



University Community News

Volume 9

Restoring hope . . . one life at a time.

Issue 1

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PLEASE HELP OUR ORGANIZATION!

University Community Ministries (UCM) is running an exciting online gift store to help raise funds for our programs and people in need.

We are proud to partner with American Gifter to raise much-needed funds. When you purchase any of our 1,000 really cool items, you will be supporting our organization: 70% of the proceeds go to UCM, who in turn give 100% back in to the community. Our wonderful items are hot-selling, very reasonably priced and they will be digitally delivered or shipped directly to you.

Our store is open and our fundraiser is running right now, so please check it out. **And please tell your family and friends to shop our website at [http:// UCMFundraiser.info](http://UCMFundraiser.info).** We really appreciate your help! The more we can share this link with others, the more money we can raise!

Thank you for your support of our organization and programs. *Be a Gifter ...and Make Someone Smile!* You will feel wonderful and you will really help all of us! Thank you for your support! And thanks for passing on to family and friends. We can use all the support we can get.

Spread the word - ask all your friends to shop here too!

Go to: <http://UCMFundraiser.info>

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP AND SUPPORT!



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

In This Issue

JAN - MAR 2013

OUTREACHES	Page
PCAT-LIFE	2
Friendship Bridge	2
Operation Jumpstart	2-3
UCM	Page
Heart of the Harvest	3
Bowl for Hope	3
Announcements	3
Needs	3
Check Us Out!	3
How You Can Help	4



**PCAT-LIFE
(After School
Literacy Enrichment Program)**

**Back in Session
By Alicia Swank**

UCM's PCAT-LIFE After School Literacy Program is up and running! We are excited to be once again aiding young children and their families in becoming literacy rich and to provide them with the guidance in life skills to become successful members of our community.

The PCAT-LIFE Program is an after school literacy enrichment program that targets first grade children and their families. The first grade students admitted into our program have been identified by their teachers as reading below a desired reading level and who are demonstrating poor academic achievement. The PCAT-LIFE Program is being held at Bellamy Elementary School located at 9720 Wilksy Boulevard, Tampa, FL 33615 in Hillsborough County. Bellamy Elementary has a student population of 81% minority and 80% free and reduced lunch. Most of the minority population is of Hispanic descent and a large contributing factor to the students' poor academic performance is that a great majority of the parents do not speak English. The lack of English speaking parents causes lack of communication, lack of educational support and at times, frustration between parents, students and teachers.

Parents are also encouraged to participate and set positive examples for their children by attending English classes, utilizing Rosetta Stone English and attending life skills and career advancement trainings offered. Family Fun Nights will be planned quarterly to celebrate the accomplishments of the children and encourage family and community support for continued success.

Currently we are tutoring eight students; however, we have fourteen students on our waiting list. We have several volunteering opportunities available.

We are still in need of volunteers! You do not need any prior experience, just a love for children and helping those less fortunate in our community. If you are interested in volunteering please email the PCAT-LIFE Program Director at Aliciaswank@hotmail.com.

**FRIENDSHIP BRIDGE
(Senior Adult Connection)**

**The Serious Side
By Molly Cox**

Those who attend Friendship Bridge on a regular basis understand that I enjoy having fun! It is said that a "happy heart does good like a medicine." Laughter is good for the young and the old...especially the older adults. At Friendship Bridge we try to plan activities that will bring joy and comfort to the senior who may be walking through a tough time.

It is true that many senior adults are dealing with grief, pain, suffering, in the process of life. More than 50 percent of Americans over age 65 suffer from arthritis; over 40 percent have high blood pressure; 33 percent have a significant hearing loss; over 25 per cent have heart disease. This is sad, but true.

The leaders of Friendship Bridge try to create an atmosphere of "joy" in our meetings. Music is soothing and calms the troubled soul. Games make us think about something other than ourselves and of course, there is comfort food! We try to provide an opportunity for positive interaction with others and making new friends, which brings a sense of belonging. We try to remind the senior that "he who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty." Psalm 91:1. Verse two states "I will say of the Lord, 'He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust.'

Yes, seniors have a serious side, but we offer an opportunity to live life at its fullest and take time to laugh a little, sing a lot, and just enjoy life.

If you are over 60 years of age and you would like to be on our mailing list, you may call the Friendship Bridge Director, Moly Cox at 813-933-3991 ext. 227 or e-mail to mcox@citylifechurch.cc.

