

Positively UC

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



JAN. 5, 2024

Vol. 5 Issue 1

2023 UCDD-UCHRA ANNUAL MEETING DRAWS LARGE CROWD

During the agencies' annual meeting held Dec. 21, several employees of the Upper Cumberland Development District (UCDD) and Upper Cumberland Human Resource Agency (UCHRA) selected as departmental employees of the year, were recognized for their efforts. Two additional employees were recognized by Executive Director Mark Farley for their outstanding work during the 2023 calendar year.

"This has been a monumental year for our two agencies," said Mark Farley, UCDD and UCHRA Executive Director. "In 2023, we have been able to implement multiple new programs to address the needs of our fellow citizens. This past year has seen us help young families in ways that we have never been able to before."

Continued on page 2.



OFFICES CLOSED

JAN. 15

**IN OBSERVANCE OF
MARTIN LUTHER
KING, JR DAY**



COLLECTION CONTINUES FOR PLASTIC SHOPPING BAGS

UCDD and UCHRA will continue to accept donated plastic bags. Be on the lookout for collection receptacles like the one pictured, at left.

If you have a large collection of bags, please send an email to connect@ucdd.org to coordinate transit/pick-up.

CONT., 2023 UCDD-UCHRA ANNUAL MEETING DRAWS LARGE CROWD

Several UCDD and UCHRA employees were recognized as having gone above and beyond during 2023 and were named as their respective department/program 2023 employee of the year:

- Chad Blair, Administrative Services
- Terri Whited, Area Agency on Aging and Disability
- Ladelle Randolph, Housing and Family Services
- Rosa Smith, Economic Development and Lending
- Susie Allen, Finance
- Marcie Ackerman, Planning and Community Development
- Jenel Hill, Public Transportation
- Brenda Miller, Community Intervention
- Tommy Simcox, Community Services
- Vicki Smith, Empower Upper Cumberland
- Justice Wheaton, UCHRA Public Transportation Rural Driver
- Jamie Edwards, County Coordinator
- Tracy Huddleston, County Support

Additionally, UCHRA Public Transportation staff that participated in the local and state transportation competition and placed were recognized. Local winners are Jonny Maynard, Calvin Lawrenz, and Joey Bitter. Bitter went on to place second in the maintenance division at the state level.

Two specialty awards presented by UCHRA were also presented. The UC Spirit Award and the Rebecca Harris Diamond Award. The UC Spirit Award recipient is representative of the region and people we serve, displaying a true Volunteer spirit, tenacity and steadfastness, and a heart for serving others.

Established in 2020, this award recognizes the most loyal of employees. The 2023 recipient is Mikel Miller, UC Recovery.

Also established in 2020, the Rebecca Harris

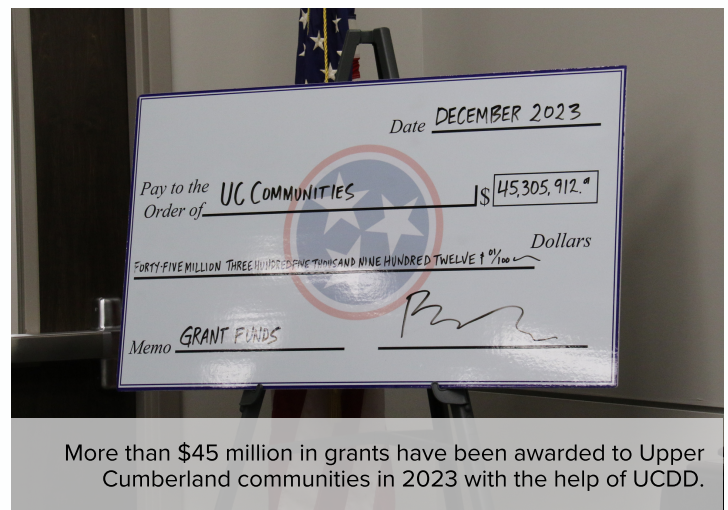
Diamond Award recipient displays grace under pressure, exemplifies servant leadership, and leads by example. They are a friend and mentor to all, a problem-solver, and make work more enjoyable. The 2023 recipient is Sandra Grace, Contract Trip Coordinator.

In addition to recognizing staff members, the agencies also recognized South Carthage Manor in Smith County as the 2023 Housing Complex of the Year. South Carthage Manor is a 14-unit complex for residents 62 years and older.

The Fentress County Senior Center was named the 2023 Provider of the Year. The center offers a multitude of activities and also serves as a Tennessee Senior Olympics host site for the singles and doubles shuffleboard competition.

Macon County and the City of Lafayette were designated as the 2023 Community of the Year for receiving millions of grant dollars to support economic growth and development.

Representative Michael Hale and Senator Ken Yager were declared UCDD's 2023 Legislators of the Year.



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.



BEN LOMAND DONATES TO WHITE COUNTY UCHRA

Special thanks to Ben Lomand Connect for donating \$165 to UCHRA's White County office ahead of the holidays.

From www.benlomandconnect.com: "In November, Ben Lomand's offices began collecting food donations throughout their territory and at Citizens Tri-County Bank in Van Buren County. Along with the food items, Ben Lomand Connect matched with a monetary donation of fifty cents per item. Over the four years of the annual food drive, BLC has collected over 7,400 food items and contributed more than \$3,300 to area food pantries."

We appreciate your continued support of our agency and the work we do!



2023 ANNUAL REPORT, MEETING VIDEO NOW ONLINE

The 2023 UCDD-UCHRA Annual Report and meeting video are now available on each agency's website (www.ucdd.org and www.uchra.org).

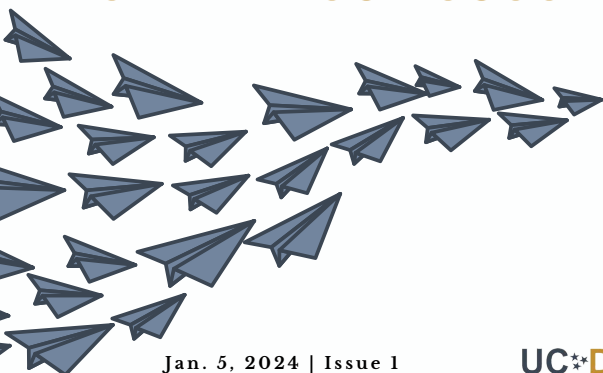
In addition to the agency websites, meeting recordings can also be accessed by visiting the UCDD-UCHRA YouTube channel: UC Connect.

There are a limited number of printed copies of the 2023 UCDD-UCHRA Annual Report available.

To obtain a copy, please contact Amye Anderson (aanderson@ucdd.org).



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