



University Community News

Volume 1

Restoring hope . . . one life at a time.

Issue 4

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UCM is pleased to introduce you to America Van Gorp, Secretary of University Community Ministries (UCM). She is actively involved with our Operation Jumpstart outreach program.



America received her Bachelors Degree in Theology in 2005 from Faith Theological Seminary and Bible College in Tampa. She plans to continue her education with the goal of receiving her Masters Degree and License in Pastoral Counseling.

She presently serves as an Office Manager for an organization called Young Life in Tampa, which is a non-denominational Christian outreach dedicated to reaching teenagers and middle-schoolers throughout the Tampa Bay area with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

America has attended University Church of God (UCOG) on Central Avenue in Tampa for the past twenty-one years. During her first eight years at UCOG, she served as a Sunday School teacher for pre-school age children, served on the Singles Council, and taught a singles class for several years. She assisted Pastor Peter Overton in developing a street ministry that traveled throughout the City of Tampa reaching people for Christ by ministering to their spiritual and physical needs. She also functioned as Secretary to the Board of the UCOG Street Ministry. In 1991, America assisted her sister, Chrissy Sapp, in establishing a street ministry in their community in Danville, Kentucky, as an outreach of Danville Church of God.

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I have better things in mind for you—salvation things! God doesn't miss anything. He knows perfectly well all the love you've shown him by helping needy Christians, and that you keep at it. And now I want each of you to extend that same intensity toward a full-bodied hope, and keep at it till the finish. Don't drag your feet. Be like those who stay the course with committed faith and then get everything promised to them.

Hewbrews 6:9-12 (The Message)

UCM is all about *"Restoring hope . . . one life at a time"*.

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In August of 1993, America married Jerome Van Gorp who serves as a teacher, elder at UCOG, and President of UCM. They recently celebrated their thirteenth year of marriage. America and Jerome have served side by side at UCOG in various ministries for the last twenty years.

America has served with the Operation Jumpstart Homeless Outreach Ministry for the last ten years. She serves as Secretary on the Board of UCM. She has taught several "Spiritual Warfare" classes throughout UCOG including in the sanctuary at the request of Pastor David Nitz. She currently teaches a Power Group on Sunday morning called "Victorious Living". America also serves as co-teacher to her husband Jerome in a Power Group on Wednesday night called "New Beginnings". They are presently teaching the "Experiencing God" series.

America recently went on a mission trip to Africa, which she said, "changed her life forever". She believes that everyone needs to go on at least one mission trip to another country to understand that there is an entire other world out there that needs the love of Jesus Christ and His amazing saving grace extended to them and God wants to use us.

Although America cherishes the experience of going to Africa and playing a part in ministering to the precious people she had the privilege to meet, she feels that her mission field is right here in Tampa.

PCAT

Relocation - PCAT will be held at Covenant Chapel (formerly known as LifePoint Community Church) this school year. Relocating the program from Sulphur Springs School to Covenant Chapel will aid us in facilitating the program. The move will allow PCAT to have office space, storage space, a computer room for the students and areas to perform PCAT classes.

Tutors - Christene recently visited HCC, UT, and USF to recruit tutors for this upcoming school year. More presentations are planned.



Somebody Cares - PCAT and Somebody Cares Tampa Bay has teamed up. UCM was part of a grant written by Somebody Cares Tampa Bay for their Neighborhood Transformation Project. PCAT will receive part of this grant money to assist in continuing the program.

CCFAB - the Board of County Commissioners appointed Christene Worley to the Hillsborough County Child Care Facilities Advisory Board (CCFAB). It is a volunteer position, with each member serving for three years. She will be reviewing Child Care Ordinances and making recommendations as well as advising local licensing agencies on matters pertaining to childcare facilities.

With Christene's background, she will serve the Board well and progress will be made.

Financial Workshop - Do you know someone who can use a financial makeover? Maybe you need some financial savvy yourself? Having the right information and tools will aid you in reaching your goals. So what are you waiting for? Now is the time to sign up for our Financial Workshop.

During the workshop, you will learn about managing your money, identifying theft, and using credit to your best interest.

The workshop is sponsored by HSBC and administered by the National Center for Neighborhood Enterprise. It is scheduled for October 28th at Covenant Chapel located on Fairbanks Street in

Sulphur Springs. The workshop is free to all and is from 9AM until 1:30PM. Free continental breakfast and lunch will be provided. In addition, the first 25 participants who complete the day will receive a \$25 gift certificate. For more information or to RSVP please call (813) 949-0109.

