



News for Immediate Release

June 22, 2011

Pittsburgh Area Organization Earns State's Supportive Housing Award

State College – Pennsylvania has honored UCP/CLASS for helping people with disabilities find appropriate housing and services. The organization -- formerly known as United Cerebral Palsy/Community Living and Support Services -- was today awarded the state's annual Supportive Housing Award.

The annual award recognizes individuals and organizations that have taken a leading role in creating quality housing opportunities in Pennsylvania. Nominees must demonstrate the ability to improve quality of life, support community integration, create a sustainable model of affordability, and provide barrier-free living. The award is sponsored by the Department of Aging, Department of Public Welfare and the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency.

"Supportive housing is about combining affordable, accessible and permanent housing with services that enable residents to live independently in their communities," said Secretary of Aging Brian Duke. "It can bring stability to people facing challenges and give them the opportunity to be productive in the community."

More than just affordable housing, supportive housing provides a flexible set of services that residents may need to help prevent homelessness or avoid institutional care. It works to improve the quality of life for residents and self-sufficiency over time.

UCP/CLASS was chosen for its ongoing work to assist community members living with disabilities. It currently provides services to 59 people with disabilities living in Allegheny County communities including White Oak, Pleasant Hills, Penn Hills, Port Vue, Munhall and North Versailles. Learn more online at www.ucpclass.org.

Visit the Department of Aging online at www.aging.state.pa.us.

Media contacts:

Christina Reese, Aging; 717-783-1549

Michael Race, DPW; 717-425-7606

Scott Elliott, PHFA; 717-780-3916

###