

UNITED
COMMUNITY
MINISTRIES



BUILDING
STRONG FAMILIES,
STRONG COMMUNITIES

Annual
Report

JULY 1 2012 | JUNE 30 2013



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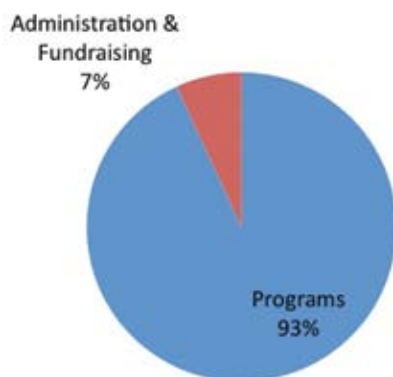
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The community supports UCM in so many ways. This report highlights just a few of the programs and volunteer activities that make up UCM. For more information about UCM, please visit our website, www.ucmagency.org.

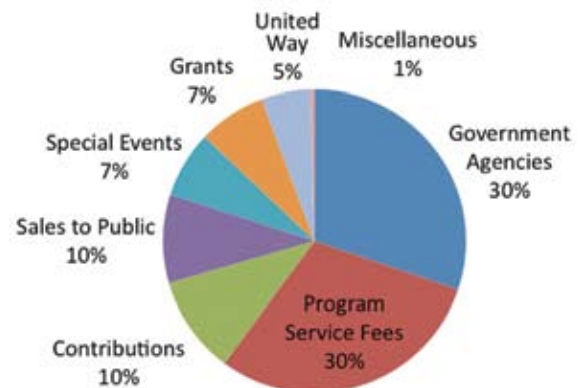
Please follow us on Facebook and Twitter and sign up for our e-news to keep up with the latest news from UCM.

Financial Information

FY 2013 Expenses



FY 2013 Revenue



From Our Leadership



Shirley Marshall



Elaine Kolish

Dear Friends,

Thank you for being part of United Community Ministries. Together, we are lifting people up, preventing homelessness, and bringing people together. You've made a real difference!

We often say that "UCM begins with You." Together with you, because of you, we are changing lives. We are the UCM family: supporters, volunteers, Board, staff – and of course, clients. At its heart, as a network of engaged individuals, we are supporting each other. Together, we create a safe, stable, and successful community for all residents.

Now on to our report: what an incredible year! For number lovers: we provided life-changing assistance to 8,899 individuals in 3,135 families. More than 40% of those individuals were children. In this report, you'll see some of the numbers we use to measure our services and our impact to change lives.

But our real success is in each individual who passes through our doors. Each and every person who has food to eat, a job to pay bills, and a safe place for their children to learn and play is a success. This report shows how UCM helps ensure that success.

Let's start with the Food Pantry, since many clients and donors know that best. Last November, for instance, we upgraded our client-choice Food Pantry and dedicated it in memory of our beloved past executive director. The Cynthia Hull Food Pantry has been a great success in giving clients greater control over their food choices. This change also revealed the very strong demand for fresh produce and dairy products.

To help supply that demand, in June 2013, we convened a community event about healthy food and healthy living. Chew on This 2013 bolstered our community's understanding of what is healthy food and how that connects to donations at our Food Pantry. Our panel of experts sparked the conversation, and we will be making this an annual event as we all work toward making healthy eating enjoyable and affordable.

Many people in crisis know of UCM through our Food Pantry. Each weekday, as many as 100 families depend on us for emergency food. But others know us through full-day child care, parental education and outreach, after-school programs, help with resumes and job searches, the gift of backpacks and school supplies, and ESL classes. With support and hope from our services, people move forward to more stable, successful lives.

In this report, we are pleased to share with you descriptions and accomplishments of our programs that make crucial impacts on so many lives. As our counselors work with clients who are struggling to make ends meet, they mix a powerful message of hope with practical assistance. It pays off when we see clients moving on to better jobs, children doing well in school, and lower-income residents participating in community activities.

UCM is a caring, comprehensive avenue to success – made possible by your support. There is much more to do, but we are on the right path. When we celebrate our 45th Anniversary next year, our focus will be renewed commitment to mobilizing resources to serve the community. Together, we can ensure new beginnings for less-fortunate neighbors, building strong families and strong communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Shirley".

Shirley Marshall
Executive Director

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Elaine".

