



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Statement of Stephen Bennett, President and CEO of United Cerebral Palsy, on the Film “Wally” by Robert Fink

“Over the past 30 years, hundreds of thousands of Americans with disabilities have left the isolation of institutions to live in their own communities. In 1970, there were more than 200,000 people with disabilities living in state-run institutions.

“Today, however, most live in their own homes, with family members or in settings accessible to their communities. They rely on a network of support systems, including family caregivers and nonprofit services providers like United Cerebral Palsy, to help them live, work and contribute to their communities.

“Yet, as parents and family members age without adequately planning for the future, their child’s very freedom is at risk.

“Robert Fink’s poignant film “Wally” candidly and completely exposes this growing threat to Americans with disabilities. As Wally, an adult with physical and cognitive disabilities, recounts the death of his elderly parents, he explores his future without them.

“Where will he live? How will he earn a living? What will he do?

“While Wally and his surviving family members search for answers, Robert Fink asks his audience the same essential question: what will you do to protect Wally’s freedom?

“United Cerebral Palsy is proud to support Robert Fink’s film “Wally” with the hope that it will help families, service providers and communities work together to protect the independence and freedom of all people with disabilities.”

About United Cerebral Palsy

United Cerebral Palsy is one of the nation’s leading organizations serving and advocating for the more than 54 million Americans with disabilities. Most UCP consumers are people with disabilities other than cerebral palsy. Through its nationwide network, United Cerebral Palsy offers services to individuals, families and communities such as job training and placement, physical therapy, individual and family support, early intervention, social and recreation programs, community living, state and local referrals, and instruction on how to use technology to perform everyday tasks. For more information, visit www.ucp.org or call (800) 872-5827.

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