

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
Joseph Canny

This has been a rewarding year for UCM. We have provided support and assistance to a record number of our neighbors in the Route 1 corridor - more than at any other time in our nearly forty year history. Our "Basic Needs" program, which is the foundation of our efforts and the initial point of contact for most of the families we serve, provided support to more than 8,700 persons, a remarkable number in light of the usual view of an affluent Fairfax County.

Other UCM programs have also had a banner year. For example, Workforce Development has provided training and employment opportunities to a growing number of clients, in part as a result of the closing of other public employment assistance offices. Our neighborhood development efforts in the Sacramento and Creekside Village (formerly Janna Lee) communities have offered a broad range of opportunities to youth and adults alike, and have been important to promoting the cohesion and stability of those communities.

This has also been a year of growth on the administrative side, as we completed our first full year with our new Executive Director, Cynthia Hull. There has been a renewed sense of vitality, teamwork and commitment among UCM staff, and we recently completed a demanding effort of self-review and analysis as we went through the process of re-accreditation. We have also maintained and enhanced partnerships with the Fairfax County government and non-profit agencies that provide housing and other support which complements UCM's services.

None of this would have been possible without the dedicated support of our community. Contributions of money and food (through "Sharing Sunday" programs, for example) have helped sustain us, as have the thousands of hours of service provided by our dedicated volunteers. The outstanding support provided by the Friends of UCM has been particularly critical to our success, and we deeply appreciate the Friends' efforts.

For the coming year, UCM faces tremendous challenges. Overriding all the others is our need for renewed financial support, as the demands for our services grow in a period of economic distress. I close with an appeal to all our friends, neighbors and supporters to maintain and, if possible, increase your commitment to UCM. Together, we can have a rewarding and joyous celebration in 2009 of our fortieth year of service to our community.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE
Cynthia N. Hull

This has been an extraordinary year for UCM and our community. In a time of great economic challenges, more and more of our neighbors are reaching out for help for the most basic of human needs of food, shelter and support for their families. You have been there with us, supporting UCM's work with your time and your treasure, assuring that UCM is truly *of* the community, *in* the community and *for* the community. We will continue to reach out, asking for your assistance and knowing that you will be part of the solution, making ours a community that cares and responds.

While response to the rapid escalation of emergency needs requires more and more resources, we never lose sight of the profound and affirmative activities and results of UCM's other programs. Hand-in-hand with the Basic Needs staff, the Family Renewal Program teaches financial literacy, self-sufficiency and life-skills. Workforce Development Program staff are finding new and creative ways to meet increasing and complex employability and employment needs and the Back Porch Thrift Store offers inexpensive, yet quality, household items, furniture and clothing to clients and the community at large.

The BEL Center offers a joy-filled, educational, multi-cultural celebration that works with parents to prepare young children for school and for life, while Healthy Families Fairfax continues its intensive in-home case management services with high-risk families to prevent child abuse and neglect. UCM's community centers at Sacramento and Creekside Village, as well as the Youth Empowerment Leadership Program and our prevention projects, are truly transformative of individuals and neighborhoods as residents of all ages become engaged in their community, learning to lead and make positive changes that strengthen the environment in which their families live. And long-term change and stability is made possible for participants in UCM's transitional housing programs for those fleeing domestic violence, struggling with substance abuse and/or mental illness and families who would otherwise be homeless.

While all of this may seem at first glance to be overwhelming, in reality it can be extraordinarily uplifting as human beings come together to learn and teach, to improve their lives, their families, their neighborhoods and their larger communities. Thank you for the support you provide that truly makes this possible.

LOCATIONS

Main Office

7511 Fordson Road, Alexandria, VA 22306
tel: (703) 768-7106 fax: (703) 768-4788

Back Porch Thrift Store

7838 Richmond Hwy., Alexandria, VA 22306
tel: (703) 799-7015 fax: (703) 799-3485

Bryant Early Learning (BEL) Center

2709 Popkins Lane, Alexandria, VA 22306
tel: (703) 765-0909 fax: (703) 765-5638

Creekside Village Community Center

7939 Janna Lee Ave., Alexandria, VA, 22306
tel: (703) 347-6042

Healthy Families Fairfax — Mt. Vernon/Lee

8350 Richmond Hwy., Alexandria, VA 22306
tel: (703) 704-6794

Healthy Families Fairfax— Springfield

8136 Old Keen Mill Road, Springfield, VA 22152
tel: (703) 913-8993 fax (703) 569-2481

Sacramento Neighborhood Center

8792-E Sacramento Drive, Alexandria, VA 22309
tel: (703) 619-2964 fax: (703) 619-2967

Workforce Development Center

7842 Richmond Hwy., Alexandria, VA 22306
tel: (703) 360-9088 fax: (703) 360-4895

United Community Ministries



Annual Report Fiscal Year 2008

July 1, 2007—June 30, 2008

MISSION

UCM is a private, non-profit, community based social services agency whose mission is to assist families and individuals to improve 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.

ucmagency.org

Contributors



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PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Emergency Services

While meeting ever-increasing emergency needs, UCM's **Basic Needs Program** also teaches skills that promote long-term independent living. The working poor and those on fixed incomes face hardships that include hunger; the risk of homelessness and loss of utilities; and worsening of illnesses such as diabetes, which can be life-threatening if left undiagnosed and untreated.

