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UCM NAMES NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Congratulations to Cheri Zeman, recently named as United Community Ministries' Executive Director!

GOODBYE TO OUR QUEEN OF HEARTS

The downpour didn't stop the 150 or so guests from the party at the Fort Belvoir Officer's Club on Thursday, June 17. Community leaders, colleagues, UCM donors, volunteers and staff, and friends and family gathered to honor Sharon Kelso, and celebrate her work with UCM. After 24 years of service to our community, Sharon is retiring.

The deluge of rain outside was matched by the deluge of well-wishers who stood up during the evening to talk about their experiences with Sharon over the years. There were funny stories, a few roasts, and lots of laughter, but all who spoke overflowed with words of praise, admiration, and respect.

After UCM Board President Marie Canny began the program, the first to speak was Northern Virginia Family Service Executive Director, Mary Agee. She said of Sharon, "You have taught me so much—taught me so much about collaboration." Mary went on to talk about how she and Sharon were a "force to be reckoned with" when they were seen together—a testament to the power of the collaborative spirit Sharon worked so hard to foster.

Regional Manager Ken Disselkoen joked that after he took his current position, he was told, "the first thing to do was to have lunch with Sharon Kelso." Sharon was instrumental in creating the regional manger positions in Fairfax County. Ken talked about how Sharon has fundamentally changed Fairfax County and offered advice to Las Vegas—"Clark County, watch out! She's coming!"

Good Shepherd Catholic Church's Social Justice Ministry



Director Mary Jane Masciola, who is also a former UCM employee, rose to speak and Sharon exclaimed "I'm in trouble now!" Mary Jane replied, "I know all the secrets!" She went on to share many personal memories of working for and with Sharon, noting that, "Sharon never asked any more of anybody that she would do herself." Mary Jane then closed with her future predictions, "envisioning Sharon and Jack in a convertible with sunglasses on and her scarf flying in the wind!"

Supervisor Gerry Hyland began his remarks with, "Sharon walks on water—'cause she knows where all the rocks are!" He also showed his appreciation for Sharon, and his utmost respect for her, remarking, "As I look back on my 17 years of service, there isn't anyone who has given so much to make the lives of the less fortunate better. An incredible talent you have is to get people to do the right thing."

The evening then turned very personal, as Sharon's daughter and former UCM employee, Tracy Wolahan recounted tales of growing up in a house- (continued on page 4)

UCM is a private, non-profit agency which helps low-income people with emergency and self sufficiency services. Since 1969, UCM has been firmly rooted in the southern Route One area of Fairfax County. Our mission is 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. UCM provides food, clothing, furniture and infant supplies; budget counseling; financial assistance for rent, utility, and medical bills; job counseling; computer training; mentoring; community outreach; and developmental day care services at the Bryant Early Learning (BEL) Center. Support comes from donations of money, food, clothing, and other goods from individuals, congregations, businesses, service organizations, and schools; from UCM's Back Porch Thrift Shop; and from our dedicated corps of volunteers. Program grants come from private and corporate foundations, the Fairfax County Department of Family Services, the Fairfax County Department of Housing and Community Development, the United Way, and the Combined Federal Campaign.

UCM BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Contributors: Sharon Kelso
 Deborah Halla
 Tracy Davis
 Eileen McNally
 Marie Canny
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MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

This will be the last time we talk like this. I will be retiring at the end of this fiscal year. It has been a wonderful 24 years with UCM and an even better 20 years as executive director. When I look back over the years it doesn't seem like that much time went by—it was always so busy! We used to look forward to the summer as a down time and now it is filled with planning and implementation and evaluation. There is no such thing as “down time.” Every season has its major events that keep the board, staff and volunteers in constant demand. As supporters of UCM you can be assured that there is never a time when we are not diligent and fully engaged. I am most proud of the fact that at no time has UCM ever been under the slightest suspicion of not fulfilling its responsibilities with full accountability to the community and those who fund us. I hope that is a source of pride for you. In recent months many accolades have come my way. It has been an embarrassment of riches for someone who has enjoyed every minute of the work—yes, even the endless schedule of meetings! I always viewed those as an opportunity to share important information about what is happening in our community and to the people who live here. One thing I know for sure from all my experience—it's not who you are, it's who works for you and with you that is important. I have been very fortunate to have great people in both those roles.

