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## **Staller Center to Introduce Instrument Petting Zoo to Children With Disabilities**

**Hauppauge, NY (April 21, 2016)** – Musicians from the Staller Center of the Arts at Stony Brook University will introduce the organization’s Instrument Petting Zoo, a new program in which children can experience orchestral instruments, to students at The Children’s Center at UCP Suffolk on April 22, 2016 at 10.p.m.

“We are excited to bring this program to The Children’s Center at UCP Suffolk,” Paul Newland, House Manager and Outreach Director at the Staller Center for the Arts stated. “Exposure to orchestral instruments in fun hands on kind of way can help to build a lifelong interest in music.”

“We are thrilled that the Staller Center will be visiting us,” Sherri Glazer, Principal of The Children’s Center explained. “Many of our children are limited due to their disabilities, so they might not have an opportunity to go to a concert or a music program. The Staller Center is bringing the magic to us.”

The Children’s Center is in the forefront of Early Intervention, Preschool, and School Age programming, serving 75 infants and children with disabilities. The Center uses specialty programs such as a feeding program - Food Exploration And Sensory Techniques (F.E.A.S.T.) and assistive technology services. The school continues to introduce new and innovative programs designed to meet the needs of Long Island's children and their families.

The Staller Center staff and music department students have shared their love for music through the program with more than 250 children this year. Funded through the Staller Center’s Educational Outreach Fund, students will have an opportunity to slide a trombone, blow through a recorder and wave their arms to make sounds on a Theremin, an electronic instrument that is played by moving one’s hands.

“This is our first time visiting to The Children’s Center and we hope it is not the last,” said Alan Inkles, Director of The Staller Center of the Arts. “We know that it can be difficult for people with disabilities to make it to a theater and watch a performance, so we want to help make the arts a big part of their lives.”

**United Cerebral Palsy Association of Greater Suffolk, Inc.** (UCP of Suffolk) For over 60 years, UCP of Suffolk has been committed to advancing the independence, productivity, and full citizenship of people with disabilities by creating *Life Without Limits*. UCP of Suffolk provides programs and services to almost 3,500 children and adults with a variety of disabilities annually. The Children’s Center at UCP of Suffolk offers early intervention, preschool and school aged programs. The agency provides Adult Day services which include Day Treatment, Day Habilitation and Respite programs, and job training and placement services. In addition, UCP of Suffolk owns and operates 31 residences throughout Suffolk County, a twelve unit apartment complex, and a comprehensive, fully accessible Health Center. UCP Suffolk, 250 Marcus Blvd., Hauppauge, NY 11788 [www.ucp-suffolk.org](http://www.ucp-suffolk.org)