

Wish List

School Uniforms

Here is something special that is needed by our children – School Uniforms!

Our wish is for school uniforms for children Pre-Kinder through Grade 8. Here are the descriptions of those uniforms according to the Fort Worth Independent School District.

TOPS

Color: Navy or white
Style: Collared (polo or oxford) shirts or blouses, mock turtlenecks or turtlenecks; all must have sleeves.

OUTERWEAR

Sweatshirts or sweaters in navy or white are acceptable as outerwear if worn over standard dress; coats and jackets of any color shall be worn in accordance with weather conditions.

BOTTOMS

Color: Navy, khaki, black or blue denim
Style: Pants, shorts, skirts, skirts, capris or jumpers are acceptable; all must be hemmed or cuffed and can be no shorter than three inches above the knee. Jeans must be free of embellishments.

SHOES

Style: Athletic shoes, loafers, dress shoes or other closed-toe shoes as well as open-

toe/open-heel shoes. Shoelaces should be white or should match the color of the shoe.

ANOTHER FUN ITEM:

HD Flat Screen TVs for the classrooms.

Donations can be dropped off at UCC's administration building:
Maddox Center
1200 E. Maddox Ave.
Fort Worth, TX 76104.

Thank you so much for helping the children as they start out their 2010-11 School Year. Should you have any questions, call the Maddox Center at 817-927-5556, or email us at info@unitedcommunitycenters.org.



Devotional



A Reflection

How far you go in life depends on your being tender with the young, compassionate with the aged, sympathetic with the striving and tolerant of the weak and strong. Because someday in your life you will have been all of these.

-George Washington Carver

To donate, call 817-927-5556 or visit our Website at www.unitedcommunitycenters.org



United Community Centers, Inc.

Celebrate!

Celebrating a Century of Service...Building a Foundation for the Future

Summer 2010



Summer Fun



Upcoming Event: Grand Opening of the Polytechnic Center. September 17 and 19.

Newsletter underwritten by United Community Centers Foundation, Inc.

United Community Centers Foundation, Inc.



A National Mission Institution of the

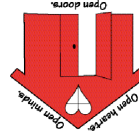


Ask About Our:
Act III Program
After School Child Care
Summer Camp Program

WE HAVE A REASON TO
Celebrate!

Return Service Requested

UNITED COMMUNITY CENTERS, INC.
1200 E. Maddox Ave.
Fort Worth, TX 76104-5745



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Celebrate! President's Comments



Dear Friends of UCC, I hope everyone is enjoying their "HOT" summer vacation. We at UCC are busy and excited about all that is happening at our centers. Our summer program is off and running and we are at capacity at all three sites - which means we have over 320 school age children and youth passing through our centers everyday, from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. It troubles me to think that if our doors weren't open many of our families would not have a place to leave their children while they work. In some cases children would be left at home alone. However, because of your generous donations, UCC is able to provide a safe and nurturing environment, where our parents know their children are being well cared for. Summer months are also the busiest at our food pantries as families have extra mouths to feed. I'm constantly amazed at the resourcefulness of our staff who are able to do so much with so little. Everyday we see lives being changed and that's what makes what we do so necessary and gratifying.

The "New" Poly Center construction should be completed by the end of July, God willing. This much needed facility is a long awaited realization and I'm so proud of the supporters, volunteers, committees, staff and board members that made this all possible. The new center was designed to serve our clients and their children more effectively and will have a long lasting impact on the Poly community in the years to come.

We continue to work diligently on our Capital Campaign and we're asking everyone to help us reach our goal to make much needed improvements to our other two centers.

100 years ago UCC laid a foundation that has changed the lives of disadvantaged families and individuals and as I've stated before, this could not have been accomplished without you. For this I give thanks to God and extend my heartfelt appreciation to our supporters and hope you will continue keep UCC in your daily prayers.

Ezra 3:11 With praise and thanksgiving they sang to the LORD : "He is good; his love to Israel endures forever." And all the people gave a great shout of praise to the LORD, because the foundation of the house of the LORD was laid.

