



4724 Mike Colalillo Dr.  
Duluth, MN 55807  
December 15, 2022

Dear Friend of Udac,

Happy Holidays!!! We invite you to be a partner with Udac with programs that help adults with disabilities be full members of the community. ***We are thrilled to announce a matching gift that will double your impact dollar for dollar up to \$30,000!!*** Please consider a year end gift to assist us with our life changing work. Go to [www.udac.org](http://www.udac.org) and click on donate now.

Your contribution means you believe that all of us, people of all abilities, can be successful at work and in roles they love in the community. You will create an inclusive community for people of all abilities. You will support the reality that ability counts more than disability and with the right support, success and community living is possible for everyone. Please consider a gift to support Udac programs. You will transform a life through your donation.

Each day, Udac Career and Life Coaches make success and achievement for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, autism spectrum disorder, mental illness, traumatic brain injury, dementia, cerebral palsy, and other challenges a reality through individualized programs that allow for the achievement of their employment and meaningful community involvement goals. Your support helps someone advance their self-reliance, find a job, learn how to use transportation resources to get to work on their own, or to develop skills that lead to a promotion at work. Lives are transformed through your gift.

***These real life experiences are examples of your gift at work:***

A young man with Downs Syndrome and limited verbal skills has found a new level of success and independence. He worked in a sheltered workshop for 22 years. Since high school graduation, his work, transportation, and time in the community was completely supervised. He began two years ago working with his Career and Life Coach to eliminate barriers and build opportunities in the community. He is now employed 4 days a week. He takes a cab to work unsupervised and he loves his new found independence. Today he is working to advance self-reliance at his job.

A man spent 20 years working in a sheltered workshop. With limited verbal skills, his work, transportation, and time in the community had always been supervised. Working with a Udac Career and Life Coach, his first step toward self-reliance was taking community transportation to work. After 18 months of advancing growth and developing his talents, he is now transitioning to working independently at his job. His mother commented, "this is what I always wanted for my son and I never thought it would happen. This program is needed. More people need to learn about it so they can be part of it. Thank you so much!"

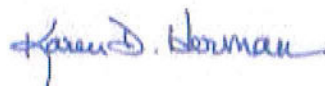
CHALLENGE disability, CREATE opportunity, CULTIVATE Success.  
• [www.udac.org](http://www.udac.org) •

A 38-year-old man with autism spectrum disorder, impulsive behaviors and very little verbal communication was a participant in a sheltered work environment for 17 years. His activity was always supervised one-to-one with a staff person. Today he is employed. His Career and Life Coach has engaged an employer that has given him the opportunity to use his talents and experience different roles. He found success being employed and his employment has progressed from a temporary to a permanent employee. The possibilities are unlimited for his future!

Udac has created a model and programs for community employment for people with disabilities that is successful in growing individual self-reliance, independence and advances career development opportunities. The models success is in the partnerships developed with employers and the community. Please consider a year-end gift to Udac. Your investment will expand our program capacity and invest in meaningful change and success to achieve outstanding outcomes. You will transform a life and change our community.

Please consider a year end gift and make the most of the matching gift that will double your impact dollar for dollar up to \$30,000. Please go to [www.udac.org](http://www.udac.org) and click on **Donate** at the top of the page. Your thoughtful gift is deeply appreciated!!

Thank you and warmest wishes for the New Year!



Karen Herman  
Executive Director



Ann Dahl  
Director of Operations



Lola Aune  
Director of Human Resources.



CHALLENGE.  
CREATE.  
CULTIVATE.

*We are delighted to introduce you to Udac's dedicated, creative and diverse Career and Life Coaches and to share with you a little about their passion for the work they are doing each and every day.*

CHALLENGE disability, CREATE opportunity, CULTIVATE Success.

• [www.udac.org](http://www.udac.org) •



**CHALLENGE.  
CREATE.  
CULTIVATE.**

## Meet our Career and Life Coaches

### Joyce Teah

provides support and direction when needed but knows how to let individuals try on their own. Her ability to encourage individuals to discover a new way of doing something encourages their growth.



### Ginger Erkkila

has the heart to let individuals grow. She provides the stability and willingness to help them open doors to new opportunities. She has the courage to allow them to do it on their own.



### Willy McGivern

is always willing to give feedback that helps individuals grow. They trust Willy to be honest with them to help them advance their skills. Willy has a "yes you can" attitude that is contagious.



### John Skiba

provides the space and an environment for success. He empowers those he works with to grow in their skills and accomplish their goals. He believes in them and in turn they believe in themselves. This allows each individual to create their own pathways to successful self-reliance.



### Mike Granley

uses his tremendous experience to consistently provide an environment that allows for employment success for individuals. His work promotes independence while providing needed support



### Kayla Stenstrup

knows that differently abled adults need resources and support for successful community living. Her work focuses on using her knowledge and experience working in special education to help them find success in the community.



### Joe Burch

is dedicated to creating new opportunities for growth that leads to goal attainment. He listens to what people want and helps them put in place the steps needed to move forward. He is creating a directory of available experiences in the community that will expand horizons for all individuals and help his peers know more about what the community has to offer



### Destiny Brown

Said yes to working with adults of all abilities and took on a new career. She is committed to providing opportunities and new experiences.



### Paige Wanek

identified early that it takes the entire team to commit to helping individuals expand their skills. She is dedicated to finding opportunities and involving the team in creating a platform for success



## Jenna Peterson

Is eager to get started in her new role at Udac supporting individuals to be full members of their communities. She brings a passion for learning and sharing her knowledge with everyone around her. She is a great addition to the team.



## John Faegre

brings a deep knowledge of the business community and the benefits of being employed to his role. He is translating this knowledge into helping individuals understand how work they want to do benefits their lives. Everyday is an opportunity to learn something new for John and the people he supports.



## Angela Welch

is working to create a tool to assess readiness to advance in self-reliance and independence. Her work highlights the dedication it takes to incrementally create opportunities that develop confidence. Her work will help teams and her colleagues learn more about developing confidence and independence.



## Casey Lozon

is a champion for community programming and growing successful independence. She is a trailblazer in creating opportunities and experiences that accentuates an individual's strengths and allows them to find success in the community and independence at work. Her work extends to working with employers to expand their workforce with people of all abilities.



## Chris McCord

knows that information is power. He is committed to working with each person and their team to understand the benefits to employment for people with disabilities. He is a myth buster that working means a loss of benefits. He assists employers to know how including individuals of all abilities benefit



## Nicole Opland

builds a network of support that includes the entire team in advancing community-based living and employment. She is committed to communication and building the confidence of the individual and the team to move forward with self-reliance.



## Chloe Tralle

is a bridge builder. Her work helps each person experience opportunities that bridges where they currently are with where they want to go to. Her work includes the creation of the "Udac Experiencing Community and Careers Program" that explores the diversity of businesses and jobs available Duluth.



## Stephanie Davich

opportunity and community inclusion. She designed a successful virtual program during the pandemic and is now transitioning this knowledge to creating meaningful community experiences to allow people to be active participants in community life.



## Dana Mattila-Sworn

has a commitment to creating the best possible life for everyone she works. This translates into sharing her accumulated wisdom, knowledge and vast experience by mentoring her colleagues and the teams she works to help them grow in their knowledge.



## Nova Senarighi

knows that transportation is a key to community living and successful employment. Nova is coordinating the advancement of community transportation as a bridge to working and being involved in the community. Her work focuses on allowing people to grow the skills they need to use cabs, buses and Udac supported transportation as needed.

