

# Positively UC

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



JUNE 17, 2022

Vol. 3 Issue 23

**UCDD, UCHRA  
OFFICES CLOSED  
MONDAY IN  
OBSERVANCE OF  
JUNETEENTH**



## THANK YOU, CPD OFFICERS!

*Officers visit with Relative Caregiver Program children*

Thank you to the officers of the Cookeville Police Department who came by the UCDD office this week to visit children in the Relative Caregiver Program. We appreciate each of you for taking time out of your day! The Relative Caregiver Program is a comprehensive public/private collaboration funded by the Department of Children's Services. The program offers support services and resources to relatives raising relative children whose biological parents are no longer able to do so.

*See page 2 for more*

## 'SHARED MANAGEMENT' SAVES MILLIONS FOR UCHRA

*This article, written by Jim Herrin, originally appeared Herald-Citizen on June 16, 2022.*

A decision four years ago to merge the management of the Upper Cumberland Human Resource Agency with that of the Upper Cumberland Development District is paying substantial dividends.

"The savings over the last three, almost four, years have been \$2.7 million," Executive Director Mark Farley in a report to the UCHRA board. "This doesn't include the end of the '22 year, (but) we know what we think our admin costs are, (and) that number's going to go over \$3 million, so the blending of the two together has paid off."

Farley said reducing administrative costs has helped both agencies provide more services.

"That is \$2.7 million that goes into services," he said. "That's not going into overhead. Our overhead expenses are somewhere around 7% of what our budget is, and we're very proud of that."

The board Wednesday approved the 2022-23 budget for the UCHRA.

"We are finishing in the black this year, for the first time in several years" Farley said. "So we're excited about that."

The budget includes raises for employees.

"We would like to propose for the human resource agency, and for the development district later on, a 6% cost of living increase for our employees," Farley said. "I will say, for HRA, we've had some increases in different job classifications over the last couple of years, but this will be the first time in a long time that we've been able to do something across the board."

The budget also includes funding for the implementation of a \$12.50 an hour "minimum" wage for workers.

"We've also come up with an incentive plan for our drivers," he said, saying that UCHRA is finding it challenging to recruit and retain drivers for their transit vans. "We think we are more than able to handle all of that," he said.

# RELATIVE CAREGIVER WORKSHOP HELD

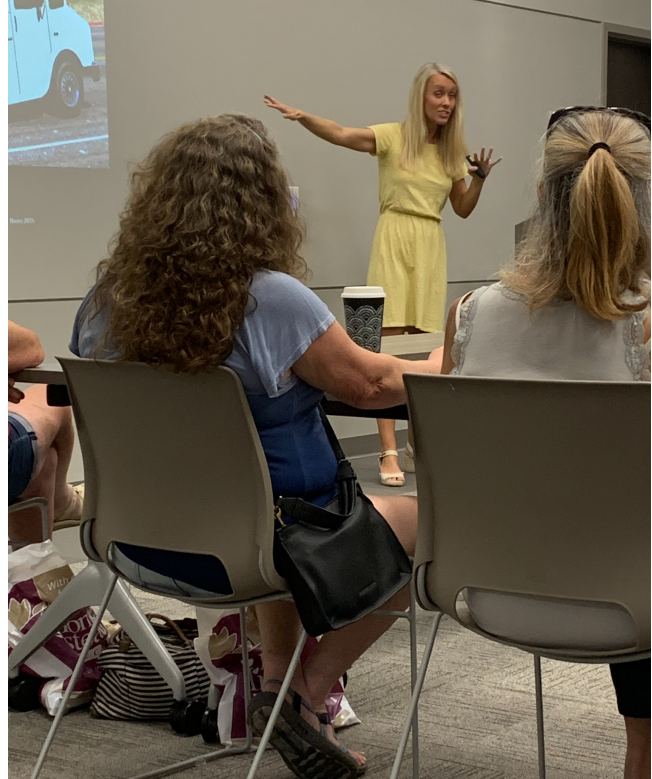
*Continued from Page 1, Thank you, CPD!*

A Relative Caregiver workshop was held on June 16 at the Upper Cumberland Development District office. This event provided parents and caregivers tips and insight regarding internet safety; providing increased awareness about the potential dangers that lurk in online gaming forums and on social media channels such as Snapchat, Instagram, and TikTok. Special thanks to our guest speaker Lisa Ivy, Hope Street TN Director of Prevention Education.

The children also had an educational workshop with special guests from the Cookeville Police Department including Captain Darrin Stout heading up this event, along with some of his team.

The children enjoyed fingerprinting along with visual drunk driving sessions. Officers also entertained the children with the pleasure of being able to see and sit on one of their motorcycles and last but not least, they brought K-9 officer Sofie, who enjoyed visiting with all of the children. Sofie is responsible for assisting in search and rescue efforts, including searching for missing persons suffering from dementia. Special thanks also to the officers of the Cookeville Police Department who visited with the children during the workshop.

Visit [ucdd.org](http://ucdd.org) to learn more about the Relative Caregiver Program.



## WHO WE ARE

### OUR MISSION

To help the Upper Cumberland region cultivate self-sufficiency and build true wealth through innovation, collaboration, and leadership.

### OUR VISION

A region abundant in resources, fostering a productive and vibrant life for the people of the Upper Cumberland.

get plugged in.

Follow us on social media for the latest updates.

