



"We provide and support inclusive, life-enriching options through person-centered programs and advocacy."

What's New at UDS?

September 2024 | Issue 30

Cheers to 75 Years!



This year marks the 75th anniversary of UDS and we recently celebrated this milestone alongside Miller's Rental and Sales. Miller's is a third-generation, family-owned company serving as a healthcare products provider for Northeast and Central Ohio, also serving our communities for 75 years.

Over 100 individuals attended this special event held at Missing Falls Brewery in Akron including employees, board members, friends and family, and community supporters from both agencies. The atmosphere was casual as guests enjoyed good food, entertainment, and two organizations celebrating a decades-long relationship.

UDS President/CEO **Brian Thomas** and John Miller, president of Miller's, delivered remarks. Both acknowledged the crucial role staff members play in the success of their organizations. "You don't get to be 75 years old as an organization without having a history of really great people in service to the mission," said Thomas. "You create the moments of truth. You create the opportunities for individuals, you create

outcomes and you enrich the lives of the people we serve.” Thank you to everyone who came out to help celebrate.

Driver Forges Her Own Path



UDS employees are gaining valuable insights into staying fit, all thanks to **Cathy Turner**, a dedicated full-time driver at UDS. Over five years ago, she received a life-changing diagnosis that spurred her into action.

With a renewed outlook on life, she has been inspiring others across the UDS campus to get active. Her journey not only motivates other staff members but also encourages the people we serve by walking with them when she's not driving her bus.

You can [read more about her inspiring journey on our website](#). We extend our heartfelt thanks to her for motivating others on their own paths to health and wellness.

Toy & Resource Center Summer Spectacular

TOY & RESOURCE CENTER BACK-TO-SCHOOL SPECIAL!



GAMES!



PUZZLES!



ADAPTIVE TOYS!

**25% OFF A NEW MEMBERSHIP
UNTIL SEPT. 30!**

WWW.UDSAKRON.ORG

The UDS Toy & Resource Center is having a back-to-school special **now through September 30**. New members can sign up for an **annual family membership** for only \$45--that is 25% off the regular membership fee! Membership to the Toy & Resource Center opens children up to a world of discovery with more than 4,200 toys that help promote a love of learning through play.

The Toy & Resource Center carries a large assortment of toys including games, STEM items, fidget and sensory toys and more! Remember, this offer is only good through September 30 so don't delay, stop by the Center and sign up today! More information and hours of operation are available by [visiting our website](http://www.udsakron.org).

The Toy & Resource Center is grateful for the generosity of Summit County Developmental Disabilities Board, GOJO Industries, Inc., GPD Group Employees' Foundation, Millennium Fund for Children of Akron Community Foundation, RePlay for Kids, The Mary and George L. Demetros Charitable Trust, and R.C. Musson and Katherine M. Musson Charitable Foundation.

BraVo! Takes a Picnic



Our BraVo! team recently held their annual picnic at Firestone Metro Park at the end of last month. Everyone had a great time enjoying the perfect weather as they played games, ate lunch and enjoyed dancing to songs. Those attending also got to participate in a cakewalk. It was so much fun!

Thank you to President/CEO **Brian Thomas** for playing his guitar and singing for the BraVo! team. A small group even toured Little Turtle Pond with Adult Services Director **Lana Stryker**. She showed everyone some turtles and then they enjoyed their surroundings by resting on the dock.

UDS Celebrates Pride



UDS proudly took part in this year's Equity March in downtown Akron at the end of August. The event, themed "Stand Up, Lift Up," aimed to unite the community. People from across Akron gathered to raise awareness that oppression or discrimination against one community affects all communities.

This marked the agency's second year participating in this annual event, which champions the inclusion of all individuals. We are honored to have been part of such a well-attended and impactful event!

Transportation Rocks Out at Akron's PorchRokr

UDS had a busy August! Along with participating in the Equity March and celebrating our 75th anniversary, our Transportation team also helped out at Akron's PorchRokr event.

Thanks to UDS driver **Luke Moore** for shuttling 95 passengers to their destinations during the event. Thanks to PorchRokr for contracting with UDS so that everyone could ride. Can't wait to rock out again next year!



Still Shining Bright: UDS Celebrates 75 Years

Join UDS as we celebrate our 75th anniversary!
Continue to follow us as we continue to celebrate
this milestone year.



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