



**UNITED
COMMUNITY
MINISTRIES**

At the Heart of Community

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**BEAUTIFUL BOWLS RAISE \$3,600+ FOR UCM
AT ANNUAL TORPEDO FACTORY SOUPER SATURDAY**



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CAPTION: Pictured enjoying the 22nd Annual SOUPER Saturday event at the Torpedo Factory Art Center on Feb. 13 are (from left): Friend of UCM Sandy Doyle, ceramic artist Susie Cohen, Friend of UCM President Suzy Coffey, UCM volunteer Savatri Ramsamooj, and past Board Member Diane Tollefson.

The 22nd annual SOUPER Saturday fundraiser was held on February 13 at the Torpedo Factory Art Center to benefit United Community Ministries (UCM). Hosted by the Factory ceramic artists in collaboration with The Art League, Chart House restaurant, and the Torpedo Factory, the event raised more than \$3,600 to help fill the empty bowls – and empty pantries – of UCM’s client families who are struggling with hunger and making ends meet. Hundreds of ceramic bowls were donated by the artists, and all proceeds directly benefit UCM’s assistance programs. Ceramic artists Susan Greenleaf, Peggy Reichard, and Susie Cohen were the primary organizers for this popular winter event.

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“This is a wonderful community event, bringing together community members in such a creative way,” says Christine Lucas, UCM Development and Communications Director. “We so appreciate the generous ceramic artists for donating and sharing their talents to support neighbors in need – and our dedicated volunteers of all ages helping out today. We extend a special thank you to the event partners, The Torpedo Factory management and The Art League, as well as to Chart House restaurant for their many years of delicious clam chowder donations.”

“Programs that help families in immediate need are at the core of UCM’s work,” she continues. “Thanks to community support, families have UCM as a caring place to turn for help and hope. Our services include programs for children such as after-school enrichment programs and full-time early care and learning for ages 6 weeks to pre-K. For adults looking for work, we provide English language classes, job training and coaching, and citizenship classes. Our services inspire life-long changes that break the cycle of poverty.”

United Community Ministries (UCM) mobilizes the power of community to equip, educate, and empower people to measurably improve their lives. For more than 46 years, UCM has provided a vital connection between people in need and the people committed to helping them thrive. Services include:

- **Immediate Help.** For families and individuals in crisis, UCM provides counseling, food, financial aid, and referrals to other resources.
- **Children’s Programs.** UCM provides the next generation with essential education and enriching experiences, including full-day early care and learning, new parent education, and after-school programs for youth leadership development and computer access.
- **Workforce Development.** UCM helps adults increase their employability, with job counseling and computer training and with ESL and citizenship classes.

In Fiscal Year 2015, thanks to generous community support, UCM provided life-changing assistance to 10,200 individuals in 4,000 families in the Alexandria portion of Fairfax County. This included 5,000 children – more than any other private nonprofit agency in the Huntington-Mount Vernon area.

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