



Annual Report

JULY 1, 2005 – JUNE 30, 2006





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OUR MISSION

*“To assist families
and individuals
to improve the quality
of their lives
in a manner
which builds their
self-esteem
and fosters their ability
to function at the
greatest level
of their capacity —
socially, economically,
and emotionally.”*



ANNUAL MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

Reflecting on the past year, I am awed by the energy, effort, and resources UCM offered to effectively mitigate community challenges and the monumental support provided to the victims of Hurricane Katrina and Huntington flood area including continued support to residents needing food, clothing, household goods, financial assistance, housing, job placement, computer training, and childcare. The community depends on UCM’s responsiveness to the needs of at-risk and vulnerable families and individuals who live and work in this area. UCM staff will continue to reach out to volunteers, county partners, other nonprofits, the donor community, churches, and business leaders to insure support. Program success hinges, in great measure, on the effective partnerships UCM forges with each of these groups. Year end highlights include:



- UCM’s Youth initiative programs have broaden its dimension of services. Working closely with schools, county, community and the private sector we were able to offer computer learning, mentoring and other after school extracurricular programs and activities in Sacramento, Janna Lee, and Hybla Valley communities to several hundred youth.
- In surrounding neighborhoods, UCM has piloted a number of programs aimed at working with parents while developing community assets and capacity to help stabilize families and promote leadership and citizenship from within. Program success is measured by one life, one family, and one apartment at a time.
- UCM rose to the challenge of the Katrina disaster by working to provide case management to the evacuees who resettled in southeastern Fairfax County. During the time when the Red Cross aid subsided and FEMA was still deliberating over reimbursements, UCM provided the lifeline for 173 individuals and 76 families. Partnering with two other community based organizations, the county and generous donors, UCM provided victim families and individuals necessary support including housing, rental and medical assistance, counseling, food, utilities, job placement and household goods. Carefully planned case management insured successful transition and ability to navigate the cultural, economic and geographic changes.
- UCM worked hard at stabilizing our IT infrastructure and developing the internal capacity to meet the growing needs of our client base. Improved technology capabilities have helped all 32 programs operate more effectively from 10 different locations.

All told, it was a year of challenges, great rewards and client successes. Once again, we grew as an organization...both through our capacity to serve and through the synergy required to build bridges in people’s lives. UCM defines itself not by individual accomplishments but by the wise saying that teaching people to fish lasts a lifetime. I appreciate your support and your dedication in helping us meet each year of challenges with the opportunity to make a difference in our community.

Sincerely,

Cheri Zeman
Executive Director
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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,

Two disasters, Katrina and the Huntington area floods, illustrate why UCM plays such a vital role in our community. In both disasters, the county selected UCM to assist the victims. UCM has helped 176 evacuees from the Gulf Coast and dozens of families in the Huntington community this past year. Although federal assistance terminated on September 30th, UCM will continue to help the Katrina victims living in our area and provide for the Huntington families.



As chairman of the Board of Directors, I want to thank our Executive Director, Cheri Zeman, for her hard work and boundless enthusiasm. Cheri would be the first to acknowledge that UCM's skillful and dedicated staff is crucial to the successful coordination of the many programs and activities along with over a hundred volunteers, who logged thousands of hours to help achieve program goals. During the past fiscal year, UCM served an estimated 8,000 households and without our volunteers this would not have been possible. I also, want to thank the Friends of UCM and hundreds of individual contributors. These benefactors are helping families and individuals to become self sufficient through generous donations which are essential for maintaining our current level of programming.

Finally, I want to thank the Board of Directors for their work this past year. The Board has initiated a major strategic planning initiative; a draft, which was discussed at the October Board meeting. UCM operates in a dynamic environment and the strategic plan will help agency be responsive to the changing needs of our clients.

And, it is my honor to recognize several Board members who are leaving the Board this year; Lenore Binzer, who has been helpful in understanding the commercial changes along Rt. 1, Ruth Morduch who has served as our faithful secretary to the Board for three years, Nancy Hawkins, past president of Friends of UCM, Tania Hindert for her outstanding leadership and support of UCM's youth programs and last but not least, Nancy Urban, a past president of the Board and one of the founding members of the Friends of UCM. We thank them for their service.

Sincerely,



Michael E. Davey
President, UCM Board of Directors



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*To volunteer at UCM,
please contact our
volunteer coordinator at
(703) 768-7106, ext. 328.*

*For more information
about UCM,
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www.ucmagency.org.*

The Bryant Early Learning (BEL) Center was established to address our community-wide issue of the lack of safe, affordable developmental childcare. Children from socio-economically diverse families benefit from participation in an intellectually rich program and multicultural environment where they receive early screening and intervention for health and developmental delays. There are many factors that make BEL unique including:

- It serves a diverse economic and ethnic population – from the working poor who need tuition assistance, to teen mothers who need to complete their high school education and those who can afford to pay the full fee.
- It operates an Early Intervention and Prevention Project staffed by a full-time Child Development Specialist who screens for and treats developmental, speech and health problems. Additionally, the Child Development Specialist provides parent support in the form of group meetings and individual counseling sessions.
- It's developmental curriculum is based on the High/Scope curriculum originally created for the Head Start program.
- BEL is one of seven child development centers in Fairfax County collaborating with Fairfax Futures to design and implement a county-wide school readiness initiative.

