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MINISTRIES**

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UCM ANNOUNCES 2015 BOARD OF DIRECTORS



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PHOTO CAPTION:

Pictured with UCM Board Chair Gigi Hyland (far right) are several newly elected Board Directors, including (from left) Claudia Creo, Suzy Coffey (President of The Friends of UCM), Abigail Arms, and Diane Brooks. Not pictured is Kenneth Disselkoen.

United Community Ministries (UCM) elected new officers and five new Directors at its annual meeting in December. Officers elected for 2015 are: Christiane Gigi Hyland, Esq., Board Chair; Charles O'Connor, Vice Chair; Joseph Conti, Treasurer; and Janet Heddesheimer, Secretary. Joining the UCM Board are: Abigail Arms, Diane Brooks, Suzy Coffey, Claudia Creo, and Kenneth Disselkoen. The new Members joined the Board as Charles King, 2014 Vice Chair, retired from service.

"I am honored and humbled by the opportunity to continue to serve UCM and our community as Board Chair," says Hyland. "UCM's dedicated staff works tirelessly to fulfill its mission to provide people in need with a helping hand. UCM's programs help children, adults, and families achieve self-sufficiency.

"We are fortunate and grateful that we live among caring community members who open their hearts and share their resources to help people who are struggling," she explains. "UCM continues to need the community's support, and I would like to ask all my friends and neighbors in the Mount Vernon area to join me in supporting UCM in 2015. We have so many opportunities to participate."

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"UCM has a long and impressive history of providing critical programs and services for vulnerable children, youth, adults, and families," says UCM Executive Director Nichelle A. Mitchem. "The need for UCM's programs and services by residents in the Mount Vernon community continues to be great. It is a privilege to serve with such a dedicated Board of Directors. We are deeply grateful for their volunteer service and leadership to improve the quality of life for people who need help."

A brief biography follows for each of the officers and new directors. The listing with bios of the entire UCM Board of Directors is available at www.ucmagency.org/meet-our-board-of-directors.html.

Christiane Gigi Hyland, Esq. is Board Chair and has been a board member since December 2012. She is currently Executive Director at National Credit Union Foundation. Previously she served as a Board member of the National Credit Union Administration (NCUA), the independent federal regulator for the nation's credit unions. She was NCUA's representative on the Board of Directors at NeighborWorks® America, one of the country's preeminent leaders in affordable housing and community development, where she served as Chairman during her tenure. Prior to NCUA, Hyland's career spanned fourteen years serving the credit union community as an executive, attorney and advocate. She was also a Managing Partner of the family law firm, Hyland and Hyland. A graduate of the College of William and Mary with a B.A. in comparative literature, Hyland earned her J.D. from George Mason University School of Law and an Advanced Diploma in International Law from McGeorge School of Law. Hyland and her husband Chris Revere live in the Wessynton neighborhood in Alexandria.

Charles O'Connor is Vice Chair and has served on the UCM Board since March 2011. He recently retired as Senior Counsel in the Labor and Employment Practice at Morgan Lewis in Washington DC, focused on labor-management relations, particularly collective bargaining. His experience includes extensive work in the employee benefits area, particularly employee benefits derived out of collective bargaining with particular emphasis on pension and health benefit issues. He has a bachelor's degree from College of the Holy Cross and a law degree from Boston College. He has been involved with Holy Trinity Church in Washington DC. and with the Washington Jesuit Academy, and has done pro bono legal representation for the DC Bar.

Joseph Conti is Treasurer and has served on the UCM Board since December 2012. He is a retired senior banking executive, retiring in 1992 as a Senior Vice President with Bankers Trust Company after a 23 year tenure. In retirement he has served as a financial services consultant primarily to the Polish American Enterprise Fund (PAEF) in Poland, as well as other clients in Poland and Russia. Conti has served as a board member and officer at several organizations in both New York and the greater DC metro area. He is a member of the Emeritus Board of the Children's Law Center in Washington DC and of the Alumni Board of Doorways for Women and Families in Arlington VA. A graduate of Fairleigh Dickinson University with a B.S. in business management, Conti earned his M.B.A. from the Bernard Baruch College of the City University of New York. Conti and his wife Dorothy live in The Manors at Mount Vernon in Alexandria.

