

I stay at UCP because.... it's really quite simple - I am a believer in ALL that we do! While the words in our mission and vision statements may have changed over the years, the intent and the meaning have remained steadfast. I have participated in many meetings, planning retreats, events and celebrations over the years and whether its our individuals and families, my coworkers, our leadership, board or committee members, or community volunteers, it's a consistent feeling of comradery and "all in" effort as we each do our part to assure UCP sets the standard as a quality provider, employer and community organization.

Having served in both the Community Relations & Development and Human Resources departments, I have always appreciated teamwork, innovation, and communication as part of our everyday work. The development of our "UCP Culture at Work" initiative reinforced what makes this a place where I want to spend a big chunk of my week, not where I just have to. I love working with people, and I love helping people even more.

I am so thankful I made the decision 30 years ago this July to accept my very first job offer as a Special Events Coordinator, and for all of the opportunities making that decision has provided me not only professionally, but also personally. I have made lasting friendships, have worked with some tremendous individuals (some not once but twice!), and have gained so much knowledge and experience during my time here. I got married, raised my children, became a grandmother (the week I am writing this) and watched others do the same, alongside those amazing friends and coworkers. UCP is part of my Family.

My advice for new staff.... Put forth your best effort always, do your best to assume the best of intentions of others, make time for yourself, participate, ask questions (no question is silly and if you have it chances are so do others), visit programs, and keep handy a copy of the mission, vision, and core principles to use as your guide! Always remember, you get out of this what you put into it, and you absolutely reap what you sow.

A quote by the late basketball legend John Wooden that I try to live by is, "Be true to yourself, help others, make each day your masterpiece, make friendships a fine art, drink deeply from good books - especially the Bible, build a shelter against a rainy day, give thanks for your blessings and pray for guidance every day." John Wooden.



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Celebrating 30 years