The role that UCM has played so well for so many years—catalyst for change—will continue to be important for many reasons. First of all, we are still the front line for the needs of the people. We see the trends long before the policy makers. We know when the economy begins to rise or fall simply by the requests people make and the numbers we see. Our people are the first to feel the pain and the last to feel the relief. I have been the messenger and you have responded. You will always be able to count on UCM because this is where the action is!

As you may have noticed, UCM is stepping up its entrepreneurial activities. We are able to accept all kinds of car, boat and RV donations. Soon we will be able to increase our furniture pick up schedule and assist those who are moving with removal of unwanted items and even make basic improvements such as paint, carpet and simple repairs in preparation for the sale of the property. Our new director of business operations, Herb Lea, is heading up these initiatives along with our Hospitality Boards. The Hospitality Boards are a unique service to the hospitality industry that will help them better serve their guests. For more information on any of these items, please contact Herb at (703) 768-7106 ext. 333. He is on the road a lot but he checks his messages frequently and will get right back to you! An important thing for everyone one to know is that no UCM funds are going into any of these enterprises. The proceeds from the Hospitality Boards will fund all the other project expenses so that your donations and the proceeds from the auto sales still all go to support UCM's programs.

I am so pleased to be able to tell you that our new plaque for accreditation arrived and we are proudly displaying it in the newly redecorated (by staff and volunteers) Kelso Conference Room. It was a wonderful surprise for me and I will cherish the thoughtfulness and caring it represents. I am so proud of the board, staff and volunteers for their excellent work that was validated by the Council On Accreditation for Services to Families and Children. We have met their standards for another four years. Most impressive is the fact that we scored highly in every standard and had no work to do after the site visit. Our deputy director Cheri Zeman headed up the process and deserves a lot of praise for her organization and process skills. The BEL Center was singled out for its excellence in the final report and for that our director Elizabeth McNally deserves special credit. (continued on page 4)

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends of UCM

On behalf of the Board of Directors of UCM, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Sharon Kelso for her deep commitment to the mission of our organization and dedication to the well-being of the clients we serve. Sharon has been a motivational leader not only for UCM but also for the human services profession throughout the Northern Virginia /Washington, D.C. area.

Sharon's strong communications skills have served UCM in many ways. Internally, she insured clear and frequent communication with staff. Her door was always open to staff for questions or advice. Externally, she has demonstrated great skill in dealing with the political environment. Our representatives in the local and state legislatures know and respect Sharon and sought her opinion. As a result, our programs have received strong support in difficult financial times.

During her 20 years as executive director, staff and programs have grown considerably. When Sharon became executive director, UCM's budget was under one million dollars; today it's over four million dollars. UCM has continually assessed its programs to ensure they are meeting the needs of the ever-changing community. Her ability to discern trends and alter programs to meet the changes has enabled the agency to be prepared to serve more clients in need. Because of her effective financial management, UCM has continued its important work during times when both government funds and private grants have been reduced.

Sharon's leadership in the community included serving on important task forces and boards of directors. She mentored many individuals pursuing a career in human services who are grateful for her willingness to share her knowledge and expertise.

Sharon should take great pride in all that she accomplished over the past 20 years. We wish her excellent health and true happiness in her new home.

Sincerely,



Marie C. Canny
President, UCM Board of Directors

BACK TO SCHOOL

UCM needs your help to alleviate the financial strain on many families in our community during the "Back-to-School" season. By purchasing a few of the items on the list below and dropping them off at UCM, we can put together backpacks with school supplies for needy kids! Thank you in advance for helping us prepare our children for a life of learning and experiences this school year.

