

Positively UC

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



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RELATIVE CAREGIVER PROGRAM RECEIVES UCCCY MINI-GRANT

Relative Caregiver Program (RCP) staff members Megan Rabius and Jennifer Wolfe recently submitted and were awarded a \$500 mini-grant from the Upper Cumberland Council on Children & Youth (UCCCY).

Mini-grant funds will be used to purchase basic household items not covered by SNAP and delivered as care packages to approximately 36 relative caregiver families. These care packages will help families maintain a safe, clean home environment and hygienic practices while reducing the financial stress of purchasing these household necessities.

UCDD's 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. The RCP was developed out of recognition that a child fares better both mentally and physically when placed with a relative versus in state custody.



UCDD, UCHRA STAFF: WHAT ARE YOU MOST THANKFUL FOR?

Recently, we asked staff to share what they are most thankful for work-wise. *Thank you to all who participated and stay tuned for future opportunities to sound off!*

- "I am always thankful for coworkers who are supportive, supervisors who treat me with respect and make the workplace fun, and an employer that has great benefits and work atmosphere!"
- "I'm thankful to work for an agency that helps people in need. It allows us to make a positive impact on lives of others and is extremely rewarding."
- "Great team members."
- "A great team of people."
- "I am most thankful to be working for an organization that strives to serve the Upper Cumberland in the best way. Being a part of the DD family is the best!"



WISH YOU WERE HERE HONORED WITH NADO IMPACT AWARD

The Upper Cumberland Development District, based in Cookeville, TN, has received a 2023 Aliceann Wohlbruck Impact Award from the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) for its work on *Wish You Were Here: Adventures in Tennessee's Upper Cumberland*.



Wish You Were Here is a tourism television series championing the beautiful and unique amenities offered throughout the 14-county Upper Cumberland region, showcasing some of the most biodiverse geography and sites in the southeastern United States. The wide variety of activities and amenities available in the Upper Cumberland region offers something for everyone. We are thankful for our project partners WCTE PBS, Upper Cumberland Tourism Association, and Tennessee Tech University who helped make this project and award possible.



NADO is a Washington, DC-based membership association of regional development organizations that promotes programs and policies that strengthen local governments, communities, and economies through regional cooperation, program delivery, and comprehensive strategies.

The Impact Awards program recognizes regional development organizations and their partners for improving the economic and community competitiveness of our nation's regions and local communities.

Award-winning projects were recognized during NADO's 2023 Annual Training Conference held in Cleveland, OH, on Nov. 7-10. The 2023 class of award recipients consisted of 107 projects from 71 organizations spanning 28 states. *Wish You Were Here* marked the only project from Tennessee to be honored during the presentation.



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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DUDNEY CO-PRESENTS DURING SCENIC BYWAY LEADER TRAINING

UCDD Planner Mark Dudney attended the Scenic Byway Leader Training at Paris Landing State Park on Nov. 13-15. The Tennessee Department of Transportation and the National Scenic Byway Foundation hosted the training conference.

Dudney and Tennessee Department of Tourist Development Rural Destination Manager Jenni Veal co-presented the session Interpreting Scenic Byways Through Podcasts on Nov. 13.

The National Scenic Byway Foundation (NSBF) is a 501 (c) 3 nonprofit organization serving as The National Voice of Scenic Byways and Roads, dedicated to strengthening Byways and actively advocating for renewed Byway Federal funding. A volunteer-run organization for more than 15 years, the NSBF is governed by a Board of Directors made up of Byway leaders and affiliates.

Pictured, from left: Mark Dudney, TDOT Scenic Byway Program Manager Mike McClanahan, and Jenni Veal.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS: REMINDERS FOR MONTH OF DECEMBER 2023

- UCDD’s and UCHRA’s Central Office Christmas parties will be held on Dec. 15.
- The UCDD-UCHRA Annual Meeting will be held at the UCDD office on Dec. 21.
- UCDD and UCHRA offices will be closed from Dec. 22-26. Please see your supervisor to coordinate your floating day. The floating day period runs from Dec. 21 through Jan. 2.

SOUND OFF: WHEN DO YOU DECORATE FOR THE HOLIDAYS?

