



United Community Ministries

Fighting poverty, hunger & homelessness since 1969

Annual Report

July 1, 2009 - June 30, 2010

Finding Help, Hope and a Career at UCM

“Roxana Sarmiento is tenacious in her commitment to solve problems and find answers, creative in her approach and a tremendous asset to this agency,” says UCM Executive Director, Cynthia N. Hull. Roxana spends her days at UCM helping others. When the printer won’t print, Roxana fixes it. When someone does not know how to do something in a computer program, Roxana helps them figure out how. As UCM’s Information Technology (IT) Manager, she makes sure that the computers, faxes, printers and servers are working at each of UCM’s sites and fixes them when they are not, ensuring that UCM’s staff and volunteers have the necessary technology to do the work that helps others. But eleven years ago, Roxana’s life was very different: at that point, she was the one who needed help.

When Roxana first came to UCM, she was apprehensive about admitting that she needed assistance. “I was raised not to ask for help—I felt like it was degrading,” she recalls. But after two months of being unemployed and struggling unsuccessfully to find a new job, her savings were quickly dwindling down to near nothing. With three children to care for by herself, Roxana knew that without help, her family would soon be facing eviction.

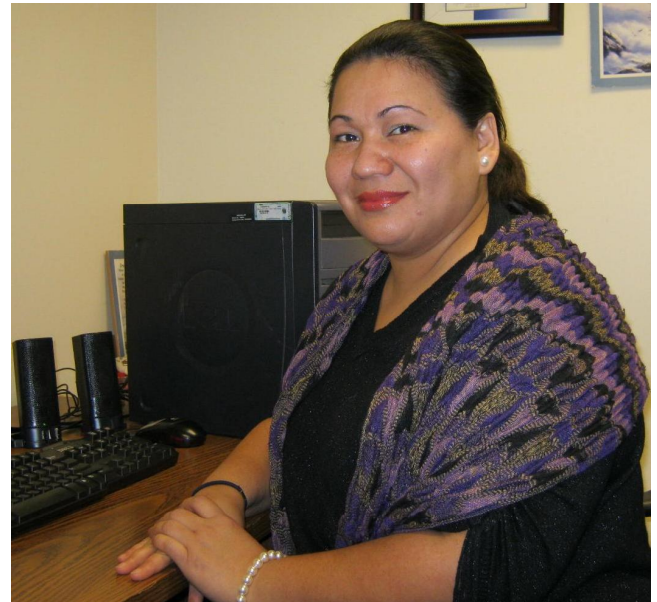
Roxana was surprised to find so much more than the rent and food assistance she expected when she came to UCM. “I was afraid, but the Basic Needs Counselor showed me such respect and such caring. He was so kind. I didn’t feel bad about needing help anymore—I felt like I was a human being having a hard time,” she says.

Roxana received food and rental assistance that allowed her and her children to stay in their home and not be hungry while she continued to look for work. With the winter holidays quickly approaching, Roxana was able to get gifts for her children from UCM’s holiday gift program to ensure a merry Christmas that year.

Roxana was determined to find a job to support her family, and UCM was there to help. When the receptionist job opened up at UCM, it was suggested that she apply. Roxana began working at UCM in December of 2000.

Over the years, Roxana has worn many hats at UCM, working hard in each position that she has held while garnering the affection and admiration of her co-workers. But Roxana really found her passion when she began working in IT several years ago. “My manager noticed my interest in computers and asked me if I would like to learn more. I began shadowing the IT Manager and became the IT Assistant and then the Manager when that position became available.”

Today, Roxana works full-time at UCM and is pursuing a Bachelor’s degree in Computer Network Systems. She loves her job. Her two older children are grown up, and her youngest is a thriving middle school student. She is proud to continue to work with UCM because, “I know that UCM is here to help—I know that we will connect people with the resources they need. I know this because they gave me hope and showed me the way when I needed it.”



Our Mission: To assist families and individuals to improve the quality of their lives in a manner that builds their self reliance and fosters their ability to function at the greatest level of their economic and social capacities.

