

Positively UC

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



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MARTIN RAISES \$1,000 FOR ST. JUDE KIDS, FAMILIES

Kudos to Sara Martin, TN SHIP Coordinator for the Upper Cumberland AAAD, for successfully completing her first marathon this past weekend!

Sara participated in the St. Jude Rock 'n' Roll Marathon in Nashville and remarkably raised \$1,000 for the children of St. Jude, earning her the title of St. Jude Hero. You are truly a UCDD Hero as well!

Runners who fundraise for St. Jude while training for their race are part of a nationwide alliance against childhood cancer. They're called St. Jude Heroes. As a St. Jude Hero, participants raise funds for the kids of St. Jude while training for the race. The dollars that Heroes raise help ensure families never receive a bill from St. Jude for treatment, travel, housing or food — because all a family should worry about is helping their child live.



RAY EARNS LEADERSHIP CERTIFICATE

Congratulations to Patty Ray, AAAD's Community Living Support Ombudsman, for successfully finishing the Women in Leadership Program at The University of Tennessee, Knoxville!

Over a span of seven months, Patty completed an eight-module curriculum. Additionally, she has contributed her expertise as a member of the Advisory Board for UT's Center for Professional Education and Lifelong Learning's Women in Leadership Certification Program.

We truly value your dedication and the way you represent our agency so effectively!

EMPLOYEE SHOUT-OUT: TOMMY SIMCOX

Tommy Simcox, UCHRA's Weatherization Program Manager, received the following text message from a relative of a program client. *Thank you for all that you do, Tommy!*

Tommy this is [redacted]
[redacted] I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart, you don't know how much this has helped him, I'm forever grateful





VOLUNTEERS, TEAMWORK KEY TO COMMODITIES' SUCCESS

Volunteers play a vital role in the success of our commodities distribution events—helping direct traffic, greet participants, and share valuable program information.

At a recent Putnam County commodities distribution event, SCSEP (Senior Community Service Employment Program) participants Donna Sawyer, Bobbie Quintana, and Ruth Spier lent a hand, along with the TTU Women's Track Team.

We're grateful for their support and partnership!

If you're interested in volunteering, visit uchra.org or contact your local UCHRA office.



'THANK YOU' FROM THE UPPER CUMBERLAND COMMISSION ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH



Recently, the Upper Cumberland Commission on Children and Youth presented UCDD-UCHRA Executive Director Mark Farley with a thank you gift for the use of the UCDD conference room. The gift, a custom pillow featuring the outline of the state of Tennessee, was created by local students.

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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GENEROUS CONTRIBUTIONS FROM UNITED HEALTHCARE



Last week, Terri Francescon, a representative from United Healthcare, graciously delivered donated items to the AAAD.

The donations included bags intended for food delivery from the Aging Department's food pantry, as well as door prizes to be utilized during staff outreach and educational events.

Additionally, United Healthcare made a financial contribution to replenish the food pantry within the Aging Department. This pantry serves individuals facing emergency food shortages.



SPECIAL THANKS TO UCHRA SUPPORTERS

The Putnam County UCHRA office received a generous dog food donation from the local animal shelter, and Commodities staff Bethany and Phillip, along with SCSEP employee Bobby, quickly stepped in to portion and label the bags. These will be available at upcoming commodity events for clients in need—please check with the Putnam County office or Al Ashburn for more information.



At UCHRA's Van Buren County Head Start, CHANCE residents shared some of their favorite childhood books with students—providing every child with a free book. Early exposure to books supports brain development, emotional expression, and future academic success. CHANCE residents encourage everyone to share their favorite books with the children in their lives.

UCHRA STAFF ENERGIZED BY NATIONAL WEATHERIZATION CONFERENCE

Tommy Simcox, Judy Sanchez, and LaNelle Godsey recently represented UCHRA and the agency's Community Services team at the Building Performance Association's National Home Performance Conference in New Orleans—the largest yet, with more than 2,800 attendees.

The team returned energized and equipped with innovative strategies to better serve the Upper Cumberland.

The Building Performance Association (BPA) is a nonprofit 501(c)(6) industry association that serves as the hub for businesses, nonprofits, and government agencies working to make America's homes more comfortable, healthy, and energy efficient.

