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**UCP Volunteer Named Points of Light Award Recipient**

Orlando, Fla. – Nominated for her desire to help others in the community despite her disability, volunteer Nicole Harrold has been named a Points of Light recipient by Governor Jeb Bush. The award is given weekly to a Florida resident or organization demonstrating exemplary service to the community. On behalf of Governor Bush, State Representative Sheri McInvale will present the award to Nicole on Tuesday, August 1 at 9 a.m. at UCP of Central Florida's Center in downtown Orlando.

Diagnosed with Down syndrome, Nicole volunteers as a teacher's aid at UCP's Holloway Child Development Center three days a week teaching children with special needs. In addition to volunteering at UCP, Nicole also volunteers at Special Olympics of Central Florida, where she has been a spokesperson and athlete since 1996.

"Nicole is an exemplary young women who has made a difference in the lives of many individuals", said Ilene Wilkins, CEO/President of UCP of Central Florida. "Her tenacity to help the children of UCP reach their full potential can be seen with a smile on her face and eagerness in her heart."

Recently, Nicole was also recognized by the Down Syndrome Association of Central Florida for a similar deed. In June, she received the Jennie Bronstein Citizenship Award which recognizes individuals with differing abilities who have given selflessly to others.

Nicole is using her volunteer experience to help launch her career. She recently graduated from the early childhood education program at Orlando Tech and is awaiting word on whether she will receive certification from the state.

In addition to receiving the award, Nicole will attend the Points of Light reception at the Governor's Mansion on October 17, 2006.

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**About UCP of Central Florida**

Founded in 1955, UCP of Central Florida, a non-profit organization, operates six inclusive pre-school/pre-kindergarten charter schools in the Central Florida community for children with all types of disabilities and developmental delays, including cerebral palsy, Down syndrome, spina bifida, autism and others.

UCP also provides outpatient pediatric physical, speech and occupational therapy, as well as family support and foster care services for children with disabilities.

For more information, call (407) 852-3305 or visit [www.ucpcf.org](http://www.ucpcf.org)