

PROGRESS

A PUBLICATION OF UNIFIED COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

CONNECTING
PEOPLE WITH
DISABILITIES
TO LIFE'S
POSSIBILITIES

FALL 2019

HOODSTOCK SWEET SIXTEEN RAISES \$93,000

On October 19, more than 350 guests decked out in tie-dye and blue jeans attended Hoodstock Sweet 16, a family friendly charity music festival at the American Visionary Art Museum in Baltimore. Event headliner Roses n Rust entertained the crowd with music featuring classics from the 1960s and '70s with a splash of contemporary. Other bands who performed included N-CHAT African Drum Band, Gumbboot, and The Wafflers. Dinner, beer, wine, raffles and a silent auction added to the fun.

Hoodstock began in 2004 as a neighborhood event in the backyard of former Unified board member Russ Causey and wife Jennifer's home in Federal Hill and has since grown into a major fundraiser for Unified. This year's event raised a record-breaking \$93,000 in support of the programs and services that Unified offers to people with disabilities. From its inception, Hoodstock has raised more than \$725,000. Russ was presented with a sign for his studio that said Hoodstock Studio to thank him for spearheading this event for the past 16 years.

President and CEO Diane Coughlin thanked everyone for attending knowing there were so many choices for how they could be spending their time and money. She appreciated that they had chosen to support the hundreds of individuals Unified assists every day. Diane then introduced the Samuel A. Tucker Memorial Can Do Award, explaining that Sam Tucker exemplified how we are defined by our abilities not our disabilities and how he lived a meaningful and fully integrated life. "This award is about spirit and determination," Diane explained, "and this year's honoree Kathy Poole truly exemplifies the Can Do attitude."

Baltimore Ravens Senior Advisor for Player Development and Unified board member O.J. Brigance presented this year's Samuel A. Tucker Memorial Can Do Award to Kathy, who participates in our Frederick Day Program and resides in one of our residential homes.

Kathy has a drive to succeed and lives her life with passion every day,

achieving whatever she sets her sights on. In O.J.'s remarks, he said, "Kathy is a true example that with hard work and determination one 'can do' what they set their mind to."

A special thank you to event chair Russ Causey and his committee: Barry Brill, Lauren Bussard, Emily Evans, Angela Lane, Nick Richardson, Carol Sholes, Ed Zimmerman, and Manette Zinkand. We also appreciate the bands for donating their time, Unified staff and volunteers, our many generous sponsors and everyone who contributed to this year's event.

Save the date for next year, Saturday, October 17, at the American Visionary Art Museum.



Event headliner Roses n Rust featuring Russ Causey.



Event emcee Bill Romani and guest.



Guests enjoy the photo wall.



OUR MISSION:

TO SUPPORT INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES IN ACHIEVING
INDEPENDENCE, PRODUCTIVITY, AND THE QUALITY OF LIFE THEY SEEK.

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

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WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBERS AND VICE CHAIR . . .



ROB FREEDMAN

Vice Chairperson of the Board

Rob Freedman has been named vice chair of Unified's Board of Directors. He joined the board in 2011 and served as chair of the Development/Board Development Committee from 2012-2019. He is senior vice president at JLL and has more than 30 years of commercial real estate experience. A consistent market leader, Rob is regarded as one of the top brokers in the Baltimore/Washington metro area. Before joining JLL, Rob was a co-founding principal of Colliers International. Active in the community, Rob is involved with Leadership Howard County and was on the boards of Howard County Board of Public Works, Howard Community College Education Foundation, HC DrugFree and the Cold Weather Shelter. He was also a 24 Hours of Booty team captain. Rob holds an MBA from the University of Baltimore Merrick School of Business and a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Delaware.

BLAKE CURRY

Blake Curry, a newly elected Unified Board member, is a native of Howard County where he grew up on a 50-acre horse farm. His equestrian background led him to establish a business importing horses from Canada and Ireland, training them, and/or selling them.

Blake has chosen to serve the nonprofit community over the past 15 years through his insurance business. He is currently working through the Maury Donnelly & Parr Inc. brokerage. His business focuses on companies providing services to those in need. He is proud to give back to his community and serves on the boards of Compass Inc. and Maryland Steeplechase Association. He holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Baltimore.

MARC A. DESIMONE JR.

Marc A. DeSimone Jr. rejoined the Unified Board, having been a board member from 2009-2015. Marc is truly defined by his abilities and a wonderful role model to those we serve. He is an attorney in the Maryland Office of the Public Defender and has expertise in the field of developmental disabilities. He is also a lecturer in law and faculty director of the Moot Court Board.

Previously, he was an associate at Lord and Whip P.A. He holds a bachelor's degree from Loyola University Maryland and a J.D. degree from the University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law, where he served as adjunct professor. He was board president of the Loyola Blakefield Alumni Association, a member of the The Wrangler Law Club and a Boy Scouts of America Eagle Scout.

STEVEN CHOI

Steven Choi, a newly elected Unified board member, is an associate principal analyst with the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority. He works in the Advertising Regulations Department and reviews broker/dealer member communications for compliance with applicable SEC and FINRA security rules and regulations.

