time was 50% participant and 50% office work. I went out to the participants home to sign them up into our programs and fill out the contracts as the same as their employees because they were participant employer's model. After that I made sure that we have our schedule ready, payroll and billing in accordance with their ISP or budget approvals. I enjoyed those time a lot, meeting with them, listening to their stories and looking a way to help them to be more independent.

Now, I am full time working in the office, I miss the time when I was with the participant seeing their faces and their smiles. I was feeling lonely, stressed without that energy that makes me to go to work. But we found a way to compensate this with the initiative of our leadership. We create an environment full of joy and fun. We have time where we need to show our team spirit for a week, where we can dress up as our favorite sport, the 80's time dress code, our favorite heroes, our hometown dress (culture), pajamas day, etc. We celebrate our happy birthday in a fun, creative and scary way that we enjoy a lot. We do create a fun decoration/competition for Christmas to show to our participants how the places it looks like. This is one of my most important times where I like to see their impressive faces, their reactions, and their love on what they see in these times. Where we take them to visit places that we know they will be unable to visit and enjoy the way they enjoy with us.

And last, my favorite fundraising event of the company, Magic Night, this event is my favorite event that I look for it every year. This is the day that I enjoy the most. Where I can help my company with my time to shine, to show one of my talent as a model. Not only that to meet other people with different expectation, views, and ideas to improve what we love most, our participants. I wish that I can inject my energy and my charisma to those that are around me. The love that only one that gives me to extended to all human being made by God. And therefore, I still at UCP, the love that God's give me to give to others.

**My advice for new staff...** Start with an open mind, love what you enjoy most. Help those who can't help themselves and give the love that God will provide you and you will see how your life will shine no matter if your circumstances start to crumble.



**Carmen Colon**  
Accountant II, Billing

*Celebrating 15 years*