School supplies needed (listed in order of greatest need): Backpacks*, 3-ring subject notebooks*, Composition books (college- and wide-ruled), Subject dividers, Graphic paper, Pocket folders*, Colored pencils, Pencil boxes*, Highlighters, Scissors, Glue (8 oz. Elmers), Compasses,

Protractors, Rulers, Crayons, Markers, Pens & pencils.

*Generic items (i.e., those without sport or other merchandising pictures or logos) are preferred.

** We cannot use Trapper Keepers, legal pads, or scotch tape.

Also Of Great Use!

Gift certificates (Wal*Mart, Staples, Office Depot, etc.) and cash donations to purchase listed items (these donations will be restricted to school supplies purchases).

Please bring your donations to 7511 Fordson Road, Alexandria, VA by Wednesday, Aug. 18, 2004 in order for the children to have supplies before school starts. If you have any questions, contact Cecelia Vergaretti at (703) 768-7106, ext. 326. ■

PLANNED GIVING

Put UCM in your will or bequest! Leave a legacy of generosity by helping to improve the life of someone else!

For more information call: (703) 768-7106, ext. 328, e-mail: developmentofficer2@ucmagency.org, or write to:

UCM, Inc.
c/o Tracy Davis
7511 Fordson Road
Alexandria, VA 22306

CORPORATE MATCHING

How would you like to double your donation without writing a check? Your employer (even if you are retired) may match your contributions to UCM.

Many parent companies, divisions, and subsidiaries match their employees' charitable contributions. Most match dollar for dollar. Some even triple or quadruple the amount! Not only do they match their employees' donations, but some companies even match gifts from spouses, retired employees, and even spouses of retired or deceased employees.

If you need assistance with applying to your company's matching gifts program, please contact Tracy Davis at (703) 768-7106 ext. 328.

We appreciate your generous support and your effort to make your donation go further. ■

CRITICAL NEEDS

Our Critical Food Pantry Needs

Homeless items, canned individual meats, pasta, tuna; tomato sauce, beans, canned fruit, rice, diapers (Large 4-5), formula—Good Start and Enfamil with Iron, twin-sized linens, and towels.

Additional In-Kind Needs

Fancy department store shopping bags, vacuum cleaners, adult woman's bicycle, 4 vacuum cleaners (in good working condition), sheets, towels, wash-cloths, and clear storage tubs. ■

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER 2004

Thursday, Sept. 23 (5-9 p.m.) - 2nd Annual "Puttin' Youth First" Miniature Golf Classic to Benefit Bryant Alternative High School and UCM. Have a fun filled family night that promises to warm the heart. This event will be held at the Mid-Atlantic Golf Center at Kingstowne, located at 6625 South Van Dorn Street in Alexandria. The festivities will include a round of miniature golf, wonderful food from Outback Steakhouse, and a silent auction full of unique items to bid on. Tickets are \$15 per person or \$50 per family of four to golf. Pre-register by Sept. 17 and your food, drinks and dessert will be included in the ticket price. For information on becoming a sponsor or to purchase tickets, contact Eileen McNally, (703) 768-7106 ext. 327 or via e-mail at grantwriter@ucmagency.org. Contributions are tax-deductible and proceeds will be used to help disadvantaged youth in Fairfax County.

Saturday, Sept. 25 - Dinner and dancing. The Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce and the Knights of Columbus are hosting an evening of dinner and dancing to benefit UCM. For more information, call Jim Dunn at (703) 360-1964, or check out UCM's website for future updates!

For more information on UCM events, visit the UCM website at www.ucmagency.org or contact Capri Coleman at (703) 768-7106 ext. 325, or via e-mail at development@ucmagency.org.



