



WHO WE ARE | WHAT WE DO | DONATE

ENHANCING  
THE QUALITY  
OF LIFE FOR  
PEOPLE WITH  
DISABILITIES.

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UNITED DISABILITY  
SERVICES

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[Find us on Facebook](#)

#### OPEN FOR BUSINESS—LOW AND SLOW

As Ohio eases back into operation, so does UDS, with careful planning to keep our employees and the individuals we serve safe and healthy.

The Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) has been issuing guidance to agencies like ours indicating what services can be provided, how, when and to whom during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Returning to center-based group services is not beneficial to everyone at this time. A risk/benefit assessment will be completed for each individual to determine if returning to a small group setting is appropriate for them and their household. For those who are not able to return at this time, we will continue to offer virtual programming and 1:1 community-based activities.

Read more below about the steps we're taking to ensure a safe environment as we begin to resume programming.

#### HEALTH AND SAFETY UPDATE

From the onset, UDS has been following the recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control, state and local health department orders, and guidance from the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) in responding to the COVID-19 health crisis. The health and safety of our participants, employees, and visitors to our facility is our top priority.

Before COVID-19, UDS consistently implemented high standards of health and safety with our use of universal precautions and disinfectant/sanitation protocols. Now with the COVID-19 virus, new greater levels of precautionary behavior, hygiene and sanitation will be adhered to by all employees and participants during their program services.

We look forward to the opportunity to expand the number of individuals we can get back into programming with this foundation of safety being a priority for us.

[Learn more](#) about the precautions we're taking to keep our employees and the people we serve safe and healthy.



#### WE WILL NOT BE SILENT

As an organization, we are deeply distressed by recent events, and we want to take a moment to stand with others in the fight for equality and justice for everyone. We will not be silent.

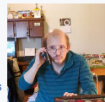
At UDS we advocate for the rights of those whose voices often go unheard. Disability does not discriminate and we are committed to serving everyone with the dignity and respect they deserve.

We are so grateful for those working with us to create a better world where differences are appreciated and all individuals have full and equal access to opportunities that allow them to live fulfilling lives in an inclusive community.



#### STAYING CONNECTED

UDS staff members are helping people stay connected through a variety of means including phone calls, video calls and even virtual activities to help people remain active during this time.



UDS Community Outreach Specialists have continued to provide support to individuals like Brad throughout these challenging times. Additional services have been added for high-risk individuals to assist with grocery store trips and errands so they can stay safe at home. Virtual check-ins and one-on-one visits have been critical to the people we serve as their safety remains our top priority.

[Contact us](#) today for more information on our [community living services](#).

#### THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

Thank you to the following community members for making face masks and donating them to UDS: Judy Gillick, Carol Kuezi, Kathy Johnson, Heidi Chalmers, Lynne Came, Deanna Gartman, Alicia Smetts, Patricia Prill, Denise Sonderker, Debbie Gray, Gayle Savage, and Eileen Jenkins. We've received more than 300 masks that are available for consumers and visitors who do not have one.



Special thanks to [Sunrise Hitek](#), a digital printing service in Chicago. They converted some of their equipment to produce personal protective equipment to help fight COVID-19. They've donated thousands of face shields to hospitals and nonprofit organizations, including UDS. We've received 50 clear poly film face shields to help protect our front line employees. Dr. Cheryl Reed, director of Low Vision Services, is seen here wearing the new gear.

UDS will continue to accept mask donations. If you or someone you know is able to make masks and donate them, contact [Teri Mino](#) at 330-762-9755.

#### WE NEED YOUR HELP

The last few months have been a challenge for all, including UDS. Our staff members have been working hard to create new ways to provide services that keep everyone safe and healthy. As we slowly reopen, it has been a joy to see some of the people who are so much

a part of our daily lives. We are looking forward to the days ahead when others can return.

The pandemic hit the agency's budget pretty hard. We count on service reimbursements for much of the money that pays for everyday expenses and keeps the agency moving forward. Borrowing a line from the Beatles, right now we could really use 'a little help from our friends.' If you are in a position to give, we hope you will think about making a cash donation. Big or small, every gift will make a difference and we will be so grateful for your kindness. If money is a little tight for you too, consider throwing a few extra items in your grocery cart to donate to the agency. Just like at home, we are buying a lot of those things that keep us all healthy. Hand sanitizer, disinfectant wipes, paper towels, face masks and Kleenex are all needed.

You can make a cash donation by mailing a check to UDS, Attn. Development, 701 South Main Street, Akron, Ohio 44311, or [securely online](#). Donated items can be dropped off in the foyer of our 701 South Main Street facility.

Life is a little tougher right now, but we'll all get through this together. We have great families, friends and donors and we're hoping you will consider providing a helping hand.

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