Janet Heddeshimer is Secretary and has served on the UCM Board since December 2013, when she retired from The George Washington University as counseling professor emerita. During her 40-year tenure, she served in many academic and administrative roles including teaching numerous graduate counseling classes, serving one term as a department chair, and 24 years in dean roles as assistant and associate dean, academic associate dean, senior associate dean and twice acting dean. She is a licensed Professional Counselor in the State of Virginia and a National Certified Counselor. A graduate of Coe College with a B.A. in English, she earned both her M.A. in Counseling and Guidance and her Ph.D. in Counselor Education at The Ohio State University. Heddeshimer and her husband Jon live in the Mason Hill neighborhood in Alexandria.

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The new members of the UCM Board of Directors are:

Abigail Arms is a retired partner of Shearman & Sterling LLP, a global law firm. During her 15 years at the firm, she advised clients on corporate governance, federal securities laws, general corporate laws, and capital markets matters. She previously served in several legal capacities in the Division of Corporation Finance of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission during her 12 year tenure there and became a member of the Senior Executive Service. Before law school she was a corporate banker with a major international bank headquartered in New York City. Ms. Arms is a member of the 2011 Class of DirectWomen, an organization that works to increase the representation of women on boards of directors. She earned her B.A. in political science from American University, M.A. in economics from the New School for Social Research, and J.D. from Pace University School of Law. She has been a member of the Vestry of Christ Church, Alexandria, since June 2014 and previously served as a trustee of the SEC Historical Society. She lives in the Riverside Estates neighborhood in Alexandria.

Diane Brooks was born and educated in Scotland and spent many years in the Hotel Management industry in Europe before relocating to Alexandria VA. In the last few years she has been involved in project and event management with local businesses and is now looking to launch a career in real estate and property management.

Suzy Coffey serves on the UCM Board in her role as President of The Friends of UCM, a membership organization that builds community spirit through fundraising and public awareness activities for UCM. She works as a Personal Trainer for Gold's Gym in Alexandria. Coffey spent almost 15 years in federal service at the U.S. Customs Service and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. A graduate of State University of New York, Cortland with a B.S. in Physical Education, Coffey earned her M.A. in Exercise Physiology from the University of Maryland. Her community volunteer work includes 12 years of Board service (and 4 years as Board President) at the Mount Vernon Community Children's Theatre (MVCCT), Membership Chair for the PTA at West Potomac High School, and PTA President at Clermont Elementary School. Suzy and her husband Jack live in the Flower's Addition to Wilton Woods area of Fairfax County.

Claudio Creo was educated in Rome, Italy, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and in Portland, Maine. As a trial attorney for 30 years, she practiced civil rights law, criminal defense, and family law in Pittsburgh PA and in Portland ME. After a life-changing volunteer experience, teaching children on Crete, she gave up her law practice and trained to become an Elementary and ESOL teacher. Working for the Fairfax County Public Schools, she taught Third Grade at Hybla Valley Elementary School until retirement in 2011. Since then, she has been actively involved in grassroots organizing for various Democratic political campaigns. Creo lives in the Wellington neighborhood in Alexandria. She has a daughter, also an attorney, who works in the District of Columbia for the Legal Aid Society of DC.

Kenneth Disselkoen is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (L.C.S.W.). He recently retired from Fairfax County Government as Director, Department of Systems Management for Human Services (DSMHS), with more than 28 years of clinical, programmatic, administrative and policy management, and leadership experience at the program, division, and agency levels. As the first regional director at DSMHS, he planned, implemented, and managed a prototype approach to regional collaboration and operations. Prior to joining Fairfax County Government, he served as Mental Health Director at the Mount Vernon Center for Community Mental Health. Disselkoen

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served on the administrative Board at Aldersgate United Methodist Church, has coached Gunston Soccer and Fort Hunt Little League, and has served on the Board at Waynewood Recreation Association. He earned his B.A. in Sociology from Calvin College and his Masters in Social Work at Tulane University. Disselkoen and his wife Fran Hicks reside in the Waynewood community in Alexandria, where they raised two children, Bailey age 27 and Paul age 25.

United Community Ministries (UCM) mobilizes the power of community to equip, educate, and empower people to measurably improve their lives. Celebrating its 45th anniversary of service to the community during 2014, 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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