Family Night - Family Night Orientation is scheduled for November 2nd. Representatives from the PCAT partner organizations will be there to elaborate on their roles in the program.



November 30th is Christmas Family Night. There will be many presents for all children.

Family Night is held from 6-8PM at Bartholomew North Tampa Recreation Center in Sulphur Springs.

For more information on PCAT, call Christene Worley at (813) 949-0109.

Friendship Bridge

Family Reunion - On September 25th, we had our "Family Reunion". Several came that we had not seen in a long time. We gave out certificates for those who traveled the farthest, the oldest member, the youngest member, etc. Games were played and a lot of fun was had.



Guest Speaker – Linda Cortes of



the Crisis Center provided a great presentation. Many of our members did not realize all that is available for them through this agency. Linda's passion for assisting the elderly was very evident. We were impressed with the senior adult care that is offered through the calling of the seniors on a daily basis to see that they are "Okay" in addition to the opportunities for the seniors to volunteer their services.

Spreading the Word - Members are spreading the word about Friendship Bridge in areas where they live via posters. There will also be advertisement in the local newspapers.

Schedule - Our gatherings are scheduled for the second and fourth Monday of the month and we love having people come and enjoy lunch with us. Cost is just \$3.50 per person.

For more information about Friendship Bridge, contact Molly Cox at (813) 933-3991.

Operation Jumpstart

Saturday's - Faithful teams of two to four report to University Church of God at 7AM on Saturday to cook breakfast. They drive to Byrd and Florida to share devotion and serve breakfast to approximately 15-30 individuals. We serve a combination of the mentally ill, addicts, homeless and the working poor.



Sunday's - A van driver picks up approximately 5-10 individuals on Sundays and drives them back to the church where they are able to utilize the services of the benevolence house. Services include showers, fresh clothes, and coffee in addition to attending the 10:30AM services. A "to go" bagged lunch made by volunteers is provided after the morning services.



Thank you - We would like to say "Thank you" to our faithful volunteers who generously share their time and talents to Operation Jumpstart. Thank you for all you do!

Additional volunteers are needed. For more information on Operation Jumpstart, contact Jerome Van Gulp at (813) 334-3709 or Brigid Q. Morgan at (813) 361-2379.



CHECK US OUT! UCM's website is up and running. Catch the latest news and updates at www.ucm-ministries.org. Your comments are welcomed and encouraged.

If there is anything that you would like to see posted on the website or in our quarterly newsletter, e-mail us at universitycommin@msn.com. We would love to hear from you.



YES, I would like to partner with UCM in *Restoring hope . . . one life at a time*. Enclosed is my gift to UCM in the amount of

- \$500.00 \$100.00
- \$250.00 \$50.00
- Other \$ _____
- One Time Monthly
- Quarterly Annually

Name _____

Telephone/Fax _____

E-mail _____

Mailing Address _____

City/State/Zip Code _____

I am interested in becoming a volunteer.

Planned Giving Options

Please consider a gift to UCM in your will or estate plan.

Please send me information about naming UCM in my will.

I have already made provisions for UCM in my estate plans.

Thank you. Make checks payable to University Community Ministries, Inc., PO Box 280024, Tampa, Florida 33682

Save the Date

- October 28 - Financial Workshop
- November 2 - Family Night Orientation
- November 30 - Christmas Family Night





NEEDS We need your time and talents - volunteer today! Contact UCM and let us hear from you!

PCAT needs a 15-passenger van to transport children for the after-school program. Please call (813) 949-0149.

Operation Jumpstart needs men's clothing – pant sizes 28-34 and shirt size medium. You may drop off your donations at the University Church of God Family Life Center.

Operation Jumpstart needs your cash contributions to defray the cost of socks and underwear.



HOW YOU CAN HELP Join UCM in *Restoring hope . . . one life at a time*. As a supporter, you will receive our quarterly newsletter with important messages about our programs as well as success stories about the people we serve. UCM is a non-profit organization. All contributions are tax-deductible.



A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Division of Consumer Services by calling toll-free 1-800-435-7352. Registration does not employ endorsement, approval, or recommendation by the state.



Send your comments, requests, and praise reports to universitycommin@msn.com or fax to (813) 949-9159. All information received will be reviewed.