Blessings,

Celia Esparza

Celia Esparza
President & CEO

We Find Power In Ourselves

Empowering Individuals

UCC's core purpose is to empower individuals, strengthen families and enrich communities. Individuals often come to us asking for only one thing but really have many needs and questions. We work to help families help themselves. We are proud when we can say we made a difference in a family's life. One of our successes is Anita. Anita



spent a good portion of her high school years at the Bethlehem Center attending our after school and summer day camp programs. Her mom was single and she knew that Anita was safe at the Bethlehem Center and that the staff cared for Anita's grades and school experiences.

Anita, a good student, liked attending the Bethlehem Center because she

was able to receive homework assistance there. Staff also monitored her grades to be sure that if they fell, they would be there to immediately tutor her.

Her mother worked very hard to keep food on the table and made sure Anita succeeded in school.

During the four years we cared for Anita, she was a part of the many activities we have

for the youth - prevention programming, FitFuture, art, drama and choir participation, field trips to the museum and local businesses, just to name a few. Today, Anita is a high school graduate and serving her second year in the United States Navy, learning international linguistics. UCC is proud to have played a part in the lives of Anita and her mother and in helping them find power in themselves.

Fiesta Wesley Style!

Bringing the Community Together

On May 7, Wesley Community Center opened up its doors to the community and hosted a fun evening filled with games, a fabulous auction, dancing, and lots of delicious Mexican food. Fiesta is an annual event that gives the Wesley Center staff, children and families an opportunity to celebrate spring and the month of May. May is so significant on many levels for example, Cinco de Mayo, Mother's Day, high school and university graduations, and the end of the school year.



This is a special event steeped in the tradition of community and UCC participates to bring together the neighborhood's energy.



Fiesta

A Bee Enriches Our Bethlehem Community

Enriching Communities

Each day there are opportunities for UCC to enrich our communities, but the following is a story about a Bee enriching the lives of our staff and youth. We held a simple spelling bee for our kids at the Wesley Center. This was an ACT III project and we heard lots of protests about what the kids had to do to prepare for the spelling bee. Center and ACT III staff worked to help ACT III kids broaden their vocabulary. They thought that the best way to help the students with their vocabulary and spelling would be to have them study the 400 SAT study vocabulary words.



"We know people communicate so much better when they have a good vocabulary."

The first step in the enrichment process was for the students to take a pre-test. There were complaints; in fact, one young girl named Mary, wrote all over her pre-test the words "This is stupid."

During the next three months, staff encouraged the kids to use the vocabulary words in everyday conversations - at home, at the center, and at school. When we heard the children use the vocabulary words in the right context, we rewarded them with incentive prizes. As their vocabulary grew, their teachers at school noticed and the children were happy to be recognized by their teachers. After three months, the day of the spelling bee came. The kids stood there, twisting their mouths, and even their bodies like pretzels, as they got more nervous about participating. They missed letters and, disappointed, took their seats. The end of the bee proved to be very interesting - Mary and another young woman named Alicia

were the last two standing. Mary heard her word and heartbreakingly misspelled it. The staff was very happy that Alicia had won but was even happier to see Mary win second place. Mary cried but even in her disappointment never repeated her earlier comment about the spelling bee being stupid. Staff had succeeded in helping the children improve their vocabulary, learn to study and stay focused.

According to Sam Chavez, Assistant Director at the Wesley Center, "We know people communicate so much better when they have a good vocabulary. We want our kids to communicate well, very well. It felt good showing

them something new and watching them go for it with spirit." The spelling bee enriched the lives of the children and put proud smiles on the faces of the staff for their efforts and success with the children, but the children also smiled because their teachers recognized their hard work.



Sam Chavez, Wesley Center Assistant Director.

Save The Date



Save These Dates and Spend Time with UCC at these special events!"