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CLIENT PROFILE: Yanira

When Yanira, originally from El Salvador, applied for Bryant High School's Project Opportunity program, she needed childcare for her nine month old son, Oscar. Becoming a mother at sixteen and dealing with life's daily stresses have only left Yanira more determined to finish high school and continue her education. She enrolled her son into the care of BEL Center and with hard work and focus graduated in record time. While student at Bryant she held a part time job to assist with demands and needs of her family. She was a member of the National Honor Society and achieved honor role status for three years. Despite her hectic schedule, Yanira managed to find time to volunteer in various community service projects such as High School/UCM Help the Homeless Mini Walkathon, Toys for Tots, and a drive that gathered much needed baby items for the Healthy Families Program.

Yanira graduated from Bryant High School this past June and began her first semester at the Northern Virginia Community College as a full time student. Her goal is to obtain an Associate's Degree in Business Administration and transfer to another college to complete Bachelor's degree in the same field. She continues to work part time for the federal government and enjoys being a mom.

Little, Oscar flourished at the BEL Center. He is one of a handful of children who attended BEL from infancy through pre-kindergarten. He graduated from the Pre-K class in June and began kindergarten in September. His mother, Yanira and teachers report that Oscar was ready for kindergarten in every way – socially, cognitively and emotionally.



WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT CENTER

Many people in southern Fairfax County have difficulty meeting basic needs due to unemployment, underemployment, or inappropriate employment. UCM's Workforce Development Center addresses the various levels of need by offering services in the area of:

- **Job Placement** – employment counseling, referrals and placements, resumes and applications services.
- **Self Employment** – basic business counseling, business plan development, marketing, tax and insurance assistance including business financing referrals.
- **Better Skills for Better Employment** – improving overall skills including basic computer training (Microsoft Office applications and keyboarding).

CLIENT PROFILE: Nella

Good fortune! That's what it was when Nella walked through the door of our office on a very cold December day. She hesitated for a while but decided to inquire about our services, thinking she's got nothing to lose. She already lost her job at the nursing home, making \$8.00 per hour and was barely making ends meet, very depressed and worried she asked for help.

Workforce Development staff reviewed her application, discussed experiences and interests. She was offered employment counseling and resume services. A few weeks later, with the new resume in hand, Nella started interviewing and followed up on provided referrals. Finally last February after several interviews with a physician's office Nella received an offer to work as an assistant at the rate of \$14.00 per hour.

When we last talked she was very happy, excited about learning new skills and said that we found her a dream job.

- **Work Readiness** – for clients who are *not* work ready and for whom immediate placement is unrealistic and/or unproductive.

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BACK PORCH RESALE STORE

Throughout its 37 year history, the Back Porch Store still plays an important role in the Alexandria/Mt. Vernon community. The 'roots' of our store began at a local church near Sherwood Hall Lane, where winter clothing items were collected and re-distributed to local residents. Providing clothing, furniture and household goods to those in need in the local community remains at the core of the UCM's mission.

Many residents of the local community have also come to recognize the store as a delightful place to shop for great values and unique, one-of-a-kind items. On any given day, a Back Porch shopper will find an eclectic mix of items ranging from up-right pianos, fur coats and antique china, to designer

labeled men's and women's fashions, to everyday tableware and glassware. The Back Porch also offers a variety of books, old LP records, tapes and movies, holiday decorations and jewelry. In order to reach out to a broader market of consumers, the store management has recently developed a wonderful new relationship with an auction company and is now able to place number of expensive items for sale on Ebay. All revenues generated by the store help provide much needed funds for UCM's programs and services.

Another role, and perhaps one which the Back Porch may not be as readily considered, is as a primary recycling center. With heavy emphasis placed by local governments on reducing the

volume of items entering our landfills, thrift stores play a vital role in assisting community members to redistribute household goods. United Community Ministries is proud to announce its charter membership with the Arlington / Alexandria Reuse Network, an organization that enables us to increase our participation as an environmentally friendly stakeholder within the local community.

For further information on donating to the Back Porch, or for store hours please visit our website at www.ucmagency.org.

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Healthy Families Fairfax (HFF) is a countywide program that seeks to identify and reach first time expectant parents who are isolated within their community and in greatest need of parenting education. HFF combines the resources and experiences of UCM, Northern Virginia Family Service, Reston Interfaith, Inc., and Fairfax County's Health Department and Department of Family Services.

