

Positively UC

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



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UCDD, UCHRA STAFF DELIVER FOR HEAD START

During the recent UCDD-UCHRA Fall Training event, staff were asked to donate canned goods and non-perishables for Head Start families.

“Thanks to your generosity, teamwork, and compassion, we were able to collect a wonderful amount of food to help support local children and families,” said Elsie Blaylock, Van Buren County Head Start Director.

Van Buren County Head Start asked for a variety of items and the staff of UCDD and UCHRA delivered; providing everything from canned soups to pie filling.

“Your donations are more than just food,” Blaylock added. “They are a reminder to our community that we care and are willing to come together to help those in need.”

These items will ensure that Head Start families have the staples they need to prepare meals this holiday season.

“We are incredibly proud of everyone who contributed and helped make this food drive a success,” Blaylock said. “Thank you for giving, caring, and making our community a better place.”

CHANCE ANNOUNCES UPDATES DESIGNED TO IMPROVE CARE FOR RESIDENTS



In addition to maintaining licensing through the Tennessee Department of Children's Services as a Group Home Facility, CHANCE is now officially licensed through the Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services. This milestone enables the facility to expand services to better meet the needs of female youth aged 12 to 18.

CHANCE has also been approved to participate in the USDA-funded Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). As part of CHANCE's commitment to providing top-quality care, this program helps ensure residents receive balanced, highly nutritious meals featuring all five essential food components.

KORNREICH NAMED OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEER



Since joining the Tennessee State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) and Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP) in 2011, she has maintained unbroken service, dedicating hundreds of hours each year to protecting local Medicare beneficiaries.

In 2025 alone, Evelyne devoted more than 208 hours to one-on-one Medicare counseling, directly helping over 300 individual beneficiaries and their families navigate complex health insurance plans, lower prescription costs, and resolve billing issues. Her fluency in both English and French allows her to break down difficult language barriers, offering culturally competent insurance counseling to a diverse population.

Beyond individual counseling, Evelyne leads Medicare education workshops and fraud prevention efforts through regional library systems and residential programs. Drawing on her background as a retired assistant principal, she also serves as a trusted mentor to fellow volunteers, guiding new team members through complex guidelines with patience and expertise. Her extensive involvement also extends to the Public Guardianship Program, Fairfield Glade Resident Services, the Neighborhood Watch Committee, and local arts initiatives.

The Upper Cumberland Area Agency on Aging & Disability (AAAD) is proud to announce that long-time volunteer Evelyne Kornreich has been named the recipient of the 2026 Outstanding Volunteer in Aging Award by the Southeastern Association of Area Agencies on Aging (SE4A).

This prestigious regional award places Kornreich at the top of volunteer programs across nine Southeastern states: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia.

A dedicated resident of Crossville, Tennessee, Evelyne has spent the past 15 years providing exceptional advocacy and service to older adults across the Upper Cumberland region.

“Evelyne’s master-level problem-solving, steady presence, and extraordinary commitment over 15 continuous years make her truly deserving of this regional honor,” said Sara Martin, Regional TN SHIP Manager at the Upper Cumberland AAAD. “She elevates the work of our entire team and improves the lives of hundreds of Medicare beneficiaries and their families every single year.”

Congratulations, Evelyne, on this well-deserved recognition!

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.



SULLIVAN NAMED 2026 UCDD SOUPER STAR



Kelly Sullivan, Director of the Small Business Development Center at UCDD, took home the top honors from the 2026 SOUP-er Star contest at UCDD with her loaded baked potato soup.

Sullivan's entry will be the featured soup at the UCDD booth during the 30th Annual Cooking on the Square.

Cooking on the Square, an annual fundraiser for the Upper Cumberland Habitat for Humanity, will take place on Friday, Oct. 30, on the square in Cookeville.

To purchase tickets, visit give.uchabitat.org



STAFF ATTEND INAUGURAL CONFERENCE ON AGING

In September, representatives from both UCDD attended Tennessee Department of Disability and Aging's inaugural Tennessee State Conference on Aging held in Murfreesboro, Tenn.

Approximately 400 professionals, providers, advocates, caregivers and community partners attended the event to network and learn more about how to improve upon meeting the evolving needs of older adults, adults with physical disabilities and caregivers across Tennessee.

Featured speakers included Senator Bo Watson, Dr. John Dunn, Marie Williams, David Rausch, Dr. Monica Crane, Allison Massari, and Kathy Greenlee.





The Upper Cumberland
Senior + Caregiver Expo

WELCOMES YOU TO
Resource City

10 A.M. - 1 P.M.
TUESDAY
OCT. 27

@LIFE CHURCH COOKEVILLE



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OPEN ENROLLMENT

MEDICAL | VISION | DENTAL | SUPPLEMENTAL



MEDICAL

Quality care for you and your family.



VISION

Keep your eyes on what matters.



DENTAL

A healthier smile for a brighter you.



SUPPLEMENTAL

Extra protection for life's unexpected moments.



OPEN ENROLLMENT DATES

October 1 – October 31, 2026

Plan year: January 1, 2027 – December 31, 2027



SUPPLEMENTAL BENEFITS

Review and enroll online through Navigator.

Watch your email for your personal Navigator link.

WHO NEEDS TO REVIEW BENEFITS?

All full-time staff should review their benefits during Open Enrollment.



DON'T FORGET:

All full-time staff must submit a form, even if you are keeping your current elections.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

- ✓ Review your current elections and make sure your coverage still meets your needs.
- ✓ You can add, remove, or make changes to your benefits during Open Enrollment.
- ✓ Changes you make will be effective January 1, 2027.



NEW FOR 2027: COPAY PPO

A new PPO medical plan option will be available for the 2027 plan year. Review the plan details and compare your options during Open Enrollment.

**INVEST IN YOUR HEALTH.
IT'S ONE OF THE BEST BENEFITS OF ALL.**

Questions? Email HR at hr@ucdd.org or hr@uchra.com

CARE NOTES

Insights from those who provide care every day

A team and I have been working with a client to clean and organize her home. The home had become very cluttered, and the process of cleaning it has been both physically and emotionally challenging for her. Although she is still working through the emotional side of letting go of things, she has made steady progress. It is still a work in progress, but the client is slowly getting her home cleaned and organized. She is feeling better about the changes, and it is rewarding to see the smile on her face as she sees the progress being made.

- Jo Amber Messina

A client I am currently seeing has made great progress and is now successfully able to take a shower independently without any assistance. This is a wonderful accomplishment and an important step toward maintaining her independence.

A[nother] client I am currently seeing recently had surgery and is doing great with her walking. It may seem like a small thing, but seeing how much her mobility has improved has made a big difference. It is rewarding to see her making progress and gaining confidence with each step.

- Melissa Hall

shared by
UCHRA's Home
Care Specialists