



A moment to focus on the good our team is doing every day



UCHRA TEAM PROJECT WELCOMES FIRST CLIENT

UCHRA has their first TEAM client. The new TEAM Project (Transforming, Education, Advocating for Multiple Generations), utilizes the 2-Generation Approach in order for families to reach economic security. The Community Services Department held a friendly competition to see who could successfully enroll the first client. Balinda Westmoreland, Case Management Specialist II, brought home the prize; receiving a \$20 Starbucks gift card for her efforts.

Pictured, from left: LaNelle Godsey, Community Services Director; Balinda Westmoreland; and Megan Kelly Spurgeon, Community Services Assistant Director.

Out in the Field

AAAD CONTINUES DELIVERING ITEMS TO SENIOR CENTERS IN NEED



This week, AAAD shopped for and delivered items to two senior centers: Baxter and Pickett County. Purchased included household goods such as toilet paper and cleaning supplies as well as non-perishable groceries. These items will be distributed out among those center's members who are in need. Just because the doors are currently closed to the public, does not mean our senior centers have ceased serving their communities; they are working more diligently now than ever. We are lucky to have such faithful directors and volunteers within our senior centers here in the Upper Cumberland. Special thanks to Leo's Spring Street Market and Hometown IGA for allowing us to purchase the quantity of household items needed to provide to those seniors in need!

"Real strength is about helping others." - Mister Rogers.

STAR SUCCESS STORY: VALERIE HAUBERT

The following information was submitted by a UCHRA program participant and has been edited for length and clarity.

My name is Valerie Haubert. I have three children and (am) married. My spouse and I both came to the STAR Program for tuition help. We started a family right out of high school. We both served in the United States Army and that didn't work out as planned. When I returned home in October of 2019, we decided to both go back to school. The original plan was for my spouse to let me go first and then he would go; but, things turned out for the better when we spoke with my financial advisor at Genesis Career College. The financial advisor told us about the STAR Program. We immediately contacted Ciara Pharris (UCHRA STAR Program Case Manager).

When we began the program, we were staying at my parents' house, driving an hour to get kids to school and an hour and a half to get (ourselves) to school. We were staying in a small room with all five of us plus my brother with two mattresses. It wasn't our plan to live like that but it was better than living on the streets after being medically discharged from the Army. Though we had a rough time, we didn't give up. We kept praying and staying strong. Eventually, we told Ciara about our situation. It was January and a cold month. My parents wanted us to find a place fast due to the spacing situation. We had no other options but to tell her or one of us drop out (of the program).

When we expressed our concerns, Ciara did everything to help us. We reached out to the Reward to Work Program for help with a deposit and rent. The STAR Program helped with rent and Reward to Work helped with the deposit. The STAR Program also helped with utilities and daycare. We also had to sign up for food stamps. When we got everything moved and situated into our new apartment, it felt like a weight had been lifted off of our shoulders. As the months went by, things became easier. We are beyond blessed to have come across such a wonderful community resource. We had no clue any of this existed but are so grateful for all the help provided to us to become financially stable and on the road to success!

Valerie's husband, Alexander, graduated from Fortis Institute in May from the school's truck driving program with a job offer waiting. Valerie will graduate in the coming months.