It promotes:

- Child health and development
- Positive parenting
- Parent-child bonding and attachment
- Education
- Parent competence, self-reliance and self-esteem
- Links with community support networks, and
- Healthy family functioning

Healthy Families Fairfax tracks:

- Age appropriate child development (0-5 years)
- Immunizations
- Prenatal care visits
- Family and environmental risk factors



Benefits include healthier pregnancies, increases in full-term deliveries with decreases in low birth rate, a higher rate of immunizations, increases in preventive health care, decreases in unplanned repeat pregnancies, decreases in risk factors, and collaborative development of individualized family goal plans.

CLIENT PROFILE: **Anna, Juanita and Clara**

Anna, Juanita and Clara's journeys began long before we met. Their new American home is a part of the separate stories they share.

Torn between families and native cultures, they found themselves trapped in a new world of uncertainty, anxiety and fear. Abandoned by their families and the people they cared for, these were expectant mothers, in desperate need of direction, comfort and support. Their partners and husbands were not able or willing to assume responsibility of caring for their families and just left them. As the walls around these young mothers started to close in, they were directed to UCM's Healthy Families of Fairfax (HFF). The HFF program is available to pregnant women expecting their first U.S. born child. Services include prenatal care and post-natal care.

The Family Support Counselors from the program were eager and able to provide timely and essential guidance and support. The counselors immediately began working with Anna, Juanita and Clara by providing intensive home visitations and comprehensive support services that helped build their trust and much needed self-confidence.

Their new babies brought the joys of motherhood mixed with concerns and worries about post-natal care and nursery needs. With access to care and attention of health professionals and psychological support of HFF counselors, Anna, Juanita and Clara were able to start their new lives, care for their babies and begin the long road to building self-confidence and finding acceptance.

Clara now has full time employment and, though she and her husband may not reunite, she is happy that her son and his father are spending time together. Juanita is also working full time and is making a successful transition. She is a mother of a 3 year old and is looking to a bright future. Juanita has become a strong advocate of the HFF program in the community. As for Anna, time, patience and willingness to learn and accept the reality of life has helped her focus on improving the poor health of her newborn. She entered a comforting and loving relationship and is determined to lead a happy and healthy life with her new family.

Thanks to UCM's Healthy Families Program, counselors are able to provide collaborative, culturally sensitive services in ethnically diverse communities of the Mt.Vernon/Lee District and the Springfield area of Fairfax County. Risk factors identified through the use of a screening tool (Kempe Family Stress Checklist) include: difficulty in establishing parent-child bonding; low self-esteem; depression; inadequate coping skills; multiple family stressors/crises; and, childhood history of physical and psychological abuse.

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SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

In Fairfax County, a survey conducted on March 27, 2006 identified a homeless population of 2,077. An increase of 1.06% over the previous year.

- 934 (45%) single individuals with no children under the age of 18 living with them.
- 1,143 (55%) persons in families with children under 18.
- 724 (35%) of the total homeless population are children
- The waiting list (60 + families) for shelter is up to 4 months.

UCM seeks to provide supportive housing services at the point of displacement or eviction for individuals and families who may be experiencing issues of domestic violence and/or have no alternative housing options other than the streets, uninhabitable/unhealthy residences, or public shelters.

UCM's serves approximately 200 literally homeless individuals through 4 transitional housing programs. Each program is focused on a different target population. The Journeys program is designed to serve families fleeing domestic violence situations; the Community Housing Resources (CHRP) Program serves families who are experiencing homelessness for a variety of reasons;

CLIENT PROFILE: **Donna**

As a single mother of a five year old child Donna, was fortunate to enter the Transitional Housing Program (CHRP), overcome housing issues and after less than two years move into the market rate housing. With the assistance of UCM's counselors Donna attended budgeting classes and acquired household maintenance skills. In a short period of time she cleared more than \$10,000.00 in debt and saved \$3,800.00. UCM's Life Skills Program enabled her to gain much needed knowledge in the area of parenting, anger management as well as organization, work ethics and professionalism. She was able to socialize with other families, share her experiences and provide support. Donna was recently recognized by her peers as one who gives back to the community by assisting clients gain employment opportunities within the INOVA Health System.

the Bridge program serves homeless singles with mental health diagnoses and/or substance abuse issues, some of who may be re-entering society after incarceration; and the Family Renewal program, also serves families who are experiencing homelessness for a variety of reasons and has an added element, a weekly parenting support group.