Message From the Board President and Executive Director

Dear Friends:

It has been a tremendous honor this year to partner with members of our community who have so generously provided financial and volunteer support to ensure the well-being of thousands of our neighbors. We also have been deeply moved by the stories of more than 14,000 people who benefitted from this partnership—an astounding number that amounts to 28% of the reported 50,000 men, women, and children living in poverty in Fairfax County.

The people who need our help come from all walks of life; some are families who have been hit hard by the recession, while others have been affected in some other way by their life circumstances. Whatever the reason for their need, UCM can help them because the generosity of our community is, and will continue to be, a vital part of the way in which we can assure people have basic food and shelter, while helping them build skills and find resources to move forward successfully. And, always, we remember that providing a sense of hope is necessary to the well-being of all human beings.

As we look ahead, we are as impacted by the mixed signals on the economy as anyone. While we are encouraged by the anticipation of an improved economy, it is expected that it will not reduce the unemployment rate for many years. Because those with whom UCM works often have a higher unemployment rate than the general population due to low educational and/or job skill levels, it is likely we will continue to see high levels of unemployment among our program participants. Already, the number of people on food stamps has increased by 70% in the past three years and one in seven people lives in poverty, the highest on record.

With these trends in mind, the need for your support remains as critical as ever, and we are truly grateful to know that is understood and heard so clearly and faithfully. Together we remain the solution to individual, family, neighborhood and community needs.

With Appreciation,



Cynthia N. Hull
Executive Director



Felicea Meyer-DeLoatch
President, Board of Directors



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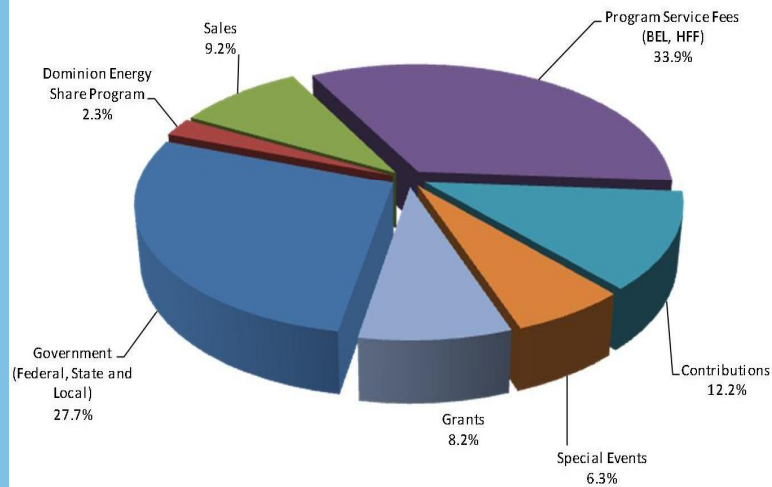
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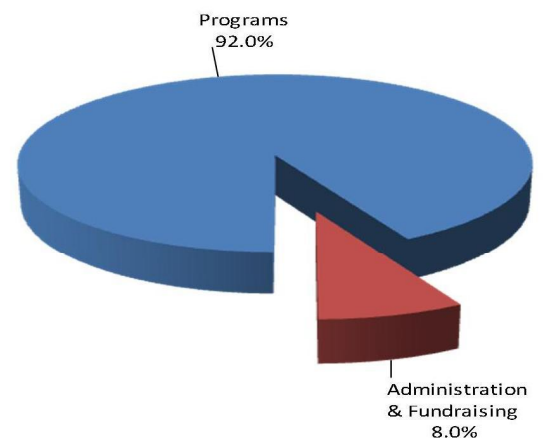
Cynthia Hull
Executive Director

Financial Information

Fiscal Year 2010 Revenue



Fiscal Year 2010 Expenses



Basic Needs

The Basic Needs program helps people in crisis meet their most immediate and essential needs, as well as gain the resources necessary for long-term self-reliance. Services that Basic Needs provides include emergency food, eviction and utility cut-off prevention, household items, clothing and self-sufficiency skills development.

