

# Positively UC

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



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## FINDING STABILITY THROUGH CREST



By the time she connected with UCHRA's Collaborative Response to End Self-Neglect (CREST) program, Wilma had already endured significant hardship. After living in a home where she was not treated well, she was evicted and eventually found herself in an uninhabitable trailer without electricity or running water.

With support from the CREST team, she navigated a series of challenges, accessed critical resources, and stayed focused on finding safe, stable housing. Their guidance and encouragement helped her move forward, even when the path wasn't easy.

Today, she is living in her own income-based apartment near her son and granddaughter. With furniture, household essentials, and groceries to help her get started, she has transformed an empty apartment into a safe, welcoming home. Her story is a reminder of what's possible when determination is paired with the right support. Through her perseverance and the assistance of the CREST program, she has found the stability, security, and dignity everyone deserves.

*Visit [uchra.org/communityservices](http://uchra.org/communityservices) to learn more about CREST.*

## THURMAN, OUTGOING MAYORS RECOGNIZED

Officials with the Upper Cumberland Development District (UCDD) and Upper Cumberland Human Resource Agency (UCHRA) recently recognized several Executive Committee members whose terms will conclude in August, expressing appreciation for their service and leadership on behalf of the Upper Cumberland region.

Those recognized included Fentress County Mayor Jimmy Johnson, Macon County Mayor Steve Jones, White County Executive Denny Wayne Robinson, Van Buren County Mayor David Sullivan, Overton County Mayor Steven Barlow, DeKalb County Mayor Matt Adcock, Cookeville Mayor Laurin Wheaton, Jackson County Mayor Lloyd Williams, and Smithville Mayor Josh Miller.

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# BIRDWELL EARNS NACPB BOOKKEEPING CERTIFICATION

Congratulations to Sarah Birdwell, Business Specialist with UCDD, on earning her bookkeeping certification through the National Association of Certified Public Bookkeepers (NACPB)!

Sarah completed a rigorous 12-week Accounting Fundamentals course before successfully passing the Certified Bookkeeper exam, earning her certification in May. Her dedication to continuing education and professional excellence is an asset to our organization.

*Please join us in celebrating Sarah and this outstanding achievement!*



## UC STEP CHALLENGE STARTS WEDNESDAY

The UCDD vs. UCHRA Step Challenge kicks off Wednesday, July 1, bringing together UCDD, UCHRA (with Drivers), and Head Start for a team-based competition where every step counts. Check your inbox for an email from Mason Garrison with full details, including how to track and submit weekly steps and bonus opportunities for verified races.



## OFFICES CLOSED FRIDAY, JULY 3

In celebration of Independence Day, UCDD, along with all UCHRA offices and public transportation services (including Connect (I-40/I-24) and Go routes) will be closed on Friday, July 3. Normal operations will resume on Monday, July 6.



At UCHRA, we believe strong partnerships create stronger communities. That's why we're proud to partner with McMinnville Electric System (MES) to help connect eligible households with available assistance. If you have questions or would like to apply, please contact the Warren County UCHRA office at (931) 473-6652. Our team is here to make the process as easy as possible.

### 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.





## CONTINUED: THURMAN, OUTGOING MAYORS RECOGNIZED



During the recent Executive Committee meeting, UCDD Executive Director Mark Farley thanked the outgoing members for their dedication to their respective communities and to the missions of both agencies.

Farley noted that the members' leadership and support have contributed to the continued growth and progress of the Upper Cumberland and have helped strengthen services provided to citizens throughout the 14-county region.

UCDD and UCHRA officials expressed gratitude for the members' willingness to serve and their commitment to improving the quality of life across the Upper Cumberland. The agencies also extended best wishes to each individual and thanked them for their years of service.

Video from the recognition and farewell remarks is available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4HIXv3dwuDo>.