In addition to providing housing, UCM Supportive Housing programs support services also include:

- Monthly Life Skills Workshops
- Mental health and substance abuse referrals

- Counseling relating to child care and child development
- Employment training, counseling and referrals
- Money management seminars
- Case management & home visits
- Child care assistance
- Emergency assistance of food and utility payments
- Holiday gifts/Holiday food and School Supplies programs

CONTACT:

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BASIC NEEDS

UCM's Basic Needs program helps people in crisis meet basic needs and learn about resources for long-term self-sufficiency. The target population are people in short-term crisis who cannot meet such basic needs as housing or food. They include parents and children, singles, immigrants, women fleeing domestic violence, homeless, victims of substance abuse, disabled, unemployed, underemployed, elderly and others. After the client assessment, Basic Needs program staff identifies clients who may need long-term assistance due to permanent conditions and link them to external resources.

This past year UCM formed the Disaster Support Services as a part of the Basic Needs program, solely focused on providing support to Hurricane Katrina evacuees who resettled in our service area. Services included housing, employment, clothing, food, access to mental health services, and assistance with acquiring Medicaid, food stamps, FEMA and other government services.

The focus of Basic Needs is to offer concrete emergency assistance including one-time loans or grants for rent, mortgage, utilities, dental care and medicines for uninsured clients, transportation assistance, clothing, furniture and household items from UCM's Back Porch Thrift Shop, as well as, emergency food and toiletries from UCM's Food Closet. Clients also receive crisis information and referral services, including budget counseling, referrals to UCM's Workforce Development Center, legal clinic, negotiation with landlords and utility companies, and appropriate referrals to

CLIENT PROFILE: **Emily, Sheila and Catherine**

In the huge exodus of people from the Gulf Coast affected by Hurricane Katrina were two sisters, Emily and Sheila and Sheila's 8 year old daughter Catherine. Their primary mission was to find a place to live and start over. Their sister, a resident of Virginia, offered them hospitality in her one bedroom transitional housing apartment. Even though it provided refuge it soon was clear that the posttraumatic stress, harsh reality and unsuitable one bedroom apartment for three adults and a child became too much for them to bear. They needed a long term solution.

The sisters were referred to UCM and arrived unknowing what help they might find, frightened about their future, and traumatized from their ordeal. While meeting with the case manager their story unfolded as a journey of fear, grief, spiritual strength, and human resilience. Weeks of moving from one shelter to another, working their way through the Fairfax County social support system and the failed effort to live with the only family member who had not lived in New Orleans and been evacuated, left them tired, sad, and confused.

Though Emily, Sheila and Catherine had never lived anywhere outside New Orleans and faced daily challenges of living in a more expensive area without a car, new school and other obstacles, they persisted and fully participated in UCM's support programs and cooperated with the assigned case manager. With the assistance of the case manager they received help with basic needs such as food, clothing, furniture, medical assistance and employment. Through UCM's programs and help they entered the Good Shepherd Transitional Housing program and were referred to the South County Government Center for additional support services. They diligently followed up on all referrals, including employment services, housing option referrals, medical help, and school referrals for Catherine.

In December Emily, Sheila, and Catherine moved into a two-bedroom unit close to their sister. This was a two-year transitional housing program. UCM provided the security deposit and donated furniture. Catherine enrolled in a Fairfax County elementary school where she was welcomed and is now a thriving student in the 3rd grade.

Both Emily and Sheila are employed by the Fairfax County School District and are able to earn a competitive income, receive medical insurance and retirement benefits. They continued to grow spiritually and opened their hearts to a new congregation.

Their new dream is to become homeowners right here in Fairfax County – their new home.

community resources. For many families, this second level of service opens doors to greater self-sufficiency and crisis prevention in the future.

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YOUTH EMPOWERMENT AND LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

There are limited opportunities for underprivileged youth to participate in positive group activities after school. This is due to several factors, including a lack of transportation and poverty. Transportation is the barrier since parents are working during the day. Other parents cannot transport their children to activities or they do not own cars and rely on public transportation. Many people in this area do not live near a bus stop or recreation site or may not be able to afford public transportation. In addition, many of these families cannot afford the added expenses of the equipment, uniforms, and registration fees. Chronic poverty deprives many young people of potential opportunities that would be invaluable both physically and emotionally. UCM's Youth Empowerment and Leadership Program (YELP) is here to address these types of needs.

The Youth Empowerment and Leadership Program partners with Fairfax County Public Schools, Department of Community and Recreational Services and community civic groups to provide comprehensive, high-quality after-school programs in the Janna Lee and Hybla Valley communities. This program provides opportunities for youth to feel safe, improve academic development and performance, improve social and community connectedness, reduce the potential for risk-taking behaviors, and reduce interest in gang involvement or delinquent activities so that youth have greater opportunities for success in developing the attitudes, skills, knowledge and abilities to live healthy lives, become productive adults, and to thrive in the workplaces and communities of the 21st century. In addition to

CLIENT PROFILE: **Anna**

Anna, a single grandmother in her late 50's fled Sierra Leone eight years ago and found herself trapped in the new world, alone with a care for her two grandchildren. Unfortunately, because of her alien status in the United States she was not eligible for medical assistance services and had no income. Even though she struggled financially she was able to keep her family together. Anna was awarded full custody of her 12 year old granddaughter by the Fairfax County Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court. Child's parents were missing in Sierra Leone and were presumed dead.