Carmen's Kids After school Enrichment Program

The Carmen's Kids program is designed to meet the special needs of young elementary school children (grades K-3). Our goal is to provide a program in which the child is safe and engaged in learning activities that foster language, individuality, character, and healthy growth and development. Our activities will support the curriculum of the Fairfax County school system while integrating academics, the arts, and cultural diversity.

Hours of operation: School dismissal (3:00) –6:00 p.m., Monday–Friday

Ages Served: Kindergarten–third grade

Schools served: Groveton, Hollin Meadows, Hybla Valley

Transportation to Carmen's Kids will be provided! (from above schools only)

Fees: Carmen's Kids uses a sliding fee scale. Fees will be below SACC rates and based on gross household income. Fees for the School Year Program are due one month in advance from August through May.

Carmen's Kids does not provide drop-in, short term, or partial week service.

The BEL Center (Carmen's Kids) is located at:
2709 Popkins Lane
Alexandria, VA 22309
703-765-0909

Transportation will be provided!

Carmen's Kids and the BEL Center are programs of UCM.
United Way #8199

(continued from page 1) hold where every trip out the door with her mother could turn into an opportunity for community outreach—whether by choice or not! Tracy remembers people constantly approaching Sharon in the grocery store or out on the street—no place was off limits! Although Tracy said it was frustrating at times, she recognized an important life lesson in Sharon's attitude toward others, "She always had time for everyone, and had the same respect for everyone."

So many others spoke about Sharon throughout the evening, many to express their admiration, their gratitude, their respect and mostly their love. Sharon even received a visit from Elvis Presley himself—he sang to her on bended knee and worked the crowd before taking her out on the dance floor!

After the evening wound down and most of the guests had gone, Sharon remained, making sure to talk with each guest as they left. No one seemed to even remember that there had been a threatening storm outside just a few hours earlier. Like so many other times over the years, once again Sharon's leadership, love and laughter had brought us all through the storm stronger and better prepared to face the future.

When she leaves for Las Vegas, we will be left here without Sharon Kelso, but as Gerry Hyland so eloquently reflected on Sharon's influence on us, we all realized we will never truly be without her.

"The delivery of human services has been changed in Fairfax County because of you [Sharon]. Sharon has left her handprints, her footprints and her heart prints" throughout our community. ■

(continued from page 2) That pretty much sums it up for me because these were my two biggest challenges as executive director and I am very proud of them both and the people who make them possible.

Although I am leaving the area, you will never be out of my mind and we are even planning a few ways for me to remain involved from a distance—not enough to interfere, just enough to be helpful!

Thank you all for your support. It made these years both joyful and successful in meeting the needs of our community.


Sharon Kelso
Executive Director

SOME SPECIAL THANK YOU'S!

UCM would like to send a special thank you out to the BEL Action Advisory Committee at Mount Vernon Unitarian Church for hosting the BEL Benefit Concert. The benefit raised over \$4,000 for the BEL Center's Early Intervention and Prevention program to screen and treat the children's developmental, speech and health delays. We are so grateful to have the support and dedication of such wonderful UCM supporters!

UCM's Youth In Action program would like to thank the Kiwanis for making it possible for several children involved in the Youth In Action program to attend summer camp at the Mt. Vernon Rec Center. Their generosity has enabled children kids to have the opportunity to participate in activities such as swimming, ice-skating, and arts & crafts. We know that these children will have a wonderful summer.

UCM would like to thank all those staff members and community businesses that helped make the renovation of the UCM conference room possible. The conference room, now renamed the Kelso Conference Room, was unveiled to its namesake earlier this month with much fanfare! Sharon was delighted with the southwestern theme and would like to invite all of those involved in the "make over" to stop by and take in the beautiful desert ambiance.

UCM would like to extend the most sincere thanks to all the employees at Boeing in Rosslyn for the food drive they held April 29. This drive collected over 1,400 pounds of food!

