



**UNITED
COMMUNITY
MINISTRIES**

At the Heart of Community

ucmagency.org

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United Way #8199 CFC #37839

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“Thanks to UCM’s job coaches, I got the interview skills to land my dream job.”

~ Sam, UCM Work Center client

Dear Friends,

Imagine making the time and effort, and financial investment, to go back to school for a new technical career. While a lot of hard work, this should mean better pay and benefits to provide for your family. You get certified – but still meet only closed doors and no interviews.

Can you imagine how frustrated you’d feel? Like you’d failed your family.

That’s how Sam felt, before he found UCM’s Work Center. After 20 years as a printer, industry changes left him jobless when his employer closed down. So he got his commercial driving license. But the pay was less and it wasn’t a good fit, with long hours away from home.

Sam was committed to providing a better life for his wife and young boys. So he enrolled for a HVAC technician certification. But even then, no one would hire him.



“Every time on my own, I failed the HVAC job interview. When I found the UCM Work Center, the team there helped me a lot with my resume and interview techniques. They gave me the power, the confidence, about how to talk to an employer – and helped me get the interview with Tech 24. When they called me back, I was anxious because with other interviews before, it was always no. I was holding my breath but they said, ‘What’s your size because we need to order your uniform.’ Then I got happy, very happy.”

I’m sharing Sam’s story with you because it’s proof of the power you have to help neighbors who are struggling. With your donation to UCM, you enable people like Sam to build a better future for their families.

We offer help and hope to adults seeking employment and better paying jobs. Our services inspire life-long changes like Sam describes – and that break the cycle of generational poverty.

You can help write the next success story.

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Despite the hefty gains on Wall Street, workers here in our neighborhoods still face a long climb up the ladder to a new or better paying job. Many are working hard in low-wage jobs, barely making ends meet to provide for their families.

UCM serves the needs of struggling, low-income families as a caring source of help and hope. Our clients work hard to move beyond limited skills and literacy, to achieve self-sufficiency — and a brighter future for their families.

Thanks to generous supporters and volunteers, UCM can provide help and hope to thousands of families each year so they can grow and thrive.

You make a critical, direct impact to change lives with your gift to UCM.

Now Sam's family is thriving:

"I'm really happy and growing in my field. My wife is going to get help with her English and then training at the Work Center, so she can choose where she's going to work.

I'm really proud of my three boys. They're really good at elementary school. Ali, he's 8, he wants to be a doctor or a police officer. I think his future's going to be set when he grows up, so he can get a job anywhere he wants."



Together, we stabilize, empower, and engage people to inspire success.

Struggling families need help in moving from economic fragility to stability, which in turn lifts up our whole community. Thanks to support like yours, UCM bridges economic, language, and cultural divides to inspire client success.

I invite you to be part of the success of people like Sam and his family. Make your donation today by mail or use our online donation site at ucmagency.org.

Please join us at the heart of community with a gift to UCM. Together, we change lives — and lift up all our hearts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shirley Marshall". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a horizontal line underneath.

Shirley Marshall
Executive Director

P.S. Visit ucmagency.org to meet some of our clients and volunteers — including Sam — in our new video *The Heart of Community*. It's easy to make your gift online there too. Thanks for making a difference!