

# Positively UC

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



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## 'THEY TRULY GO THE EXTRA MILE' UCHRA'S PICK-UP UC DRIVERS MAKING A DIFFERENCE



Kim K. and her husband, who are both sight-limited, recently shared how much our Pick-Up UC service has meant to them since moving to Cookeville from the Chicago area. From day one, the Pick-Up team has gone above and beyond, helping them navigate essential places like the post office and DMV, and even assisting with trips to take their grandchildren shopping and to the movies.

Kim gave special praise to Jonny, Billy, and Cherie, sharing how they consistently make sure she and her husband are taken care of

and help them feel comfortable and confident every step of the way. She described all our Pick-Up drivers as “the kindest people we’ve ever met,” adding that “they truly go the extra mile.”

The Pick-Up Upper Cumberland app is available in Putnam and Cumberland counties and offers a convenient, on-demand mobile transportation service designed to help riders get where they need to go with care and ease.

## UCHRA LEADERSHIP MEETS WITH STATE LAWMAKERS

This week, members of the Upper Cumberland Human Resource Agency (UCHRA) leadership team met with state lawmakers to discuss the agency’s ongoing efforts to strengthen families and communities throughout the Upper Cumberland region.

UCHRA representatives met with House Speaker Cameron Sexton, Representative Michael Hale, Representative Kelly Keisling, and Senator Ken Yager to share program updates, outcomes data, and the real-life impact of services provided across the region.

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# UCHRA LEADERSHIP MEETS WITH STATE LAWMAKERS, CONTINUED

During the visit, agency leaders highlighted the continued success of Empower Upper Cumberland, an initiative designed to help families increase their income and work toward long-term self-sufficiency without fear of losing critical healthcare benefits.

The program provides education, planning support, and personalized guidance so families can make informed decisions about career advancement and financial growth.

The team also shared updates from UCHRA's Community Corrections program, which supports non-violent offenders as they work toward rehabilitation and positive life changes. Through accountability, supervision, and access to supportive services, the program promotes safer communities while offering meaningful second chances.

These conversations with state leaders are an important part of ensuring that the needs of the Upper Cumberland region are understood at the state level. Strong partnerships and open dialogue help sustain programs that provide stability, opportunity, and support to thousands of individuals and families each year.

UCHRA appreciates the opportunity to share its mission and impact and looks forward to continued collaboration in building a stronger Upper Cumberland for all.



## SADDLE UP: 2026 SENIOR & CAREGIVER EXPO ANNOUNCED

The 2026 installment of the Senior & Caregiver Expo has been announced for Tuesday, Oct. 27, from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. The Expo will take place at Cookeville Life Church. Additional information will be shared in the coming weeks and months.

### 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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## AAAD TEAM AND UCHRA STAFF CONTINUE REGIONAL OUTREACH



The Upper Cumberland Area Agency on Aging and Disability team is busy continuing outreach efforts across the region. Jessica Roberson recently presented at several local senior/activity centers, providing an overview of the services available through UCDD's AAAD and distributed informational materials to attendees.

Participants completed the Aging Well survey, and Jessica also shared important information about a current Medicare scam involving urinary catheter supplies to help keep clients informed and protected.

At the Cannon County Health Council, Jessica



continued outreach efforts by sharing information about AAAD services, current Medicare scams, and the upcoming Aging Conference. She highlighted the importance of the Aging Well survey in guiding and strengthening the department's work on behalf of older adults.

Cortlind McCutcheon, Empower Upper Cumberland Navigator; Amber Milligan, Cannon County Coordinator; and Ryan Henry, with UC Recovery, were also in attendance, helping foster collaboration and awareness across partner agencies.

## MEADOWS EARNS CHP RETROFIT INSTALLER CERTIFICATION



Congratulations to Andy Meadows, Home Repair Technician, on successfully completing the 32-hour Retrofit Installer Technician training and earning his certification!

This comprehensive course, based on portions of the National Renewable Energy Laboratory and U.S. Department of Energy Job Task Analysis for Weatherization Crew Leader, equips participants with a strong foundation in building science and the "house as a system" approach.

Participants gain hands-on experience in whole-house weatherization techniques. In addition to air sealing and insulation, students focus on safety protocols, work-scope verification, proper material selection, tool usage, and the building science principles that drive effective energy-efficient upgrades.

Andy's achievement reflects his dedication to professional growth and strengthens our ability to deliver high-quality, energy-efficient home repair services throughout our region.