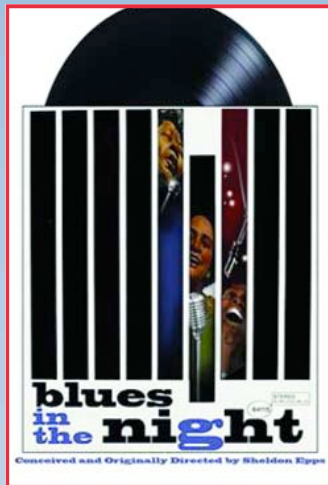
Thursday, August 5, 2010
Summer Benefit at the Jubilee Reception at 7 p.m.
Performance at 8 p.m.
Contact: Erin McDonald
emcdonald@unitedcommunitycenters.org
817-927-5556, ext.118

Friday, September 17 and Sunday September 19, 2010
Grand Opening for Polytechnic Center
Friday, September 17 at 11:00 a.m. Community Open House
Sunday, September 19 at 2:00 p.m.
Contact: Susie Reyes
sreyes@unitedcommunitycenters.org
817-927-5556, ext.115

Thursday, November 4, 2010
7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Wild About Chocolate!
One Sweet Fundraiser
Hosted by Chesapeake Energy, Inc.
100 Energy Way
Fort Worth, Texas 76102
Contact: Susie Reyes
sreyes@unitedcommunitycenters.org
817-927-5556, ext.115

Calendar of Events

Thursday August 5, 2010



United Community Centers, Inc. Summer Theater Benefit at the Jubilee

Presenting "Blues in the Night"
Reception at 7 p.m.
Performance at 8 p.m.

Join us for a great night out at the Jubilee Theatre in downtown Fort Worth.

It's an evening of fun and friends sharing in a unique fundraising event that has become a UCC tradition.

Contact us for sponsorship or tickets. Call Erin McDonald at 817-927-5556, ext.118 or e-mail: emcdonald@unitedcommunitycenters.org

Visit our website at: www.unitedcommunitycenters.org or become a fan of UCC through FaceBook.

Volunteer Highlights

Helping To Build Fellowship



For over three years, UCC and particularly the Polytechnic Center have had the unwavering support of Edna Manning, Madelyn Dean, and many other United Methodist Women from Arborlawn United Methodist Church, working diligently at the Poly Center's clothing room. Three times a week, the United Methodist Women volunteers sort through the clothes, organize these by size and gender, and place them in the clothing room so that those less fortunate have an organized room filled with fresh and gently used clothing. Additionally, once a month, some of the Arborlawn volunteers go out to the Wesley Center to volunteer in their clothes closet. Each Monday, Wednesday and Friday, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., four to five volunteers work in the Polytechnic Center clothing room. This is a wonderful commitment to UCC from many different women all year round.

Edna Manning shared that it was touching how grateful the adults that utilize the clothing room are, especially grandparents who are raising their grandchildren. The grandparents are grateful knowing someone out there loves and helps their grandchildren. Grandparents utilizing our clothing room are on a fixed income and having the opportunity to select children's clothing is helpful for them economically.

Edna further expressed that the clothing room volunteers work to serve others. - "We are the hands and feet of Jesus." Madelyn Dean added that the hours spent by the volunteers in the clothing room helps build fellowship that strengthens everyone.

This group of women exemplify the definition of a volunteer for any nonprofit – the selfless giving of oneself without pay, to a mission, project or task. We want to thank them for their commitment to our mission. We also want to thank all our volunteers at our centers that help us to empower individuals, strengthen families and enrich our communities.



Arborlawn volunteers from left to right are Joan Morris, Madelyn Dean, Roberta White, Beverly Canon.

We have volunteer opportunities at all our clothing rooms at each of our centers. If you or your group can help, please contact Sherry Dunn, 817-927-5556, ext. 113 or email her at sdunn@unitedcommunitycenters.org

CORRECTION - Previous Issue Under Volunteer Highlights, we should have credited the UMW of First UMC of Hurst for their volunteer work at the Bethlehem Center.

