



**UNITED
COMMUNITY
MINISTRIES**

At the Heart of Community

ucmagency.org

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United Way #8199 CFC #37839

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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HILTON OLD TOWN ALEXANDRIA EMPLOYEES SUPPORT UCM



Photo: File name 10-30-15_UCM_Hilton_photo.jpg
Photo attached as 300dpi+ with email distributed to media.

During October, a team of employees from Hilton Alexandria Old Town volunteered at United Community Ministries (UCM) to help neighbors in need. "Our volunteers are part of our Hilton Blue Energy Committee," says Elvia Maxwell, Human Resources Director. "Blue Energy is an expression of the unique spirit and passion we at Hilton show our guests, our communities, and each other as Hilton Team Members. Volunteering to help people in our community is just one way we live our values. We enjoyed being here today at UCM, working with Food Pantry Manager Jose Flores."

Pictured after bagging up this month's USDA commodities for Basic Needs clients are Hilton employees (from left): Pat Benign, Audio Visual Manager; Elvia Maxwell, Human Resources Director; Ed Smith, Engineering; Ann Zhao, Hotel Starbucks Manager; Ben Specht, Restaurant Manager; and Chevanie Soerodinedjo, Front Desk.

In addition to hands-on volunteering, Hilton employees are sponsoring a UCM Thanksgiving Food drive and collecting books and toys for the UCM Holiday Gift Room to bring joy to children in need.

UCM welcomes groups and business teams of varying sizes to volunteer, with a wide variety of short- and longer term projects and activities to accommodate your schedule and timeframe. Volunteers are needed to help out at UCM's main office on Saturday, Nov. 14 for the annual Scouting For Food

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community drive. Two shifts are available: 8am – Noon, and Noon – 4pm. For more information about volunteering on Nov. 14 or other group opportunities, email Volunteer Coordinator Marcos Castillo at marcos.castillo@ucmagency.org.

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 food, financial aid, counseling, and referrals to other resources.
- **Education and Employment.** Services such as job training and coaching, full-day early care and learning, ESL and citizenship classes, and parental education help people achieve stability and self-reliance.
- **Community Engagement.** UCM's neighborhood centers, with after-school programs and leadership training, engage youth and families in skill-building and broader social networks for success.

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, including 5,000 children.

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