Elaine Kolish
President, Board of Directors

Basic Needs



Last year, we provided assistance to **8,889** individuals in **3,148** families



Many times, crises start small. Your hours at work get cut. You crack a tooth eating. The car breaks down. Sometimes these things happen all at once. Suddenly your income is cut, new bills appear, and you struggle to keep going. Even staying in your home appears to be in question.

The people needing help are diverse: they may be newly unemployed, underemployed, members of the working poor, elderly, homeless, ex-offenders, immigrants and/or persons with mental or physical disabilities.

No one should face times like these alone. That is why UCM runs our Basic Needs program. At UCM, people in crisis find the help and hope that they need. Our program is unique. Our counselors address the crisis situations of people with a wide range of services, tailored to client needs: information, referrals, and counseling; food; financial help for housing and utility services; help with medical prescriptions; appointments for dental, medical, and legal services; vouchers for clothing and household items; and funds for emergency transportation.

Last year, we provided life-changing assistance to many people - 8,899 individuals in 3,148 households. 137 families stayed in their homes through our eviction prevention program, 368 families kept their lights on, 2,219 families received food and counseling. The goal of our program is to prevent homelessness, promote wellness and self-reliance, and extend community links to individuals and families in crisis.

Additionally, through our Holiday Gift Room and Back-to-School supplies programs, we help local families preserve limited income and at the same time provide strong emotional support to their children.

Bryant Early Learning Center



Up to eighty two children receive expert early care and learning in our Bryant Early Learning (BEL) Center. Children 6 weeks to 5 years come to our center to get a wide variety of learning experiences through the programs there. These children thrive in our enriching, multi-cultural environment.

Through a curriculum from the Portage Project, children are guided through age appropriate developmental areas such as communication/language/literacy, social emotional development, and purposeful motor activity.

Each child's progress is tracked, and parents are encouraged to contribute to their child's learning from their first day at BEL and consistently thereafter. Teachers view parents as partners, and the Center offers a variety of activities and informational events to foster this partnership.

Children also benefit from our Child Development Specialist. When developmental delays are detected, children get the care they need, so that they are prepared for kindergarten and further education.

In FY13, all the children (12) in our pre-K classroom tested ready to begin kindergarten in the Fall. Field trips to local kindergarten classes prepared students and parents for this important next step. Our program's emphasis on social and emotional development meant that BEL children are ready to learn.



WORK CENTER



Looking for work can be a full time job. Looking for work when you are unskilled or on the edge financially is frightening. At UCM, we offer help and hope to those adults or youth seeking employment. At our Work Center, job seekers find educational opportunities ranging from keyboarding classes to basic and intermediate classes in Microsoft Office products to English classes stressing basic communication or vocabulary building. More importantly, perhaps, we offer resume review, job preparation services and one-on-one job counseling.

We work hard to reduce barriers to employment and increase our clients' confidence and self esteem. And with our effective job search strategies, we've placed dozens of people in jobs in FY13.

The new Costco store meant great opportunity for our clients. We helped many with the online application, and 13 of our clients now have jobs there. Of course, a job is just the first stop. In FY14 we will implement a new and more robust focus in long term job skills, impact and career focus.

FY13 Success Measures:

- 469 clients received job counseling
- 87% of the people on our job seeker track got jobs

Opportunity Neighborhood:

Securing School and Career Success



Every child needs help to succeed. And they need that help from 'Cradle to Career'. In some neighborhoods and families though, all the help that children need isn't readily available. And without it, children slip behind, may never catch up. Without those resources in a community, whole neighborhoods may slip further behind.

Opportunity Neighborhood provides that help in an especially challenged part of our community. Opportunity Neighborhood, working in the 22309 zip code area, is a partnership between Fairfax County, the Public Schools and the community. Families, educators, UCM, funders, government and interested parties are working together to enhance and improve the lives of children and youth.

A vision unites these people and organizations: children ready to learn, with access to effective schools and strong systems of family and community support; children prepared to attain an excellent education and be successful in college and career.

UCM's role in this new initiative is to implement the 'resident engagement' strategy. We are out talking with the people living in the area, getting their view on what is needed to make their own community stronger.

We are grateful to Capital One for their support of this initiative. Your contributions to UCM help support this important initiative too, bringing together all parts of our community to make it strong for our children, for our future.



Forward Steps: After School Development



Parents want the best for their children. And we know how important parental involvement is in the success of kids. UCM's Forward Steps helps students be fully engaged in their schoolwork and allows parents that special time they need to be aware of what their children are learning.

The three goals for students in the Forward Steps program — improving academic achievement, increasing leadership skills and demonstrating knowledge of social skills – along with the requirement of parental involvement — make for a full youth development program. Our fourth goal of higher parent participation help parents understand the importance of developing positive relationships with caring adults.