Wild About Chocolate

One Sweet Fundraiser



Join us at Chesapeake Energy Corporation's Fort Worth headquarters as they host UCC's Wild About Chocolate, One Sweet

Fundraiser on Thursday, November 4, 2010. The reception highlights some of the most delicious chocolate desserts, drinks, and food from local chocolatiers and restaurantriers. The chocolate sampling is only a portion of the

evening that will highlight live music, a silent auction, and a few surprises. Platform Grill and City Kitchen have already agreed to provide us with luscious chocolate samples.

If you are interested in sponsoring the event, or wish to purchase tickets, please contact Susie Reyes at 817-927-5556, x115 or email sreyes@unitedcommunitycenters.org.

A Head Start for the Fall & Winter

Each year, we are amazed at how the year passes so quickly at UCC. Even though we have just begun our Summer Day Camp Program at each of our centers, our thoughts jump quickly to preparing for the fall and winter campaign efforts raising funds and donations. Beginning of the fall and winter months the children and families we serve have special needs.

September will bring us the challenge of providing children with backpacks and school supplies. Last year, with your help, we distributed 250 backpacks to children and youth who participated in our Summer Day Camp Program.

In October, UCC begins to collect funds and donations for the Thanksgiving Baskets Program that helped over 1,000 families

last fall to have a more fulfilling Thanksgiving Day, although we had approximately 500 families that we could not serve. Our program solicits monetary and food donations to give disadvantaged families the opportunity to enjoy the holidays in a more festive manner.



In November, we begin signing up volunteers and supporters to be Christmas Angels to the approximately 300 children we serve. In the months that follow supporters will receive another mailer or email about how you can be an integral part of responding to the needs of the children, youth, adults and seniors that we serve. If you wish to donate now for any of these efforts, you may forward

your donation to UCC at 1200 E. Maddox Ave., Fort Worth, 76104. To donate online go to www.unitedcommunitycenters.org.

Teed Up for UCC! Golf

On Monday, March 29, UCC held its 6th annual Louise and Frank Carvey Golf Tournament at Mira Vista Country Club. The players enjoyed lunch provided by The



John Bolser, Robert Newhouse, Neil Nichols, Bryan Wright

Hamburger Man, great weather, and former Dallas Cowboy Robert Newhouse. Local golf professional Amy Fox provided a golf clinic for the players

before the tournament. During the awards ceremony Robert Newhouse shared stories from his days as a Dallas Cowboy.

It was a day full of fun and we look forward to next year! We would like to give a big thank you to all of our sponsors, Gold Sponsor: Louise and Frank Carvey, Silver Sponsors: Strong Oil and Gas, Celia and Gerald Esparza, Bronze Sponsors: Aureus Partners, RPGA Design Group, Inc., and Texas Methodist Foundation. Thank you to our Golf Committee Chairs Dottie McDonald and Dr. Gary Strong and the Golf Committee composed of Kelly Bevis, Bob Galvan, Chris Sanchez, and Doug Wright. A special thanks goes to Courtney Connell and the staff at Mira Vista for their help and support.



Dr. Gary Strong & Todd Miller



Donna Thomason and Phyllis Kwedar



The First Tee participants



Shauna Wright and Celia Esparza

2010-2011
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CENTERS, INC.
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*Our Mission
Guided by Christian
principles, we serve and
empower those in need.*

A Mother's Question

Strengthening Families

A mother of two young daughters could not sleep one summer night in 2009. Were the girls sick? No. She was worried about what to do with her daughters the



next day when she had to go to work. This is always a big concern for a single mother. However, for Maria, last summer, it was the most pressing of all. Early the next morning, Maria drove around in her new neighborhood.

She drove up to a building that looked like a church. Maria thought to herself that perhaps a prayer would help, or maybe she could find some help there for the girls. Nevertheless, her anxiety pushed any positive thoughts or signs of hope aside. She thought about how she would have to leave her girls in the parking lot of her new job and that during her break times and lunch hour, she would have the opportunity to run out and check on them.

