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



#### LENDING A HELPING HAND IN MACON COUNTY



Lafayette-based Sozo Ministries, which provides food, clothing, and personal hygiene items to those in need in the community every Saturday, found themselves in urgent need of food donations.

With their supplies running low, Donna Griffith, Macon County Office Specialist, stepped in, donating from her personal pantry, which she stocks through couponing and community donations.

Her generous contribution of over 10 boxes—containing more than 500 cans and various food items—helped ensure Sozo Ministries could continue feeding those in need. By working together, we are making a difference and ensuring no one goes hungry.

Find Sozo Ministries on Facebook or call (615) 359-6063 to learn more.





### UCDD, EMPOWER RESOURCE TEAM HOLDS HOUSING MEETING

Recently, UCDD's Jessie Phillips, Empower Resource Coordinator, hosted a workforce housing collaborative meeting in Cumberland County. The meeting brought together local partners, including bankers, nonprofit organizations, THDA, and USDA, to discuss housing solutions and opportunities.

#### WORK PROGRESSING ON LOAN CLIENT'S NEW LOCATION

In October 2024, the UCDD loan program partnered with First National Bank of Tennessee to support My Father's Mustache in purchasing and building-out their new salon location on 10th Street, set to open later this year.

Recently, Kelly Sullivan, Director of the Upper Cumberland's Small Business Development Center, and Mindy Tramel, UCDD Loan Officer, visited the site to check out the progress.

UCDD's lending team offers revolving loan funds and specializes in gap financing for eligible businesses and applicants.

Visit ucdd.org to learn more about our Economic Development and Lending programs.



#### UCHRA HOSTS QUARTERLY HART MEETING



UCHRA hosted HART's quarterly in-person meeting in March, offering an invaluable opportunity for networking, collaboration, and strengthening community partnerships. While the group meets virtually each month, these in-person gatherings foster deeper connections and more effective communication among members.

During the meeting, LaNelle Godsey, UCHRA Deputy Director/Community Services Director, provided an insightful presentation on UCHRA's services and introduced the Certified Peer Recovery Specialists (CPRS). This introduction allowed CPRS members to connect with key contacts in their respective counties, exchange vital information, and build relationships that enhance resource accessibility.

By strengthening these professional networks, the meeting helped lay the foundation for greater collaboration and support across communities.

## 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.



Follow us on social media for the latest updates.









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