Basic Needs FY 2010 Accomplishments:

- Assisted more than 10,600 individuals with safety-net services.
- Supplied over 669,751 pounds of food to more than 9,000 hungry individuals and families.
- Prevented utility disconnection for 1,476 households.
- Provided medical or dental assistance to 413 individuals.
- Prevented 572 households from being evicted from their homes.
- Helped more than 850 children start the school year off on the right foot with new backpacks and school supplies.



Bryant Early Learning Center

The Bryant Early Learning (BEL) Center provides safe, affordable, developmentally appropriate child care for up to 92 children aged 6 weeks to 5 years. UCM partners with Fairfax County's Bryant Alternative High School in preventing school dropout among teen parents involved in Project Opportunity. The BEL Center is fully accredited by the Council of Accreditation, and it provides an enriching, multi-cultural child care environment that offers parental support to strengthen parenting skills.

BEL Center FY 2010 Accomplishments:

- Graduated 15 children from the pre-kindergarten program who tested ready to begin kindergarten in the fall.
- Conducted workshops where 19 teen moms received positive parenting training.
- Provided a well-established, positive learning environment for every child through highly stable, multi-cultural, and multilingual staffing.



Workforce Development Center

UCM's Workforce Development Center (WDC) assists area residents in finding or improving their employment through career counseling, resume preparation, computer classes, Microenterprise business classes and other services. For those with no computer experience, WDC allows job seekers to establish email accounts and learn to research and apply for work online.

WDC FY 2010 Accomplishments:

- Provided 744 clients with services to increase their employability and job-readiness.
- Referred clients to 1,144 job leads.
- Conducted basic, intermediate and advanced computer training classes that increased the computer literacy of 193 individuals.
- Placed 91 high-barrier individuals directly into employment.

Transitional Housing Programs

UCM manages three two-year transitional housing programs. These programs truly transform people's lives, giving them not only a home, but also the support needed to move from homelessness and trauma to independent living. The Journeys Program is designed to help families who are fleeing domestic violence. The Bridge Program works with individuals with mental illness and/or substance abuse challenges. The Community Housing Resources Program (CHRP) moves families from homelessness to stability.

Housing Programs FY 2010 Accomplishments:

- Moved 55 individuals out of homelessness and into permanent housing.
- Offered monthly life skills workshops for program participants.
- Provided participants access to appropriate employment, mental health, substance abuse, child care, and educational resources.



Healthy Families Fairfax



Healthy Families Fairfax (HFF) is an intensive home visitation program that successfully prevents child abuse and neglect in high-risk families. HFF is a creative collaboration of three Northern Virginia nonprofits (UCM, Northern Virginia Family Service and Reston Interfaith) and Fairfax County's Department of Family Services and Department of Health. HFF

provides home-based parenting education, health information, and community support to first-time parents from pregnancy until the child reaches age five.

HFF FY 2010 Accomplishments

- Served 640 families at risk of child abuse or neglect.
- Provided 2,101 screenings for developmental delays.
- Conducted 1,928 home visits to support families in need.

UCM Volunteers

Volunteers are at the heart of the work that UCM does each year. From working as Basic Needs counselors, to participating on our Board of Directors, to teaching classes at the Workforce Development Center, to sorting food for the food pantry and much, much more—UCM volunteers do it all! UCM is deeply grateful to the more than 1,841 volunteers who gave of their time and their talents to help the community in FY 2010.

One particularly dedicated group of UCM volunteers is The Friends of UCM. During Fiscal Year 2010, The Friends continued to demonstrate their remarkable dedication and drive, producing phenomenal fundraising events like Home for the Holidays, Capitol Steps, and UCM's 2010 Spring Gala. Thank you, Friends of UCM!

UCM Volunteers FY 2010 Accomplishments

- Donated a total of 23,086 hours of their time to UCM—the equivalent of 11 full-time staff positions and \$473,952* in salaries.
- Raised more than \$160,000 through events hosted by the Friends of UCM.



*Based on the Virginia Employment Commission's Volunteer rate of \$20.53/hour.

Neighborhood Development

Sacramento Neighborhood Center (SNC), Community in Action (CIA) at Creekside Community Center and Youth Empowerment and Leadership Program (YELP) together served fifteen low-income communities. The programs are 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.