As she continued her life's battle she learned about UCM and its' programs. After meeting with UCM's counselors the family has received checks to pay for medical examinations, summer camp scholarships, and transportation. Due to the lack of transportation, food has been delivered to their home and Anna's granddaughter attended one-on-one tutoring sessions and a church with the help from UCM staff, as well as the over-night summer girls' camp for the past 3 years. She is an honor roll student, very mature and well-mannered.

As a token of appreciation for UCM and its' staff Anna has recently decided to volunteer in UCM's Food Pantry. Youth Empowerment and Leadership Program (YELP) will continue to support Anna and her family.



offering children academic support and enrichment, social skills and character development, physical, health and recreational activities, including family and community involvement, UCM is there to help stabilize lives of their families.

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Sacramento Neighborhood Center (SNC) is a safe place for families, including children, youth, adults and senior citizens of all cultures to conduct positive community activities in order to meet community challenges build social and leadership skills, assist local school and strengthen the community base.

SNC offers various programs and activities for residence of the Sacramento community that include: Computer Learning Center Partnerships (CLCP), Fantastic Kid Clubs, Homework Help, Tutoring, Free Legal Services, Padres Undoes / Stop Child Abuse Now (SCAN), The Stork's Nest, Tae Kwon Do, Parent Effectiveness Training (PET), Good Touch Bad Touch, Girl Power, Guitars Not Guns, Mz Vocalz Vocal Lessons, Karaoke Singing, Family Nights, Youth Mentoring, Junior Achievers, English as a Second Language (ESL), Senior Clubs, Spade & Game Tournaments, Get Real About Violence & Neighborhood Block Parties.

This past year brought an array of very memorable activities and events which include the following highlights.

In the month of December our Friends of Sacramento Neighborhood Center hosted a multicultural "Family Heritage Potluck". More than forty-eight participants from countries of El Salvador, Ethiopia, India, Mexico and others gathered to share the stories, food and cultural traditions. The Friends of SNC serve an advisory role for SNC programs and activities. Monthly Friends of SNC meetings are held to foster relationships and leadership within the Sacramento Community.



We started the New Year with the Martin Luther King Jr. Day Youth Violence Prevention Forum. Prominent guest speakers, leaders of our community, addressed the issue of youth violence. The youth participants, parents and other community members shared ideas and reflected on the Dream of Martin Luther King Jr., as one little girl read a very moving poem about her dream.

Mz Vocalz Music, featured a workshop called, "Spotlight Band" in which youth participants learned about how to work together through challenges and differences, how to develop song lyrics, choreography, costumes and coordinate a photo shoot. The group of talented children, ranging from ages ten to eleven years old, worked with professional vocal coach, Sally B. Waller and successfully wrote & performed one song entitled, "Dance".

SNC continued to receive support and help from the Mt. Vernon Kiwanis Club. They provided monthly karaoke contests, tutored children, organized field trips and provided donations. During our annual Community Day, volunteers organized a 3-on-3 basketball

tournament, musical performances and demonstrations, health screening, face painting, body art and food. All the proceeds were designated for the youth scholarship fund.

The Parent Effective Training is one of the newest initiatives at the Center. Florence Foster, a retired Fairfax County Social Worker and SNC Volunteer, facilitated the weekly, one-hour sessions. Ms. Foster works closely with many residents to assist with linkages to UCM and County resources for food, housing and other support. Many of referred parents expressed need for assistance with parenting issues and concerns. She decided to start PET classes based on her strong skills in mediation and conflict resolution. The group's goal is to implement PET based techniques in order to help strengthen family relationships. Classes meet each Thursday at 6 p.m. and are free of charge.

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Director
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The core purpose of Community in Action (CIA) is to strengthen and build the resilience of the Janna Lee community and allow the opportunity for residents to discover and share their knowledge and many talents, to serve and help the neighborhood thrive and sustain its appearance, health, safety, leadership and organization.

The goals of CIA are:

- To develop sustainable communities and local leadership.
- To develop local asset-rich relationships which result in support and community building.
- To integrate strategies that promote community cohesiveness, resulting in citizen development and contributions as the foundation for sustained solutions to challenges.
- To provide citizens with the skills and knowledge to serve their community.

Working with Communities in Schools (CIS) and UCM's Youth Empowerment Leadership Program (YELP), CIA offers after school mentoring and workshops for youths and parents at Janna Lee Academy. In addition, CIA engages the residents in beautification and other community projects and connects residents with outside resources.

