

Positively UC

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



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OUTGOING BOARD MEMBERS RECOGNIZED

Visit our Facebook page for more photos.



UCDD, UCHRA TOUR PROSPERITY POINT

Recently, UCDD/UCHRA team members and regional community outreach partners met and toured Warren County's Prosperity Point. Prosperity Point is a newly-developed tiny home community established by HOME (Homeless of McMinnville Efforts) that offers six months to a year of stable housing and essential support services to the homeless of Warren County. Visit our Facebook page to learn more!

SANCHEZ NAMED NEW COMMUNITY SERVICES MANAGER



As the Community Services Manager, Judy Sanchez will be responsible for the administration of LIHEAP and LIHWAP in the Upper Cumberland, as well as oversight and technical assistance to commodities and the THDA COVID Rental Program. Judy most recently served as the Putnam County Coordinator and will bring her many years of experience into her new role. Congratulations, Judy!



CREVAA'S CARTER EARNS VICTIM ADVOCACY CERTIFICATE

Trent Carter, CREVAA Advocate, recently acquired his certificate of completion for the Victim Advocacy Certificate Course offered through the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. He attended and completed 45 clock hours with a final grade of 98. This course is already proving to benefit Trent in his role as a CREVAA Advocate. The CREVAA Program assists elderly and vulnerable adult crime victims with emergency services. Congratulations, Trent!



TRANSPORTATION WINS 2022 GORDON ACUFF AWARD

Congratulations UCHRA Public Transportation on winning the Gordon Acuff Award at the annual TAHRA (Tennessee Association of Human Resource Agencies) conference! PickUp Cookeville was recognized as an innovative service for providing on-demand public transportation.

PickUp Cookeville is a micro-transit, on-demand transportation service that operates within the City of Cookeville and the surrounding cities of Algood, Baxter, and Monterey. The service went operational in July 2021.

PickUp Cookeville, powered by Uber, differentiates itself from UCHRA Public Transportation's typical demand-response service in a few important ways. The most compelling value-add that it provides is that it is truly on-demand.

Riders are not required to pre-book their trip but simply download the Uber app and access a ride from PickUp Cookeville that is more cost-friendly and just as reliable as a typical rideshare provider. PickUp Cookeville drivers go through the same rigorous training and background checks as UCHRA's other public transportation services, providing additional peace of mind for riders.

A second important differentiator is that it operates after-hours and on weekends. Additionally, PickUp Cookeville boasts a low fare of \$6; representing significant cost savings compared to a typical rideshare trip. Low-cost, on-demand transportation

options available after hours and on weekends were previously identified as a high-priority unmet need in the Upper Cumberland's most recent Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan. PickUp Cookeville was intended to fill this need and has exceeded expectations in less than a year since launching.

In FY22, PickUp Cookeville provided 4,251 trips. The service experienced modest beginnings in Q1, but saw a 220% increase in trips in Q4 (2,064 trips) compared to Q2 (644 trips). Moving forward, PickUp Cookeville is expected to continue to grow and expand. The results seen thus far are encouraging and continue to exceed expectations. UCHRA Public Transportation plans to implement a similar project in Crossville, Tenn.

The PickUp Cookeville project was funded by the Tennessee Department of Transportation's IMPROVE Act grant in SFY21. UCHRA Public Transportation allocates funding for the day-to-day operations of PickUp Cookeville from FTA 5311 Formula Funding.

PickUp Cookeville also represents an improvement to service delivery in the immense value it provides to community members who might not typically use public transportation. By bringing these individuals under the UCHRA umbrella, PickUp Cookeville is also onboarding public transportation riders of the future; getting them more comfortable with UCHRA and UCHRA Public Transportation.

PHOTOS FROM 2022 TAHRA CONFERENCE



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.

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