UCM would like to recognize and thank Good Shepherd Catholic Church and its congregation for their incredibly successful food drives which benefit UCM. This fiscal year, through April, Good Shepherd has collected over 17,000 pounds of food! ■

GRACIAS!

From the Friends of UCM, to all the generous donors and volunteers who made the Cinco de Mayo celebration a great success! A special thanks to the event sponsors:

Platinum Level (\$4,000 or more) - Nancy and Bob Urban; Fairfax County Professional Firefighters & Paramedics- Local 2068

Gold Level (\$3,000 - \$3,999) - Christian Relief Services; Tom and Kathy Lehner

Silver Level (\$2,000 - \$2,999) - INOVA Health System; Marie and Joe Canny

Bronze Level (\$1,000 - \$1,999) - West*Group- Real Estate Developer; Cox Communications, Inc.; Dr.'s Melissa and Jim Thiel, Randall H. Binzer, DDS, MS; Congressman James Moran

Sponsor Level (\$500 - \$999) - Hilltop Sand and Gravel - Clem Galliot; Victor Bremerkamp and Ellen Godwin; Jerry's Paint & Wallpaper - Jerry & Diana Morgonie; Kelso & Associates Architects - Jack & Sharon Kelso; Potomac Basin Group Assoc. - Chris Masters; Don Beyer Volvo/ Subaru of Alexandria; Genuario Construction - Rick Genuario; Laurie J. Blackburn - Morgan Stanley; Nancy and Jamie Hawkins; Karl F. Weickhardt; Richard and Maggie Moose; Doug and Ginny Hastings; The Maids Home Service; Dominion Surveyors, Inc.; Deborah Matthews, Esq.; Brenda Gail Brown - McEamerey Realtors; Mark S. Allen - Attorney at Law; A.J. Dvoskin & Associates, Inc.; Marty and Bob Saylor; Scott A. Surovell-Surovell, Markle Isaacs & Levy, PLC; Wally and Katie Cooney

Contributor Level (\$250 - \$499) - Mr. and Mrs. Thomas M. Lawler; Kathy and Frank Wood; Audry and Don Pomerening; Colonel & Mrs. Lawrence W. Jackley; Helen Walutes; Delegate Mark Sickles; Senator Linda "T" Toddy Puller; Downtown Title & Escrow - Richard Hayden; BB&T; Dan Rinzel-Redmon, Peyton & Braswell; Nancy and Larry Saiers; Lynn and David Swenson; Mr. & Mrs. Gerald T. Halpin; Senator & Mrs. Joseph V. Gartlan, Jr.; Myong and Paul Jensen; Frieda S. Moore; Pinto Contractors, LLC, - Thomas Gailliot; KidzDocs - Dr. Jaqueline Arnold; Diane and Ron Tollefson; Paul and Ginger Luisada; Northern Virginia Institute of Psychiatry -, Paul Luisada MD & Nooreddin Mirmirani MD; Master Roofing & Siding; Ragina M. Chikar; Dana Kauffman - Lee District Supervisor; Cory and Allen Wood; George and Sharon Callaghan ■

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

If you haven't responded to Sharon's most recent letter here's a reminder of the privileges that come with a UCM membership.

As a member of UCM, you have the right to vote at the Annual Meeting in the fall to elect new UCM Board Members. You also receive UCM's quarterly newsletter and can request a copy of the Annual Report if you are unable to attend the Annual Meeting.

To become an individual member of UCM, simply make a \$15 tax-deductible donation. For a donation of \$50 or more, you will become a Premier Member, and receive UCM's Premier Membership card.

The UCM Premier Membership card qualifies you for discounts at many local businesses and restaurants. This year's card is valid from July 1, 2004 through July 30, 2005 and has discounts for the following businesses:

Thai Herbs – Featuring Asian Grill Bar on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 5-10 p.m. Located at 8501 Richmond Highway. Call (703) 780-9875.