Employment Services

UCM's **Workforce Development Program (WFD)** is rising to the challenge of a rapidly changing job market through creative programming and teaching of skills essential to gaining employment in a declining economy. WFD assists area residents in finding or improving their employment through career counseling, resume preparation, computer classes, Microenterprise business classes and in numerous other ways. Additionally, area businesses rely on UCM to refer qualified and motivated employees.

Neighborhood and Leadership Development

Sacramento Neighborhood Center (SNC), Community In Action in the Creekside Village neighborhood and the **Youth Empowerment and Leadership Program (YELP)** are truly transformative of individuals and neighborhoods as residents of all ages become engaged in their community, learning to lead and make positive changes that strengthen the environment in which their families live.

Back Porch Thrift Store

The **Back Porch Thrift Store** has a long history in the Mt. Vernon / Alexandria area. Donated merchandise is made available to clients in need, as well as for sale to the general public. New merchandise is brought to the sales floor every day and we encourage you to come find hidden treasures and wonderful bargains. Proceeds from store sales are used to support the many programs of UCM.

Early Childhood Programs

The **Bryant Early Learning (BEL) Center** provides safe, affordable, developmental childcare to children 6 weeks to 5 years of age. This enriching, multi-cultural environment also offers parental support and referrals for special-needs children.

Healthy Families Fairfax is a creative collaboration of three Northern Virginia nonprofits (United Community Ministries, Northern Virginia Family Service and Reston Interfaith), the Department of Health and the Department of Family Service that provides intensive home visitation services that successfully prevent child abuse and neglect in high risk families.

Prevention Programs

Through a new partnership with Fairfax County, **We Can!, Safe Dates**, and **Al's Pals** are being offered to parents and children in our community to promote healthy nutrition in families, positive dating relationships in youth and positive social-emotional skills in young children.

Housing Programs

UCM manages three two-year transitional housing programs that include intensive counseling and case management, with the goal to bring participants to the level of independent living that is most realistic for each to achieve. The programs include one for those fleeing domestic violence (**Journeys**); another for people struggling with mental illness and/or substance abuse problems (**BRIDGE**) and a third for homeless families (**CHRP**).

In addition, the **Family Renewal Program** assists families that are homeless or at risk of homelessness to achieve stable housing, prevent child abuse, improve parenting skills, enhance child health and development, learn important life skills and develop a community support network.



United Community Ministries
IN the community
OF the community
and
FOR the community
since 1969



Key Accomplishments

- In FY 2008 more than 10,000 individuals received assistance in improving the quality of their lives.
- More than 8,700 individuals received emergency services, with an increase of food distribution of 64%.
- An estimated 44,012 Fairfax County residents lived below the poverty line; UCM served 23% of that number.

UCM's Family

UCM's ability to effectively meet community needs is possible because of the partnership among staff, board, funders and other community members. Some of the many who were part of the UCM team included:

- More than 700 community volunteers worked with UCM during FY 2008.
- Individuals, faith communities, businesses and corporations, foundations, civic groups, governments, United Way, community foundations and others financially supported UCM.
- Dr. James Geren and the Northern Virginia Dental Clinic offered dental care to UCM clients.
- Non-profit partners with whom UCM joined to provide a comprehensive social and economic safety net and to foster stability in the lives of program participants.
- Many, many others made the lives of thousands of our neighbors safer, healthier and filled with hope.

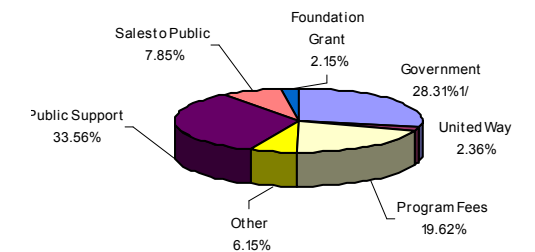
Fiscal Year 2008 (unaudited) Statement of Financial Position

ASSETS	
Current assets	\$745,721
Property and equipment	\$133,568
Investments	\$188,037
Total Assets	\$1,067,326
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	
Current liabilities	\$242,901
Long-term liabilities	\$ 10,849
Liabilities	\$253,750
Unrestricted net assets (undesignated)	\$168,400
Unrestricted (board-designated reserve)	\$346,753
Net assets	\$ 813,576
Total liabilities and net assets	\$1,067,326

Statement of Activities

Revenue and support	\$4,373,701
Expenses	\$4,383,893
Change in net assets	(\$ (10,192)
Net assets, end of year	\$ 813,576

REVENUE SOURCES



EXPENSE CATEGORIES