Our program, new this year, enhances these children's lives through learning important life lessons. Our Leadership segment gives the opportunity to lead in group project functions; the Positive Decision Making segment teaches skills promoting positive behaviors, and our Improving Grades segment shows the positive outcomes associated with academic success.

The parents of our participants attend our monthly meetings, learning about what and how their children are learning. The whole family is made better and stronger!

We have had success in our first year:

- Over 150 children have enrolled our program.
- We monitored the grades of 54 children, and 40 (74%) showed improvement
- 76% of parents participated in Forward Steps activities, demonstrating involvement in the lives of their children
- We taught a program to improve social skills to 98 children, and 57 (58%) improved in that area.



Friends of UCM



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- Kristyanne Benton-Grover
- Elin Bohn
- Claire Braun
- Lee Braun
- Cleatus Burk
- Marie Canny
- Suzanne Coffey
- Joanna Crane
- Gale Curcio
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- Aloyse Murphy
- Margaret Murphy
- Carolyn Olsen
- Suzanne Parrish
- Patricia Quick
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- Janis L. Surovell
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- Diane Tollefson
- Beverly Turner
- Lorie Turner
- Nadine Wren

The Friends of UCM is an extraordinary volunteer membership organization that builds community spirit through fundraising and public awareness activities. Over \$1 million has been raised by dedicated Friends since the group's founding in 2001. Because of their work, thousands of other people have learned about the needs of their low-income neighbors and about how they can help UCM provide solutions.

Capitol Steps — A record number of community members came together to support UCM for this year's Capitol Steps Benefit. Attendees roared with laughter at the group's antics, had the opportunity to win fabulous raffle baskets, and raised more than \$56,000 to help UCM continue to help people in need.

Spring Gala: Light Up the Night in Black & White — The April 6 Spring Gala at the Mount Vernon Country Club was a special evening. More than 200 attendees walked the red carpet to be treated to a sumptuous dinner, fabulous silent and live auctions, dancing, and fun for all. More than \$123,000 was raised to bring a brighter future for thousands of people in need.



UCM's *Chew on This* Sparks Conversation about **Healthier Food, Healthier Communities**

Featured Panelists:
Chef Cathal Armstrong of Restaurant Eve
Nancy Roman of CAFB
Cheryl Mirabella of Living Whole Health



UCM hosted *Chew on This*, a free healthy food event on Saturday, June 29, 2013. Close to a hundred community members of all ages enjoyed an afternoon of information and discussion about healthy food, recipe tastings, and exercise tips.

Chew on This was designed to bolster our community's understanding of what is healthy food and how that connects to donations to UCM's Food Pantry.

The event opened with a discussion on nutrition, healthy food, and food policy with distinguished panelists, Chef Cathal Armstrong of Restaurant Eve, Nancy Roman of CAFB, and Cheryl Mirabella of Living Whole Health moderated by Christiane Gigi Hyland, UCM Board Member. Afterwards, guests visited resource tables, sampled healthy food recipes, and joined in for activities such as exercise tips for busy families.

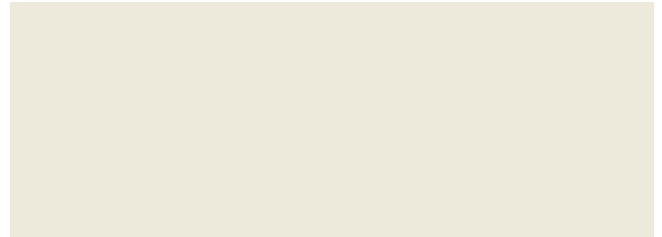
In addition to the panelists, *Chew on This* event supporters included:

- | | |
|---|---|
| Arcadia Center for Sustainable Food and Agriculture | Living Whole Health, Cheryl Mirabella |
| Candlewood Suites/ Ft. Belvoir | Mount Vernon Athletic Club |
| Suzy Coffey | Mount Vernon Presbyterian Youth Group |
| Barbara Doyle | Mount Vernon Unitarian Church |
| Eat Good Food Group/ Restaurant Eve | Claire Neal |
| Foodpolicy.us | Red Hot & Blue Alexandria |
| Giant Food | Shirley Robson |
| Gold's Gym Alexandria | Safeway |
| Healthy Schools Campaign | Sir Speedy Printing Center/ Springfield (Jon Kenny) |
| Christiane Gigi Hyland | |