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CLIENT PROFILE: **Theresa**

Life in the United States has been an adjustment for Theresa. Originally from Belize, Theresa, a mother of three children, was used to keeping busy. She often worked more than 12 hours in her gift shop. Now, after settling into her new life in America and with the kids in school all day, she was feeling restless and unchallenged.

She decided to visit the Community Center and met UCM's Community Developer, Blanca Vasquez. While talking with Blanca, she became emotional, expressed frustration with her current situation and asked for help. Knowing that Theresa is bilingual and fluent in English and Spanish, Blanca offered her voluntary teaching position in the Community Center. Theresa was excited about the opportunity and readily accepted it.

With Blanca's encouragement and Theresa's willingness to share her time and talents they began offering English classes at the community center. Blanca soon discovered that Theresa was a gifted artist, skilled in jewelry design, sculpting and painting. After learning about all these additional talents and interests, Blanca was determined to find a way to help Theresa establish herself as an artist.

She referred Theresa to Empowered Women International which offers programs to teach artists how to market their skills. While Theresa was excited about the prospect of developing as an artist, she was very nervous about participating in the program. Not willing to see Theresa's dream fade, Blanca decided to participate in the program as well so that Theresa would not be alone. They both successfully completed the program and Theresa was thrilled to have earned the first diploma of her life.

Today, Theresa continues to make a positive impact in the Janna Lee community and remains focused on development of her art skills. As a Community Developer, Blanca feels great satisfactions and joy in meeting people with diverse backgrounds, helping them reach their goals and empowering them to succeed and become leaders in their communities.



UCM's Development Team is responsible for raising awareness and raising resources to support the agencies efforts in the community through marketing and public relations; volunteer recruitment and placement; soliciting in-kind donations; and fundraising.

UCM works to ensure that its programs and services are protected from changes in funding trends by diversifying our funding sources instead of relying solely on government funding or any other single funding stream. UCM actively solicits contributions from:

- individuals through direct appeals, the United Way & CFC (#8199) and independent workplace campaigns
- planned giving (securities, wills/bequests, memorial/honorariums, real-estate/ property, investment retirement accounts)
- special events such as the Fannie Mae Foundations Help the Homeless Walkathon, "Puttin' Youth First" Miniature Golf Outing, Little Theater of Alexandria Benefit Performance, Capitol Steps, Evening Under the Stars and restaurant nights
- special events sponsored by other entities to benefit UCM, such as SOUPER Saturday, Aldersgate Methodist Church's Spring Fashion Show and Hilltop Golf Club's Charity Golf Benefit
- corporate grants and matching donation programs
- faith-based community
- foundation grants
- service organizations

In addition to financial resources, UCM depends on non-monetary donations (in-kind) to help support our programs and reduce our operating expenses. We solicit donations of office supplies, equipment and furniture as well as

DONOR PROFILE: Jerome Jackson

For years, UCM's supporters have been coming up with creative ways to contribute to UCM. Individuals have asked for donations of food or diapers in lieu of birthday gifts. Organizations have asked for donations of toys in lieu of meeting fees during the holidays. Businesses have donated unsold or discontinued items. There seems to be no end to a caring person's creativity and resourcefulness.

One such person who contributed to UCM this past year in a special way was attorney, Jerome Jackson. Mr. Jackson, compelled by the need for school supplies for local needy children and scholarships for youth to participate in sports activities, took it upon himself to raise funds for UCM's youth programs. He prepared his own solicitation letter which he mailed to attorneys throughout the Alexandria area.

Mr. Jackson's appeal to his colleagues was very successful. Not only did several attorneys donate money and supplies for our Back to School project, but also several law firms have become regular financial donors of UCM. One law firm, who initially mailed us a check for \$500, followed up with a second check for \$4,500 during the holidays.

UCM appreciates Mr. Jackson's support and his initiative in helping us serve the needs of the community. His commitment to the youth in our community and his willingness to advocate on their behalf is sure to have a long-lasting impact on their lives.

food donations, clothing and household items for individuals and families in our community.

The ultimate success of our fundraising efforts lies with the generosity of our community and our volunteers. UCM is proud of its grassroots, community-

based heritage that is reflected in our approach to fundraising.

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For millions of Americans, volunteer-ing is the key to a healthy, fulfilling and meaningful life. Volunteering serves others while rewarding those who give. Volunteering renews our connection to our communities, builds self worth and helps develops social responsibility in our children. Through volunteering we learn compassion, teamwork, tolerance and a sense of duty to respond to those in need.

UCM understands the importance of volunteers. Every program of UCM, at one time or another, has utilized the services of volunteers. Let's look at an example: UCM's Food Pantry distributed almost 300,000 pounds of food to our neighbors in need during FY06. About half of that food was donated. In a sense, all of the individuals and groups who helped donate, collect and deliver the food were volunteers! Taking it a step further, more than 100 volunteers donated more than 5,000 hours of time helping to package and distribute the food to our neighbors. This is only one program at UCM, but it is an incredible testimony to the staff and volunteers that support the UCM mission and the community!