Dishes of India – Now reopened and offering Indian cuisine for lunch and dinner. Located at 1510 Belle View Boulevard. Call (703) 660-6085 or visit their website at www.dishesofindia.com.

Daily Grind – Offering great coffee, espresso, smoothies and food. Located at 7770-B Richmond Hwy., next to Gold's Gym. Call (703) 799-4900.

Steven's Auto Clinic – Offering general repairs and maintenance services. Located at 7419 Richmond Highway. Call (703) 765-0910.

Jiffy Lube – Offering oil change and car maintenance services. Located at 8540 Richmond Highway. Call (703) 619-9000

Kathy's Corner Hallmark – A Gold Crown Hallmark store, offering cards and gifts for every occasion. Located at 1628 Belle View Boulevard. Call (703) 768-4139.

UCM's (continued on page 8)

RECYCLE CARTRIDGES

Feel guilty throwing away your printer and toner cartridges at home or at work but don't know how to recycle them? Drop them off at UCM! You'll help us raise much-needed funds for our programs and services and you'll help keep tons of printer cartridges out of landfills and waterways.

Each year, more than 750 million dollars worth of used printer cartridges end up in our nation's landfills. Recovering just a fraction of those discarded cartridges could add up to thousands of dollars for UCM.

There is no cost to you or your office place/business to participate, and UCM receives \$2 for every inkjet and up to \$7 for every toner cartridge we help reclaim.

If your business/office place wants to participate, we can sign you up and have prepaid mailing envelopes sent to your office.

For more information, contact Capri Coleman at (703) 768-7106 ext. 325 or development@ucmagency.org. ■

HONOR A RETIREE

It's never too early to be thinking about what to get that special person in your life for his or her birthday, graduation or even retirement! Why not make a donation to UCM in his or her honor? No returns because it just wasn't what they needed, no exchanges because of wrong sizes, and best of all, you'll both feel good knowing that you've helped to improve the lives of others.

To make a donation, send a check to 7511 Fordson Road, Alexandria, VA 22306, Attention: Development. Please remember to include the name and address of the person(s) being honored so we can send them a thank you and acknowledge the gift in our newsletter. Questions? Call Capri Coleman at (703) 768-7106 ext. 325 or e-mail: development@ucmagency.org. ■

MEMORIALS AND HONORARIUMS

Memorials

In memory of Ralph G. Davenport - American Legion #391 of Creswell, NC, Mr. & Mrs. Frank A. Baugh, Virginia S. Carter, Albert T. Chambers, Jr. of Chambers Construction Company, Diane M. Clark 414 Spruce St., Mr. & Mrs. D. N. Cournoyer, Mr. & Mrs. Bryan P. Davenport, John C. Einbinder, Glenayr Apartments, LLC, Ms. Myung Koo Han, Esther L. Johnson, Ms. Sung Hwan Kim, KWOUN, Larchmont Villiage Apartments, Mr. & Mrs. Robert J. Loe, Betty Lyon, Mr. & Mrs. Michael R. Mercer, Mr. & Mrs. Thomas H. Ragland, Mary Kay Rose, Sunny Nolan-Sunny Nolan Interiors, Mary C. Yeonas, James C. Wilkes, Stephn Yeonas, Sr. & Jr. and Rich.Ellis of Yeonas & Ellis-Reserve LLC

In memory of Robert W. Michels - Victor D. Bremenkamp, Ellen Godwin

In memory of Emily Myatt - Mr. & Mrs. Alonzo L. Coose, Mr. & Mrs. Edward Lipp, Jennifer P. Marks, Arthur Norton

In memory of Charles Parish - Mr. & Mrs. James F. Cunningham

In memory of Jeanette Colby - Rebecca L. Ediger, Beveridge Ann Hall, Kimberly A. Heil, David Ellis, Margaret B. Howell, Valerie Mingo, Pratt & Whitney MPE Group, Mr. & Mrs. Lloyd L. Rutledge, Mr. & Mrs. Russell J. Stevens, Mark Sullivan of Communications Ctr (OPO) US Dept of Homeland Security, Mr. & Mrs. Robert J. Wagner

