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Community Partner



## We've Moved!

To start off 2014, our Corporate Offices and our Foster Care & Adoption Services have relocated to the Town Point Center in downtown Norfolk. This opportunity was made possible through a generous gift from an anonymous donor.

The Family Life Program, which assists adults with intellectual disabilities to live in a family home rather than a group home or institution, is now located in the Ghent Office at 222 W. 19th Street, Norfolk, VA 23517.

With this expansion of our office space, and your continued support, we can help even more children, families and individuals in need.

*Locations for other offices of The Up Center remain the same. Individual staff phone numbers have not changed.*



# UPDATES

THE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE UP CENTER

WINTER/SPRING 2014

## A Lifetime of Helping

How did a young man from Iowa with a political science and education degree end up in Norfolk, Virginia leading the region's foremost family services nonprofit? "I got laid off," chuckles Ed Welp, President and CEO of The Up Center since August of 1990.

A recent college graduate, Ed spent all of two years teaching when he was laid off. His wife, Judy, who worked for a state welfare agency, encouraged him to pursue a job within the same agency. Quickly Ed realized that this was the career for him and acquired his master's degree in the field of social work.

When Ed joined Child and Family Services of Southeastern Virginia in 1990 as Executive Director, it operated with a small budget and an even smaller staff, serving about 1,000 clients annually. He assumed the role of President and CEO in 2004 after a long-awaited merger with Family Services of Tidewater, now The Up Center.

Under Ed's guidance, The Up Center, "in tune with the community's needs," has adapted in response to the changing needs of people, and offers a diverse array of services. It has grown from a counseling services agency to one with 28 programs. Youth mentoring, housing counseling, job training, parent education, and support for those with disabilities are just a few of the ways The Up Center helps protect children, strengthen families, and empower individuals.

Through these services, The Up Center now offers hope to more than 10,000 people in Hampton Roads each year.

With his "heart in human service," Ed will continue to help others, planning to volunteer some of his free time in the field to which he has devoted so much of his life and himself.



Ed Welp, President and CEO of The Up Center, retires this March after 24 years of service.

*"I have been blessed to be in a job I really love with great people who are very supportive. Because of The Up Center, our community is a better place to live."*

### YOU CAN BE A PART OF ED'S LEGACY!

The Up Center Fund in Honor of Edward J. Welp has been established through the United Way Foundation to honor Ed's twenty-four years of service to The Up Center and Hampton Roads community. Gifts can be made to the United Way Foundation. Please indicate that your gift is for The Up Center Fund in Honor of Edward J. Welp in the memo line of your check. To make your gift, call (757) 853-8500 or mail checks to:

United Way Foundation  
 2515 Walmer Avenue  
 Norfolk, VA 23513-2604

## Board Vice Chair Receives Regional Recognition

Congratulations to the vice-chair of our board of directors, Betty Harmon Edwards for being selected as the Outstanding Volunteer Fundraiser by the Hampton Roads Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals! Betty received this honor during the local National Philanthropy Day luncheon and celebration in November.



Mary Kate Andris, President for the Association of Fundraising Professionals, Hampton Roads Chapter, explains why Betty was selected, “Whether through board service, charitable gifts or both, Betty has been overwhelmingly generous with her time, talent and treasure. This award honors volunteers who demonstrate outstanding civic and charitable responsibility while encouraging others to take philanthropic roles in the community. We believe Betty Harmon Edwards is the perfect role model for this award.”

The Up Center could not agree more. Betty has dedicated her time and resources to the Hampton Roads community and has served on numerous boards including Children’s Hospital of the King’s Daughters, the Virginia Stage Company and The Up Center. Kudos again to Betty on her commitment to her community!

*Pictured above: The Up Center Vice Chair, Betty Harmon Edwards, recipient of the Outstanding Volunteer Fundraiser Award from the Association for Fundraising Professionals-Hampton Roads Chapter with Devan MacConnell, Development Director for The Up Center.*

## The Up Center Names New CEO

It is with great excitement that we announce the new President and CEO of The Up Center, Tina Gill. A Virginia Beach resident along with her husband and three daughters, Tina’s expertise spans more than 20 years. She is dedicated to her community, volunteering with local organizations such as Volunteer Hampton Roads and the Red Cross.



In 1990, Tina joined Landmark Communications as a New Ventures Associate, ultimately becoming General Manager of their Interactive Media group. Most recently, she served as Vice President of External Relations Operations Wellpoint/Amerigroup and Executive Director of the Amerigroup Foundation. In addition, she steered the National Advisory Board on Improving Healthcare Services for Seniors and People with Disabilities, bringing a deep understanding of issues around Medicaid and serving the more vulnerable members of our community.

“I am extremely honored to be a part of an agency with such rich history of helping Hampton Road’s vulnerable citizens,” said Tina Gill. “And, I am committed in upholding The Up Center’s reputation of innovation and excellence.”

Tina will assume the role of President and CEO on April 1.

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## ‘Twas the Season of Giving!

Thanks to your overwhelming generosity, hundreds of toys and much-needed baby supplies were donated in time to bring smiles during the holiday season. In addition, our families and Team Up mentors and mentees enjoyed quality time together at holiday parties all throughout December.

The spirit of giving continues all year long at The Up Center. You, too, can bring cheer to families in need. **Find out how to help at [theupcenter.org/donate](http://theupcenter.org/donate).**

*Team Up mentors and mentees danced, hammed it up for the cameras, and took home turkeys at a holiday party hosted by ARAMARK.*



*Below left: Signature employees brought Christmas joy to one of our families through their donations.*

*Below right: The Wells Fargo lobby overflowed during the holiday drive coordinated by S.L. Nusbaum Realty Company.*