REGULAR VOLUNTEERS

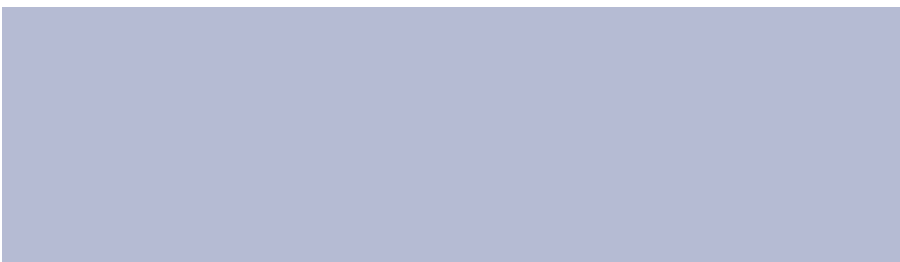
Back to School — August 2012

UCM supporters donated new backpacks and money for school supplies so that 1,000 children could start school ready to succeed! Scores of volunteers of all ages spent hundreds of hours organizing, sorting, and filling the backpacks -and assisting eager students to pick out a special one just for them! Special thanks to the very special volunteer managers of this project!



Scouting for Food — November 2012

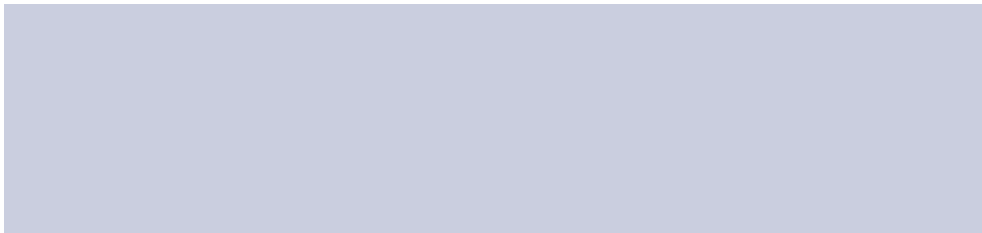
The annual Scouting for Food is UCM's biggest single-day food drive, with hundreds of Boy Scouts collecting food pantry items from tens of thousands of area residents at their homes. Volunteers helped collect, unpack, sort, and store 14,000 pounds of food at UCM, just in time for the holiday season!





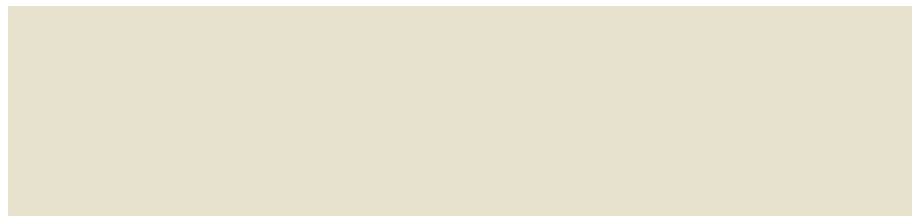
Holiday Gift Room — December 2012

UCM supporters donated close to 10,000 toys, clothing, and other gifts that ensured a joy-filled December holiday for more than 1,300 children in more than 600 families! Scores of UCM volunteers helped to organize, sort, and re-stock gifts, as well as escort parents selecting gifts for their kids.



Help the Homeless — Fall 2012

4,444 walkers of all ages qualified UCM for an extra \$50,000 grant from Fannie Mae! Scores of coordinators, parents, teachers, volunteers, and supporters made possible our 32 *Help the Homeless* Mini-Walk events. Thanks to our volunteers for raising funds and awareness of poverty in our community.



Thank you
to our generous
supporters!

UCM is deeply grateful for the generous financial support of all parts of our community – individuals, corporations, civic groups, and faith communities. Due to space limitations, only contributions of \$250 or more made between July 1, 2012 - June 30, 2013 are listed here. However, we thank everyone who has given us their support. If you find your listing to be in error, please contact Christine Lucas, Director of Development at 571-255-8985. Thank you for your support of UCM! We could not do all that we do without your help!

\$100,000+

Dominion Energy Share

Fairfax County

The Friends of UCM

Fannie Mae Walk for the Homeless

Freddie Mac Foundation

United States Department of Housing & Urban Development

United States Department of Agriculture



\$10,000+

BJ's Charitable Foundation

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Community Foundation of Northern Virginia

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The TJX Companies Inc.

United Way of the National Capital Region

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\$5,000+

Anonymous

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\$500+

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