In memory of Fred Lager - Mr. & Mrs. William C. Gay,

In memory of Ellen Ewell - Mr. & Mrs. Douglas J. Kennett

In memory of Helen M. LaSauce (mother) - Kathy LaSauce

In memory of Rev. F.C. Bayes - Dr. Beverley Merson

In memory of Arthur Rosenwasser - Sylvia N. Rosenwasser

In memory of Muriel B. Sinaiko - Wallace Sinaiko

In memory of Ginny Getz - Violet C. Weichlein

Honorariums

In honor of Georg Morduch's 70th - Mr. & Mrs. R. Markham Ball, Mr. & Mrs. Eugene B. Bruns, Mr. & Mrs. Robert C. Chase, Lynne I. Dearborn, Mr. & Mrs. Thomas J. Hirschfeld, Mary-Carroll Potter

In honor of Murial Howells - Mr. & Mrs. Charles Bauer

In honor of Sharon Kelso - Col.(Ret) & Mrs James Cross

In honor of David Delano's 14th birthday - Mr. & Mrs. George W. Delanor

UCM CELEBRATES SOCIAL WORKERS

Every March, organizations around the country celebrate National Social Work month by honoring social workers and the many roles they play in agencies, communities, schools, hospitals, clinics and many other locations throughout the country.

Social workers strive to improve the lives of individuals, groups and communities. Through their specialized training and experience, they work to advocate, advise, teach, interpret, guide and coach their clients to improve their well-being. They link individuals and groups to resources that can enhance the quality of their lives.

UCM employs social workers in a variety of programs, including Transitional Housing, Basic Needs, Family Renewal, Youth in Action, the BEL Center, and Healthy Families. Several UCM social workers hold masters degrees in social work, while others are trained in related fields or are working on their degrees in the field. At UCM, we wished to acknowledge the significant contributions of our staff. Certificates of recognition and pins were given to social workers on staff at a luncheon event on Wednesday, March 17.

Congratulations and thank you to the talented and dedicated UCM social workers for the invaluable service they provide and their many contributions to clients, UCM, and the community! ■



**Puttin' Youth First
2nd Annual Miniature Golf Tournament**

**Thursday, September 23, 2004 (5-9pm)
At the beautiful Kingstowne Mid-Atlantic Golf Center
6625 South Van Dorn Street
Supervisor Dana Kauffman, Honorary Chair**

United Community Ministries (UCM) and the Bryant Community School have teamed to host an annual miniature golf tournament. Proceeds from the event would be split, allowing Bryant to provide scholarships to their students and UCM to fund the many important services provided to youth and their families.

Tickets are \$15 per person or \$50 per family of 4—children under age 3 are free.

Please consider being a sponsor or having your business sponsor the event. Sponsor levels are: Grand Sponsor—\$2,000 or more; Ace—\$1,000; Eagle—\$500; Birdie—\$250; Par—\$150

Sponsorship includes the following benefits:

- Listing in UCM and Bryant's newsletter (distribution of over 6,000 households)
- Advertisement or listing* in the program (distributed to an anticipated 300 attendees)
 - Listing on all promotional materials*
- Listing on and link from UCM and Bryant web pages
 - Signage at one of the holes*
 - Complimentary tickets*

***dependent on the sponsorship level**

For a sponsorship form, to purchase tickets, volunteer to serve on the committee, or for more information, contact Eileen McNally at (703) 768-7106 ext. 327 or grantwriter@ucmagency.org.