UCM's Volunteer program is an asset to the community. Over the past several years, the UCM Volunteer Program has been a resource for several of Fairfax County's alternative community sentencing programs: Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court, Opportunities, Alternatives & Resources (OAR) of Fairfax County, Fairfax County Alcohol Safety Action Program

Volunteering may not always be easy, but it is always necessary. What would our lives be like, what would our community and our nation be like, without neighbors helping neighbors? Volunteers are the helping hands. They are thoughtful, committed citizens who continue to change our world – one

FY 2005: Volunteer Highlights

- School Supplies Program: 36 volunteers, 164 hours, 634 children served
- Holiday Program: 100 volunteers, 645 hours, 774 children served
- Adopt-a-Family Program: 76 families adopted
- 36 volunteers from the international accounting firm of Deloitte celebrated IMPACT DAY by creating a perennial garden at the BEL Center, mulched, stenciled the outer edge of the playground area with the alphabet and painted a hopscotch board and sport designed grid in the middle of the playground area.
- The Mount Vernon Boys Partnership under the direction of Deborah Schulle was formed to help serve others in our community. The goal of MVBP is to use their strengths to make a positive difference in the lives of those who serve as well as those who are helped by MVBP projects and efforts. The group includes boys ages 10 to 16. The boys collected new household items such as kitchen utensils, cleaning products, dishes, pots and pans and other basic household items to create a "Fresh Beginnings Closet" for UCM's transitional housing families.
- The House D.C., Inc Leadership Servant program is a group of volunteers from churches throughout the fifty states. They came to D.C. in mid July with the idea to form smaller groups and volunteer at non-profits in the metro area. Ten volunteers from Arizona came to UCM's Sacramento Neighborhood Center and helped organize and play games with the children, assisted in serving lunch, revised the Centers brochure and created and helped hand out flyers for a neighborhood community meeting.
- Freshman volunteers from Georgetown University who are members of First Year Orientation to Community Service, a week-long program that introduces first year students to the Jesuit service ethic through immersion in community service and structured reflection, arrived at UCM for 2 days in mid August to help wash and wax agency cars, power wash the UCM front office, work in the food pantry, pack backpacks with school supplies and give overall assistance to UCM staff.

activity at a time. By teaching a computer class, mentoring an adult who is seeking to return to the workforce, teaching a child to read or assisting with homework, filling food bags and sorting donations, hosting a fund raising event, or just advocating for the basic rights of others, UCM volunteers are making a difference for the dignity of our neighbors.

UCM wants to say thank you to our regular core volunteers who assist

with front desk intake, basic needs counseling, food pantry, back porch thrift store, computer and ESL classes and UCM's youth programs. These volunteers show up each week and lend a hand to staff to help "budget stretch" and strengthen UCM's programs.

CONTACT:

Betsy Damitz
Volunteer Coordinator
(703) 768-7106 x326
volunteer@ucmagency.org

FRIENDS OF UCM

The Friends of UCM, whose mission is to build a sense of community spirit and pride through fund raising and public awareness, are serving their sixth year as “Neighborhood Ambassadors” to UCM. The Friends of UCM organizes and hosts two of UCM’s most important fundraisers, the Capitol Steps performance, held in January, and the Spring Gala celebration, held in April or May. The Friends of UCM are proud to be able to help support UCM’s many worthy community based programs and are looking forward to another



FY 2006: Friends Support to UCM

PERIOD ENDED JUNE 30, 2006

UNAUDITED

	Capitol Steps	Spring Event	Total
Revenues	\$62,245	\$69,792	\$132,037
Expenses	9,141	19,642	28,783
Support to UCM	\$53,104	\$50,150	\$103,254

year of helping UCM help those less fortunate right here in our neighborhood. The Board and Staff of UCM are very grateful to the Friends of UCM for their hard work and tireless efforts. New members are always welcome to join this fun and hard-working volunteer organization. It is the support of the Friends and many other

volunteers, churches, individuals and organizations in this community that help make our neighborhood a better place to live.

CONTACT:

Nancy Hawkins,
President of the Friends of UCM
(703) 768-7106 x346
friends@ucmagency.org

DONOR BILL OF RIGHTS *

Philanthropy is based on voluntary action for the common good. It is a tradition of giving and sharing that is primary to the quality of life. To assure that philanthropy merits the respect and trust of the general public, and that donors and prospective donors can have full confidence in UCM and causes they are asked to support, we declare that all donors have these rights:

1. To be informed of UCM’s mission, of the way UCM intends to use donated resources, and of its capacity to use donations effectively for their intended purposes.
2. To be informed of the identity of those serving on UCM’s governing board, and to expect the board to exercise prudent judgement in its stewardship responsibilities.
3. To have access to UCM’s most recent financial statements.
4. To be assured their gifts will be used for the purposes for which they were given.
5. To receive appropriate acknowledgment and recognition in a timely manner.
6. To be assured that information about their donations is handled with respect and with confidentiality to the extent provided by the law.
7. To expect that all relationships with individuals representing UCM to the donor will be professional in nature.
8. To be informed whether those seeking donations are volunteers, employees of UCM or hired solicitors.
9. To feel free to ask questions when making a donation and to receive prompt, truthful, and forthright answers.