Prior to his current position, he was a financial manager for Merrill Lynch Pierce, Fenner and Smith, a manager of the Manager's Group for Legg Mason Wood Walker and a retirement plan representative for T. Rowe Price and Assoc. Steven holds a bachelor's degree from Williams College in Williamstown, Massachusetts.

KATHY POOLE

RECEIVES CAN DO AWARD



Kathy Poole with O.J. Brigance and Rebecca Tucker.

"I will always cherish this award," said Kathy Poole after receiving the 2019 Samuel A. Tucker Memorial Can Do Award at Hoodstock Sweet 16. Kathy has participated in the Frederick Day Program for more than 21 years and lives in a Unified residential home. Born with cerebral palsy and later developing a spastic disorder, Kathy credits her mother and sister for never letting her give up.

Kathy cannot imagine a life without art. It has been her passion for the past 51 years.

Encouraged by her mother, she began drawing at age 15. She recently had an exhibit of her bright, bold and colorful pictures at the Delaplaine Arts Center in Frederick. The opportunity to share her art with others was a lifelong dream come true.

Kathy was nominated by six different people for the 2019 Can Do Award because she is the perfect example of turning disabilities into abilities and being able to do what you set your mind to. Those who nominated her spoke of her passion and talent. All agree she is an incredible artist and independent person. She is always exploring and interested in learning new things, and she has a special drive and determination that is reflected in everything she does.

REBECCA TUCKER

CONTINUES THE CAN DO TRADITION

Rebecca Tucker met her husband Samuel, the namesake for the Samuel A. Tucker Memorial Can Do Award, after he graduated from law school. "It took him several tries before he passed the bar exam," she says. At the time, the bar was in an all-essay format. Sam was born with cerebral palsy and it impacted his ability to write fast enough to complete the exam in the allotted time.

He appealed for more time. "Making accommodations for people with disabilities was simply not done in those days," explains Rebecca. Eventually, Sam's appeal was approved, and he passed the bar. He ran his own private practice for more than 30 years. Rebecca says, "Sam did not really want special treatment, but he did want the same opportunities as other people."

Rebecca and Sam participated in fundraisers for United Cerebral Palsy of Central Maryland, and when Sam passed away, he was honored posthumously with the first-ever Can Do Award. Rebecca is a member of Unified's Standing Committee and volunteers at headquarters. This year, she donated funds to ensure the continuation of the Can Do Award for future generations. She says, "People with disabilities do not often receive the recognition they deserve, and that is why the Can Do Award is so important."



Rebecca and friends at Hoodstock 2019.

DEVELOPMENT NEWS

We are extremely grateful to **Merritt Properties, LLC**, for their recent \$10,000 donation toward therapy equipment upgrades for the Delrey School. Over the last decade, Merritt Properties' loyal support has greatly enhanced the lives of our students and their families by providing funding for programs, services and equipment to improve mobility, communication, sensory skills and overall functionality and quality of life.

Save the date for our **15th Annual Golf Classic** that will be held on April 17, 2020, at the Elkridge Club in Baltimore. We are pleased to announce that once again Julie and Jeff Bainbridge and Jonathan Clark are co-chairing this event.

Remember Unified in your **end-of-the-year holiday giving** plans. Your gift is helping to make so many people realize their abilities instead of their disabilities in both our day programs and in our residential homes. Your contributions go directly to providing services and programs for the individuals we serve.

Visit unified.org to donate online today.

STAFF NEWS

CONGRATULATIONS TO MAGALIE LEBRETON AND KIA PITTS

Magalie Lebreton was promoted to director of operations – Central Region, and she will oversee all operations in the Central Region. Magalie joined Unified in May 2017 as day program director at the Crossroads Day Program in Middle River. During her tenure in the Day Program, she made a positive impact on the program, the staff and the individuals we support.

Kia Pitts was promoted to day program director at the Crossroads Day Program in Middle River. She has been with Unified for more than five years and previously held the position of program coordinator. Kia is a graduate of Unified's 2015 John Stanley III Memorial PDA Mentor Program.

AROUND THE AGENCY



Individuals from Frederick celebrate honeymoon of Gail Smith and James Gillium in Kitty Hawk, North Carolina.



Individual from Cumberland Day Program participates in Trunk or Treat festivities.



Student at Delrey School enjoys a water play day.



Individual from Cumberland visits Virginia Beach.



Congratulations to Gail Smith and James Gillium, Frederick Day Program participants, on their recent wedding.



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WORKPLACE GIVING . . .

Did you know that if your workplace participates in the United Way Campaign, another federated appeal or has an in-house program, you can designate your support for Unified Community Connections through payroll deduction?

Agency numbers for Unified Community Connections are:

- United Way of Central Maryland #024
- Combined Federal Campaign #70735
- Maryland Charities Campaign #52-0696384
- Combined Charities Campaign #8024
- Frederick County/City #0522
- Frederick Private, Cecil County, Allegany County and other areas in Maryland #53

Unified Community Connections is a proud member of Community Health Charities of Maryland.