UCM'S ACH PROGRAM

Numerous donors have expressed an interest in having their monthly donation automatically deducted from their checking account or billed to their credit card. So, UCM has now established an Automated Clearinghouse (ACH) Program with Burke & Herbert Bank to address donations via an individual's checking account, savings account or money market account. In addition, we are able to accept monthly donations via credit card donation, Master Card and Visa.

Donors can make automatic monthly donations through their checking, savings, money market or credit card account, to be debited on either the 5th or 20th of the month.

In order to participate in this program or if you would like more information on UCM's ACH program, please call or email Tracy Davis at (703) 768-7106, ext. 328 or developmentofficer2@ucmagency.org respectively. ■

SUMMER FOOD NEEDS

Summer means more kids are eating at home. For UCM, the summer months mean one thing—less food, more need. So many of our friends and neighbors are heading off for family reunions, camping trips and beach getaways, but need never takes a vacation. In fact, during the summer, the needy families in our area find it even more difficult to make ends meet and keep food on the table. As schools let out, more children who would normally get breakfast and/or lunches through their schools are eating all their meals at home.

Because food donations are down during the summer, UCM must purchase food to meet the increased need, which limits the number of families we can assist with other emergency needs, such as funds for eviction prevention or medical expenses.

UCM's Food Bank is in urgent need of donations, especially the following (listed in order of top need): baby food (stages 1, 2, & 3 – fruits, vegetables, meats & rice cereal); pasta and pasta sauce; cereal; canned tuna; peanut butter; rice; macaroni and cheese.

Please drop off food donations at UCM, 7511 Fordson Road, Monday through Friday, between 9 a.m. and 5:45 p.m. For more information about how to host a food drive, or volunteer to staff a food drive at one of the local grocery stores, please contact Cecelia Vergaretti at (703) 768-7106 ext. 326, or via e-mail at volunteer@ucmagency.org. ■



(continued from page 1)

Workforce Development Center –

Offering employment and self-employment training and services. Located at 7842 Richmond Highway. Call (703) 360-9088.

UCM's Bryant Early Learning (BEL) Center –

Offering childcare services for children 6 weeks to 5 years of age. Located at 2709 Popkins Lane. Call (703) 765-0909.

UCM's Back Porch Thrift Shop – Offering tenderly used furniture, household items, clothing, computers, books, and other items for a great price. Located at 7838 Richmond Highway. Call (703) 799-7015.

UCM is very thankful to these local businesses for their support of UCM and our community. For more information on specific discount amounts or if you have a question about becoming a member of UCM, please call Tracy Davis at (703) 768-7106, ext. 328. ■

UCM LOCATIONS AND HOURS

MAIN OFFICE

7511 Fordson Road
Alexandria, VA 22306
(703) 768-7106
Hours: 9 am-6 pm, Monday-Friday

BACK PORCH THRIFT STORE

7838 Richmond Highway
Alexandria, VA 22306
(703) 799-7015
Hours: 10 am-8 pm, Monday-Saturday
12 pm-6 pm, Sunday
Donations accepted 9:30 am-7:30 pm,
Tuesday, Thursday & Saturday

SACREMENTO NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER

8792 Sacramento Drive
Alexandria, VA 22309-1676
(703) 619-2964

HEALTHY FAMILIES

8850 Richmond Highway
Alexandria, VA 22306
(703) 799-6329
and
8136 Old Keene Mill road
Springfield, VA 22152
(703) 913-8993
Hours: Based on family needs

BEL CENTER

2709 Popkins Lane
Alexandria, VA 22306
(703) 765-0909
Hours: 7 am-6:30 pm, Monday-Friday

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT CENTER

7842 Richmond Highway
Alexandria, VA 22306
(703) 360-9088
Hours: 9 am-9 pm, Monday-Thursday
9 am-5 pm, Friday

FOR THE LATEST AUTO AUCTION CHECK OUT UCM'S WEBSITE AT WWW.UCMAGENCY.ORG



United Community Ministries
7511 Fordson Road
Alexandria, VA 22306

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