

# Positively UC

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



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## A DAY TO REMEMBER: MAKING A HOUSE A HOME

Cannon County Coordinator Amber Milligan describes May 29, 2025, as one of her most meaningful days at UCHRA.

That day marked a major turning point for “Rose,” an Empower UC participant who had fled domestic violence and was living in a local shelter with her two young children. When the shelter suddenly closed, Rose was relocated to a temporary shelter in another county with only 45 days to find new housing.

Cannon County’s Empower Upper Cumberland Navigator, Cortlind McCutcheon, stepped in to help. She worked tirelessly—filling out housing applications with Rose, hand-delivering paperwork, and offering ongoing support through every challenge.

Just days before her shelter stay ended, Rose was approved for an income-based apartment back in Cannon County.

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## UPPER CUMBERLAND AAAD HOSTS ANNUAL HCBS PROVIDER MEETING



This week, the AAAD team met with Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) providers for the annual HCBS Provider Meeting.

The AAAD currently contracts with 19 agencies to deliver essential services—including Homemaker, Personal Care, In-Home Respite, Home Delivered Meals, Groceries, Personal Emergency Response Systems, and Medication Dispensers—to clients throughout the Upper Cumberland.

The meeting included program-specific presentations from UCDD staff, as well as important updates from both AAAD and providers related to HCBS services.

Looking ahead, the AAAD plans to transition to semi-annual provider meetings beginning in fiscal year 2026, creating more opportunities for collaboration and communication.

## A DAY TO REMEMBER: MAKING A HOUSE A HOME, CONTINUED

UCHRA and Empower UC covered the deposit, arranged LIHEAP assistance, and—thanks to anonymous donors—paid the electric deposit.

The apartment, however, was completely empty. Rose had no beds, furniture, or household items. Amber and Cortlind reached out to the community, and within two hours, donations from the Woodbury Church of Christ and local residents furnished the entire home.

Cortlind then gathered her family, her husband, and fellow UCHRA staff to help move in and set everything up.

That night, Rose and her children had a safe, fully furnished home—and for the first time in her life, Rose had a bed of her own.

Amber shared that while they could have simply handed Rose a resource list, it was the connection and care from UCHRA staff and community partners that made the real difference.

*This story is a powerful reminder of how our work can change lives—and how going the extra mile matters. Thank you, Amber, Cortlind, and all involved in helping a client in need!*

## COMMISSIONER TURNER VISITS VAN BUREN ACTIVITY CENTER

Commissioner Brad Turner of the Tennessee Department of Disability and Aging recently visited the Van Buren Activity Center, where he met with representatives from the Activity Center, AAAD, and UCHRA, including UCDD-UCHRA Executive Director Mark Farley.

During his visit, Commissioner Turner spoke with Activity Center Director Darleen Hunter and Farley to learn more about the programs and services offered. He also took time to discuss senior nutrition services and personally connect with center participants.

Commissioner Turner asked attendees what they enjoy most about the center and what changes or additions they would like to see in the future.

Several participants proudly guided him through the activity areas, sharing firsthand experiences and highlighting the center's positive impact on their daily lives.



### 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.*

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