



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



## UCHRA CASA ANNOUNCES POKER RUN FUNDRAISER

Attention motorcycle owners/enthusiasts: UCHRA CASA has announced the inaugural CASA Poker Run fundraiser! On Saturday, April 24, tour the Upper Cumberland - making stops in Cumberland, Overton, and Smith counties - before returning to Putnam County to see who holds the winning hand! Tickets are \$25 for single riders and \$45 for doubles. Visit the UCHRA Facebook page for more information!

### *Out in the Field*



### WELCOME, CHELSEA AND MERRY, TO UCHRA CALL CENTER!

Meet UCHRA's newest staff members: Chelsea Durham and Merry Hawke. Chelsea and Merry both serve the agency's call center housed in the Cookeville UCHRA office.

UCHRA Call Center representatives provide information to passengers, the public, and contract accounts regarding routing information, scheduling of trips, general questions through the use of communication equipment; telephone, computer mobile scheduling system, and in-person interaction.

## VACCINATIONS ROLLING OUT AT COOKEVILLE SENIOR CENTER, RETURNING APRIL 20



Cookeville Senior Center's drive-thru vaccination event was held on March 18.

Approximately 40 individuals received their first COVID-19 vaccine that day. They will return on April 20 to receive their second dose.

If you or someone you know need assistance traveling to a vaccination site, please contact UCDD or call your local UCHRA office to book transportation.

# UCHRA SAS CLIENT SUCCESS STORY: CHARLES RUNION



*Charles Runion is a client of UCHRA's Substance Abuse Solutions (SAS) program. The following information was provided by the client and has been edited for length and clarity.*

"Can you imagine having to bury your 41-year-old father at the young age of 24 due to a drug overdose? Neither could I, but it happened," recalled Charles Runion.

Many people who grow up with drug-addicted parents end up losing both parents to drugs or see one or both parents remain addicted.

Charles' mother was fortunate, overcoming her addiction. His biological father, however, died; launching Charles' journey to Tennessee.

Charles, and his service dog Hero, moved from Michigan to Tennessee to be with his elderly great-aunt and uncle.

Unfortunately, following a series of miscommunications and, later, a falling out with a relative, Charles ended up homeless; living in his car. That's when Charles contacted UCHRA.

“BY HELPING ME, YOU WERE ABLE TO OPEN THE DOORS FOR COUNTLESS OTHERS TO GET HELP; AS I LOVE TO PAY IT FORWARD AND HELP THOSE IN NEED WHENEVER I AM ABLE.”

-CHARLES RUNION, UCHRA CLIENT

"They had this THP program... I know what you're thinking and, no, it wasn't the Tennessee Highway Patrol," he joked.

It was a Transitional Housing Program that offers temporary, transitional housing.

Charles still had to make ends meet in the meantime until an opening came up for the housing program.

"It was three weeks but it was well worth it," said Charles.

In the interim, the SAS team helped Charles with a tent, sleeping bag, gas to get to and from work, and showers.

"They go above and beyond, but you also got to do some work on your end, too," Charles said. "There is a saying that you can't help someone who doesn't want to be helped. So, if you ever find yourself to be less fortunate, there is hope."

Charles says UCHRA's SAS team helped him go from less fortunate to becoming successful.

In just 2 short months, Charles went from living in his car to now having an apartment that is nearly fully furnished.

This success was made possible thanks to donations made by members of the SAS team, Salvation Army, Walmart, Shell, the countless people who all worked together to help Charles move from homelessness to stability.