



**UNITED  
COMMUNITY  
MINISTRIES**

*At the Heart of Community*

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Date: February 20, 2014  
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**BEAUTIFUL BOWLS RAISE \$4,700+ FOR UCM  
AT ANNUAL TORPEDO FACTORY SOUPER SATURDAY**



Photo 1



Photo 2



Photo 3

**Photo File Names:** (300+ dpi attachments in email sent to media)

Photo 1: 02-20-15\_UCM\_SOUPERsat\_photo1.jpg

Photo 2: 02-20-15\_UCM\_SOUPERsat\_photo2.jpg

Photo 3: 02-20-15\_UCM\_SOUPERsat\_photo3.jpg

**Photo Captions:**

The 21<sup>st</sup> annual SOUPER Saturday fundraiser was held on February 14 at the Torpedo Factory Art Center to benefit United Community Ministries. Hosted by the resident ceramic artists in collaboration with The Art League, Chart House restaurant, and the Torpedo Factory, the event raised a record-breaking more than \$4,700 to help fill the empty bowls – and empty pantries – of UCM's client families who struggle to make ends meet. All items were donated by the resident artists, and all proceeds directly benefit UCM's assistance programs. Last fiscal year, UCM provided emergency assistance to more than 8,800 people in Alexandria; more than 40% were children.

**Photo 1:** Ceramic artist Peggy Reichard shows a sample of her artwork that she donated.

**Photo 2:** Suzy Coffey (left), President of The Friends of UCM, selects a bowl with guidance from ceramic artist Susan Greenleaf, who helped coordinate this year's SOUPER Saturday benefit event for UCM.

**Photo 3:** UCM Executive Director Nichelle Mitchem (right) thanks event organizers Peggy Reichard (left) and Susie Cohen (center), resident artists at The Torpedo Factor Art Center. Cohen is a member of Hollin Hills Potters, one of the founding studios of the Torpedo Factory.

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The resident ceramic artists at The Torpedo Factory Art Center hosted the 21st annual SOUPer Saturday event at the Torpedo Factory Art Center to help feed hungry families for more than 20 years. This year's event on February 14 included a wide variety of hundreds of artisan soup bowls and other art pieces, donated by local Torpedo Factory Art Center artists. Resident ceramic artists Susie Cohen, Susan Greenleaf, and Peggy Reichard were the primary organizers for this popular event.

More than \$4,700 was raised to help families in crisis with food and basic needs assistance so they can attain financial stability. For each \$20 donation to UCM, attendees selected a bowl or other ceramic item to take home and received a cup of clam chowder donated by Chart House restaurant.

"This is a wonderful community event, bringing together community members in such a creative way," says Christine Lucas, UCM Development and Communications Director. "We so appreciate our generous donors the ceramic artists, sharing their talents to support neighbors in need. We also extend a special thank you to The Torpedo Factory management and The Art League, as well as Chart House restaurant for their many years of delicious soup donations."

"Programs that help families in immediate need are at the core of UCM's work," she continues. "Thanks to community support, families have UCM as a caring place to turn for help. Our services include programs for children like early care and learning and after-school programs. For adults looking for work, we provide English language classes, job training and coaching, and citizenship classes. Our services inspire life-long changes that break the cycle of poverty."

**United Community Ministries (UCM)** mobilizes the power of community to equip, educate, and empower people to measurably improve their lives. UCM provides a vital connection between people in need and the people committed to helping them thrive. Services include:

- **Immediate Help.** For families and individuals in crisis, UCM provides food, financial aid, and counseling.
- **Education and Employment.** Services such as job training and coaching, full-day early care and learning, ESL and citizenship classes, and parental education help people achieve stability.
- **Community Engagement.** UCM's neighborhood centers, with after-school programs and leadership training, engage youth and families in broader social networks for success.

In Fiscal Year 2014, thanks to generous community support, UCM provided life-changing assistance to 4,152 families in southeastern Fairfax County.

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