**OPERATION JUMPSTART
(Homeless Community
Outreach Program)**

**UCM Clothing Drive
Help for the Homeless
By Jerome Van Gorp**



We should never forget that the poor are always with us always. Thanks to Sue and Reverend Jim Campbell who run the Resource Outreach Prayer Empowerment (ROPE) Center in Hudson, we received 200 free much needed blankets that we used to help our homeless neighbors be prepared for the cool weather we having been experiencing. We thank God for people like the Campbells who are willing to share their resources with others in the community.

As you know, it is your contributions to UCM which make it possible for us to provide help to those in need. **We are still in need of NEW or SLIGHTLY USED COATS** to support the homeless in our area. We would greatly appreciate your praying and asking God what He would have you to do to help UCM provide food, shelter, clothing and other needed services to the poor.

Please call the UCM Office at 813-935 - 8400 for pickup or directions to the drop off location.

The items collected will be distributed by UCM's Operation Jumpstart Program that



provides services such as feeding, clothing and support to our homeless neighbors in the Northeast Tampa Area.

Contacts for this drive are:

America Van Gorp 813-390-0271 and Jerome Van Gorp 813- 334-3709

If you would like to help with the OJ Program or feel called to this kind of ministry, please contact America Van Gorp (813-390-0271) or Jerome Van Gorp (813-334-3709) or via email at info@UniversityCommunityMinistries.org.

2012 UCM's HEART OF THE HARVEST Thanksgiving Dinner

By Jerome Van Gorp

On Sunday
afternoon
November
18, 2012
University
Community



Ministries (UCM) and Living Scriptures Ministry (Will and Lisa Keeler) partnered together to host a wonderful thanksgiving dinner at Chaney Park in the Sulphur Springs community at the corner of Yukon and Nebraska Avenue. We thank God for the opportunity to be a part of His work and to reach out to those in our city who



may be in need of a hot meal, a warm blanket, a gentle hug and a kind word.

This year we gathered together under the falling leaves of the oak trees and served over 150+ men, women and children a full Thanksgiving meal with all the trimmings. We had a wonderful time serving and sharing a delicious hot meal with our homeless friends and needy families in the community as well as enjoying a great time of fellowship. The children had their faces painted and others had the opportunity to play the egg toss game. Three \$25.00 Wal-Mart gift cards were given away during the event.



We thank God for all who supported UCM through your finances, giving of your time and most importantly, your prayers.



Without you it would be impossible for us to restore hope...one life at a time to those in need in the Tampa Bay area.



1 John 3:17 reminds us that "Whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him?"

BOWL FOR HOPE



University Community Ministries, Inc. will be holding its third annual bowl-a-thon on Saturday, March 23, 2013. The 2013 *Bowl for Hope* is a fun event and important to UCM's annual fundraising efforts. This year's *Bowl for Hope* is sponsored by USAmeriBank. The event will be held at Splitsville Luxury Lanes, which is located at 615 Channelside Drive, Tampa, Florida 33602. There will be food for each bowler and great raffle prizes will be given away every 15 minutes. Splitsville has donated six lanes for this year's event.

UCM is providing program volunteers and/or their guest with the opportunity to form a team of six bowlers. A team of six bowlers will be assigned to each of the six lanes available for the event (a total of 36 bowlers). Each bowler solicits pledges from friends, family and co-workers who commit to a contribution on a per pin

basis (the per pin amount is multiplied by the total score of two games to determine the total contribution) or a flat dollar amount. Lane sponsorships for \$250.00 per lane will also be available to community partners, businesses as well as individuals. Each sponsor's name will be prominently displayed at the lane which they are sponsoring.

Our goal is to raise **\$10,000** for this year's event. Please support this fun and worthwhile event and remember all proceeds benefit the program and services of University Community Ministries, Inc.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

If you prefer to receive the UCM Newsletter via email, then email us at newsletter@universitycommunityministries.org to be placed on the emailing list and removed from our mailing list.

NEEDS

UCM needs your time and talents – volunteer today! Call the UCM office at (813) 935-8400 or email us at info@universitycommunityministries.org and let us hear from you!

CHECK US OUT!

Visit UCM's website at www.universitycommunityministries.org for the latest news and updates. Your comments are welcomed and encouraged.

If there is anything that you would like to see posted on the website or in the quarterly newsletter, email us at info@universitycommunityministries.org or fax to (813) 968-4140. We would love to hear from you!

A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE FLORIDA DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL FREE WITHIN THE STATE 800-435-7352. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE.



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.

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 \$100 \$250 \$50 Other \$ _____
 One Time Monthly Quarterly Annually

Name _____

Mailing Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Telephone/Fax _____ E-mail _____

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.**

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