Creating and Seizing New Opportunities

As we begin a new year, we continue to focus on ensuring we take advantage of every opportunity possible. In this newsletter you will read about many new opportunities – the opportunity to serve more clients in our Human Services Program, the opportunity for kids to learn and excel at chess, the opportunity to serve the youngest members of the family in our new daycare center, the opportunity to build a new school focused on science and technology, and the many opportunities that volunteers, donors, and partners have shared with us!

We are fortunate that so many community members are part of our mission and are willing to support it. We are still seeking funders to help us complete our campaign to build the UCC Acosta Middle School. With generous support from so many, we have reached $5 million but still need to raise an additional $2 million for this project. Thank you to those who have helped thus far, and we welcome more to learn about our work and join us as we give students and families the opportunity to change their lives!

UCC Childcare & Development Center Gives Children Strong Start

Through the acquisition of Day Care Services, Inc. at 2210 W. Becher Street, UCC officially opened the UCC Childcare and Development Center on October 1, 2017. This center serves children ages birth to 4 years old, and provides afterschool and summer care for older children up to age 12. Since UCC began operating the center, the enrollment has gone from 17 children to 45, and more families and children join every day with an enrollment goal of 75-100 next year. This new venture is part of UCC’s mission to ensure every child is being cared for in a quality environment which provides them with the skills and foundation necessary to be school ready.

Focus has been placed on training staff as well as upgrading the facility with a complete facelift. In the future, new furnishings and toys will ensure children have all of the amenities to provide the best care possible. The center accepts clients who are part of the Wisconsin Shares program as well as private pay clients, and serves the entire family with bilingual certified staff.

More details and enrollment information is available at: www.unitedcc.org or by calling (414) 645-7001.
Volunteers Get in the Spirit of Giving

As we welcome the New Year and look forward to the spring, the United Community Center would like to reflect on the generosity of all of the outstanding volunteers who donated their time, energy, and efforts to make this past fall and holiday season a success. With your help and support, we accomplished more than 20 projects for our students, seniors, and community.

UCC received special visits from local high schools and organizations who were eager to give back to our community. Students at Divine Savior Holy Angels High School (DSHA) spent time pampering seniors in our Adult Day Center for an annual Spa Day as well as helping sell merchandise and tickets for Latin Arts’ Day of the Dead events. St. Thomas More High School volunteers set a great example for our preschool staff as they assisted them with reading, writing, math, and after learning activities. Our seniors enjoyed a fun and competitive Bingo Tournament with friends from University School of Milwaukee. Thanks to organizations like United Way, The Bon-Ton Stores, Inc., Robert W. Baird & Co., Inc., PNC, US Bank, Milwaukee Area Technical College and so many others, we were able to provide literacy events to our younger students, create festive holiday crafts, and even take our seniors on an adventurous field trip to the Milwaukee Public Museum.

Wrapping up the year, we had dozens of volunteers come together by sharing not only their spirit but their generosity this holiday season. Marquette University Police Department spent time reading holiday stories with our preschool students. Local companies such as Rockwell Automation, Darsee, Cintas, and the City of Milwaukee worked hard to provide more than 130 gifts to our seniors, ensuring that they had a very special and memorable holiday. Gifts were also donated by Waywiser East High School, St. Mary’s Parish, Hispanic Professionals of Greater Milwaukee, and many more.

¡Muchas Gracias! A warm and heartfelt thank you goes out to all of the volunteers who have made and continue to make a huge impact by supporting UCC clients and programs!

Save The Date

Please join us for these upcoming events:

- **THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2018**
  4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m.
  All volunteers are invited to attend our Annual Volunteer Celebration

- **FRIDAY, MARCH 16, 2018**
  8:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
  Help our students explore different career paths during the Middle School Career Day

More information online at http://www.unitedcc.org/HowYouCanHelp/BecomeaVolunteer.htm

Human Services Department Awarded SAMHSA Grant

UCC’s Human Services Department recently received a new federal grant from the Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). This $2.5 million five-year grant will integrate HIV medical care into the behavioral health program. In order to be considered for this grant, UCC implemented a pilot program last year titled, Vida, Salud, Esperanza (VSE), which aimed to provide clients with both behavioral health disorder prevention and HIV medical care services, in an integrated and coordinated fashion.

In 2016, the Human Services Department served 718 clients, provided 390 individuals with HIV tests, and aided 77 families of pregnant and postpartum women. Of the 12 babies born to women who were in residential treatment, 100% were born free of illegal substances. With this new grant, UCC looks forward to serving more clients in Milwaukee County and making an even bigger impact on the health of the community!