Neighborhood Development FY 2010 Accomplishments

- Collaborated with Fairfax County to provide "Neighborhood College," a community leadership program that educated residents in Creekside Village about working with their neighbors, community organizations, and local government.
- Engaged nearly 850 individuals in community programming and leadership development activities at SNC.
- Provided educational enrichment, conflict management training and tutoring to 140 individuals through YELP.



Back Porch Thrift Store

Since 1969, the Back Porch Thrift Store has played an important role in the Alexandria/Mount Vernon Area. 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 the local community remains at the heart of 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. All revenues generated from the store help provide much needed funds for UCM's programs and services. Thank you for your donations!

Back Porch FY 2010 Accomplishments

- Increased annual sales by 12.4% over FY 2009.
- Provided community members in need with household goods, clothing and other items.
- Served as a resource recycling center for the local community.
- Contributed eight jobs to the local economy.

Thank You to Our Generous Supporters!

UCM is deeply grateful for the generous financial support of individuals, corporations, foundations, civic groups and faith communities. Due to space limitations, only contributions of \$100 or more made between July 1, 2009 — June 30, 2010 are listed here. However, we thank everyone who has given us their support. We could not do all that we do without your help.

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UCM deeply appreciates the generosity of community members who choose to support UCM through the United Way or the Combined Federal Campaign.

Fiscal Year 2010 Accomplishments

- UCM served more than 14,000 unduplicated individuals from over 5,000 families—totaling 28% of the estimated 50,000 individuals in Fairfax County living in poverty.
- Nearly 11,000 individuals received emergency services from UCM. The agency provided the equivalent of 2,486 meals per day and prevented hundreds from being evicted, having their utilities cut off, or facing a lack of critical medicine, while also providing clothing, household items, and furniture to more than 3,000 families.
- The BEL Center provided outstanding safe, affordable, developmentally appropriate child care to children aged 6 weeks to 5 years.
- The Workforce Development Center provided 744 clients with services to increase their employability skills.
- UCM's two-year transitional housing programs provided a safe place to stay and the skills to live independent lives for those experiencing the trauma of homelessness. UCM provided case management and other supportive services to homeless families, families fleeing domestic violence and homeless adults with substance abuse and/or mental health challenges.
- Sacramento Neighborhood Center and Community In Action at Creekside Village engaged more than 1,200 community members in leadership development, neighborhood building and activities for at-risk youth.
- Healthy Families Fairfax, a highly successful child abuse and neglect prevention program, served 640 families.
- The Youth Empowerment Leadership Program provided 293 children, youth and adults with leadership development activities and after-school tutoring, giving them safe and constructive alternatives to potentially harmful activities.
- More than 850 children entered school with new backpacks and school supplies they otherwise would not have had. An equal number received gifts and food to make their holidays brighter.



Your Help Changes Lives

Contribute Financially: Every gift makes a difference.

Every way is the right way to give to UCM. You can donate online, in person, or via check. You can give in honor of a birthday or in memory of a loved one. Some donors give through their employer, others donate stocks or bonds. Other donors set up a recurring monthly or weekly gift, while many donate once a year. We receive grants from foundations and jars of change from children. Supporters can help us to plan for UCM's future success by remembering us in their estate arrangements.

Volunteer: It takes the whole community to help neighbors in need.

In Fiscal Year 2010, volunteers dedicated 23,086 hours of their time to helping UCM. There are dozens of volunteer opportunities available. You can help out with stocking the food pantry, caring for little ones in our child development center, preparing mailings and much, much more. Contact Christine Fiske, Volunteer and Community Relations Coordinator, for more information at christine.fiske@ucmagency.org or (703) 768-7106 ext 328.

Donate Food: Hunger in our community hurts us all.

UCM's food pantry distributed 669,751 pounds of food to hungry individuals and families in our community during Fiscal Year 2010. Donations are gratefully accepted at our office from 9:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Mon-Fri and the first Sunday of every month from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. For a wish-list of food items, visit www.ucmagency.org.



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