She had no immediate alternative. She could not afford a babysitter or for that matter much

of anything else. Today was her first day on the job. Then she looked up again and saw some parents with children arriving at the front door of the church and then she saw a woman welcoming the children in. Maria sat in her car with her two girls, and saw others were leaving their small children and the kids were skipping up to the door.

Maria took a gamble and walked up to the doors. There Frances Martinez welcomed her in and they began to talk. Frances explained that she was the Center Director and that UCC had programs such as summer day camp, youth programs, and emergency assistance. Maria explained that she needed to get to work; however, she had a problem of what to do with her children. She told Frances that she was going to leave them in the car. Frances explained that she did not have to do that. She could leave them at the Polytechnic Center. The mother of two was surprised to hear this and thanked God that such a place existed. On this special morning, Maria left her girls with Frances, went to work, and returned in the evening to pick up them up. She did this all summer long.

One afternoon, Maria brought Frances a bouquet of flowers and a card that read: "Ms. Frances, We just need to say THANK YOU and when we thought of you, we (Monica, Melissa & mom) thought of flowers. Thank you because we trusted you to put our "treasure," our kids in your hands. Some of us, have family and sometimes our own families were not there for our kids, then GOD thought of you as a gift in our lives."

Congratulations to New Board Members & Officers

UCC announced and welcomed new Board of Directors at its annual meeting on April 26. The new board members are Robert W. Beardsley, Vice President at Comerica Bank, Sundance Square; Ms. Easter Williams, a FWISD retiree; Mr. Maurice Barksdale with HMBI, Inc. real estate management company, and Travis Inge with Frost Bank, Hurst. On Monday, June 28, Will Treviño, Esquire joined the Board of Directors. Mr. Treviño, serves as Administrative Assistant to Ms. Kathleen Hicks, Fort Worth City Councilmember in Fort Worth. In addition, the UCC Board Officers were initiated for 2010-11. They are Kelly Andrews Bevis, Board Chair; Robert

Galvan, DrPH, Vice Chair; Alma Bruton, Secretary; and Chad Parsons, Treasurer. Congratulations to each of our new Officers and Board Members.



Pictured left to right, new board members, Easter Williams, Travis Inge, Robert Beardsley, and Maurice Barksdale.

Capital Campaign Update

A New Poly Center Within Sight!

Looking back at the spring newsletter article we predicted a banner year for UCC capital projects and it will be later this summer with the opening of the new Polytechnic Center at 3100 Avenue I. Walls are up, the floor is being polished, the glass blocks intricately placed, and the completion of the building is drawing near. We anticipate we will be moving soon with planned celebrations for the weekend of September 17. We will keep you posted as this quick paced schedule comes to fruition.

Pictures as seen on this page show the many facets of the construction process. We wish to thank all of our visitors during the past month that have joined us on Hard Hat Tours of the Polytechnic Center. We are grateful to our supporters that agree



that the new Polytechnic Center will be such an asset for those we serve and for the community. We continue to work on raising the remainder of our Capital Campaign goal of \$6.5 million. Our next two projects have also been a long time in coming, but we look forward to the next steps in making the Bethlehem Center and the Wesley Center construction projects a reality.

Thanks again to our funders and all who made this possible. We look forward to seeing everyone at the Polytechnic Center grand opening in September. If you would like more information about the capital campaign projects or how you can donate towards the capital campaign, please contact Celia Esparza at cesparza@unitedcommunitycenters.org or call at 817-927-5556, ext.111.



Board Chair, Kelly Bevis

Pictured above, left to right; Robert Beardsley, Ashley Inge, Travis Inge, Rev. Yvonne Gillar, Addison Elliott, Janna Elliott, Rev. Brenda Wier, Kelly Bevis, Edna Manning, and Bob Galvan.



Capital Campaign Chair, Jane Sykes.



Center Director's Office



UCC staff viewing one of the new classrooms.



New classroom with large windows looking west and south.