Andrea Richards, LCPC, BCBA  
Director of Early Childhood Services

I am excited to announce that Bridges has opened a brand new, sensory friendly, classroom known as the Alphabet Garden. The Alphabet Garden has several features that will help us serve children with a variety of sensory needs. We’ve replaced the fluorescent lights that were in the classroom with smaller, dimmable overhead lights. The sensory input is decreased in several ways – no flickering, no super bright lights, no buzzing. We have a variety of seating options, so children can find what works best for them individually – beanbags, wobble stools, wooden chairs, or plastic chairs. We have a large sensory table that can have a variety of materials rotated in and out to provide different feedback to the students, from water to sand to seeds. The class size is smaller (capped at 6 instead of 8-10), to help decrease noise and movement. We chose cool paint colors (green and light purple) to help the calming atmosphere, while still providing a friendly, inviting classroom environment.

Approximately two-thirds of the clients in the Bridges program have a diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder. Many of these students can benefit from having an environment that is mindful of their needs – not too loud, not too bright, not forced into one type of seating. We received grants from The Simmons Foundation, People’s United Bank, and Bangor Savings Bank Foundation that helped us expand our site and offer services to a whole additional classroom of children. I am so grateful to have the community supporting us as we continue to look for new ways to meet the diverse needs of the kids that come to us looking for a quality education.

Brenda Wilson-Denning  
Executive Assistant

November is the time of year when things are very hectic due to the holidays, so here is your chance to lighten your hectic schedule. Each year on the day before Thanksgiving, UCP of Maine holds an annual pie sale at 1129 Union Street, Bangor in the Airport Mall. This year the sale will be Wednesday, November 21 from 10:00am – 1:00pm and pies will be $8.00. If you are planning on purchasing a pie, we suggest that you come early to get the best selection as in past years, the pies were sold out within the first hour.

The pie sale has been part of our fundraising calendar for many years. Donated pies come from many local restaurants and bakeries, people in our community, as well as many employees and parents of UCP. We have been very fortunate to have the assistance of Deb Perro, of Eastern Maine Community College, to help us with coordinating the pies and boxes each year. Any business or person interested in donating pies can contact Andrew Lohman at 941-2952 ext. 233. For more information check out our website and facebook page as we get closer to the big day! All of the proceeds from this event will benefit UCP of Maine in supporting the needs of children and adults with physical and intellectual disabilities in the community.

Recent Events

• Bridges held their annual Spirit Week July 23 - 27 with PJ Day, Dress to Impress, Christmas in July, Character Day, and Beach Day.

• Bridges summer graduation was held on August 17. Face painting, coloring, and cupcake decorating made for a fun time for all the graduates!

• On Sept. 7, RCS, HCT, and Children’s Case Management/BHH had a friendly wiffle ball tournament with each other as a team building activity and discussed how they all can best work together to provide children services as a whole!

• On Sept. 15, ELC hosted its annual Fall Frolic with family and friends. This year’s theme was Western.

• UCP enjoyed having a table at Camp Capella’s annual Touch-A-Truck event on September 15.

• The Darlings Ice Cream Truck stopped by UCP to help raise money for Pumpkins In The Park on Sept. 18.

Upcoming Events

• Food Services Professionals Week: Oct. 7-13

• Case Management & Behavioral Health Home Professionals Week: Oct. 7-13

• Quality Assurance Week: Oct. 21-27

• Pumpkins In The Park: Oct. 21

• Edu. Support Professionals Week: Nov. 11-17

• Annual Pie Sale: Nov. 21

Annual Thanksgiving Pie Sale at Airport Mall
Andrew Lohman
Marketing & Community Relations Coordinator

On Sunday, October 21, 2018 from Noon to 5pm, Van Syckle Kia presents UCP of Maine’s 16th Annual Pumpkins in the Park. This event is held at the Anah Shriner’s building located on 1404 Broadway in Bangor. Andrew Lohman, Pumpkins in the Park Chair, recently shared “We are extremely excited for our 16th anniversary of Pumpkins in the Park. We’re glad to be back at the Anah Shrine again and we have plans to make the event bigger and better than ever before! This year we will be opening the doors an hour early, at 11:00am, with a sensory friendly environment for individuals who would like to attend. From 11am to Noon this time we will have low music playing and the lights on.”

Pumpkins in the Park is an indoor community Halloween event for the entire family. This year’s theme is “Heroes Unite”; patches and attendees are encouraged to come in a costume that represents their favorite superhero, movie, comic etc. At the event, attendees will enjoy warm and safe trick-or-treating at business-sponsored pumpkin patches, with hundreds of glowing jack o’lanterns carved by area youth and business groups. Along with trick-or-treating, the event features the Pine State Heroes, a photo booth, face painting, prizes, bounce house (weather permitting), and much more! Any business interested in sponsoring can contact Andrew Lohman at 941-2952 ext. 233.

Pumpkins in the Park is a cash only event with admission of $3.00 per person or $10.00 per family. Children 3 years old and under are free! Presale will-call tickets to avoid ticket lines the day of the event are available by contacting Brenda Wilson-Denning at 941-2952 ext. 308, or stopping by UCP of Maine at 700 Mt. Hope Ave Suite 320. Tickets will also be available at the door the day of the event. All of the proceeds from this event will benefit UCP of Maine in supporting the needs of children and adults with physical and intellectual disabilities in the community.

UCP of Maine will be holding multiple fundraisers leading up to Pumpkins in the Park to help raise money for the event. Chipotle Mexican Grill, located at 583 Stillwater Ave in Bangor will be doing a Cause an Effect benefit from 4:00pm – 8:00pm on Tuesday October 16. During this fundraiser, Chipotle will donate 50% of their proceeds to UCP of Maine. Uno Pizzeria and Grill located at 725 Stillwater Ave in Bangor, will be doing a Dough Raiser benefit all day on Monday, October 22. During this fundraiser, Uno will donate up to 20% of your check to UCP of Maine. For the Chipotle and Uno’s fundraisers, a flyer needs to be present for the donation to go into effect. Visit UCP of Maine’s Facebook page for more information and to print the flyers out.