UCM does not sell (rent or loan) donor information to any outside entities.

** Modified from the “Donor Bill of Rights” developed by American Association of Fund Raising Counsel (AAFRC), Association for Healthcare Philanthropy (AHP), Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE), and the National Society of Fund Raising Executives (NSFRE).*

SERVICE STATISTICS

Fiscal Year 2006

July 1, 2005 – June 30, 2006

8,057 unduplicated individuals served

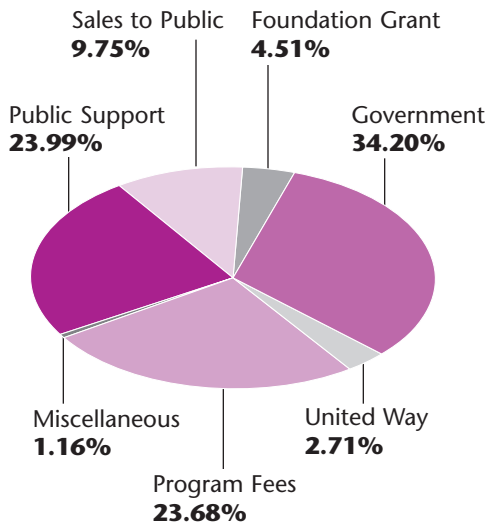
3,233 households served



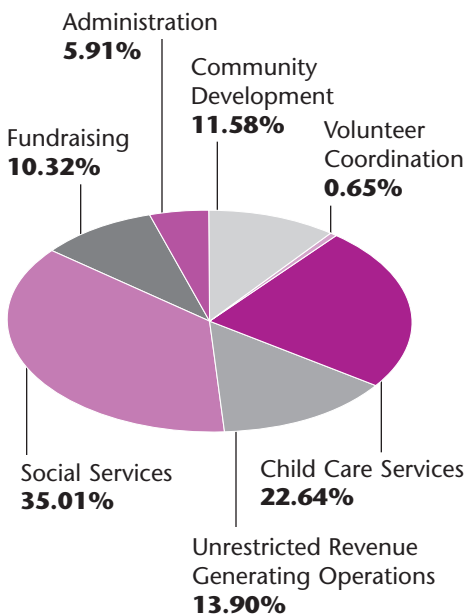
Top Services and Outcomes

Pounds of food distributed	301,142
Meals provided by emergency food orders	123,120
Individuals provided with general counseling	3,824
Holiday Food	1,110
Personal Supplies (e.g. diapers)	1,131
Back Porch Gift Certificates distributed	2,079
Utility cut-off prevented or restored	284
Eviction prevented	301

INCOME SOURCES



INCOME USES



BALANCE SHEET

AS OF JUNE 30, 2006	UNAUDITED
ASSETS:	
Cash	\$106,915
Accounts Receivable-Net	524,177
Pre-Paid Expenses	40,401
Investments	589,472
Property and Equipment	<u>287,211</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$1,548,176</u>

LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES:

Liabilities:	
Accounts Payable	\$30,159
Custodial Accounts	21,654
Accrued Expenses	171,240
Notes Payable	51,909
Refundable Deposits	<u>1,825</u>
Total Liabilities	\$276,786

NET ASSETS:	
Total Net Assets	\$1,271,390
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES	<u>\$1,548,176</u>

REVENUES & EXPENSES

PERIOD ENDED JUNE 30, 2006	UNAUDITED
REVENUES:	
Contributions	\$563,216
Special Events	430,575
Grants	186,694
United Way	112,301
Government Agencies	1,416,888
Program Services Fees	980,905
Interest & Investment	14,913
Sales to Public	404,003
Misc. Income	<u>33,350</u>
TOTAL REVENUES	\$4,142,845

EXPENSES	
Payroll Expense	\$2,911,132
Direct Assistance	303,445
Operating Expenses	<u>995,260</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>\$4,209,836</u>
Unrealized Gain	\$8,093

CHANGE IN NET ASSETS **(\$58,897)***

* Offset by funding received in FY 2005 that was designated for spending in FY 2006.



United Community Ministries, Inc.
7511 Fordson Road
Alexandria, VA 22306

PHONE:

(703) 768-7106

FAX:

(703) 768-4788

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United Way/Workplace Campaign
#8199

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