UCHM NEWS

SPRING 2026 EDITION

YIKES! IT'S ONE OF THOSE YEARS

Put on your hardhats, ladies and gents, we're in the "Our Building Hates Us" era.

Late last year, it became obvious we had to do something about our failing roof. That work is going forward – which is why you couldn't enter the building from the front door for a few weeks.

The roof price tag: $150K.

Then there are the walk-in coolers: Another $8,000. And the outdoor lighting, about $2,300.

And guess what? Three toilets are leaking. Right now, the estimate for that work is $2,300.

A leaking water fountain estimate came in at an eye-popping $9,000.

We recently invested in new phones only to learn our network is out of date, a $2,000 issue.

And in the meantime, we're putting up with computers that are too old to update due to the advent of Windows 11. That's going to cost another $6,000 to $10,000.

So, as our Stephanie Henry-Floyd completes her ninth month as executive director, we need your help. We'd rather ask for things that resulted in direct assistance to the families who come to us for food, emergency financial aid, child care, and education and social opportunities. But we can't continue to do that impactful work without a functioning building.

So please, go to uchmlouky.org, put your cursor on "Get Involved," and select "Give." Choose, "Donate Online" and select, "Use this donation for greatest need." And please consider becoming a monthly supporter.

Or, you can send us a check at 150 S. State Street, Louisville, KY 40206.

'I'm starting to take this personally'

UCHM Executive Director Stephanie Henry-Floyd

Great ENERGY! New Youth Coordinator Joins UCHM

Expect parades! Ciara Knox is on the scene.

Knox, UCHM's new youth development coordinator, says when she's working with kids, she's in "my happy place."

"As a teacher, as a coordinator, oh, I love to have fun. If we make musical instruments, we're going to have a parade through the building."

Knox came on board in February to work with UCHM's four-day a week after-school program. She comes to UCHM with a wealth of youth experience: Boys & Girls Clubs of Kentuckiana, St. Joseph's Children's Home, and a three-and-a-half-year stint with the Southeast Indiana Child Advocacy Center.

But about a month into her tenure with us, Knox had the best kind of luck. She learned there was a kidney with her name on it. She has a genetic condition called polycystic kidney disease and has been on dialysis, waiting for a transplant, for the last four-and-a-half years. But her rare genetic profile made it unlikely she'd receive a kidney anytime soon. Suddenly, that changed.

Her older brother had been diagnosed with the same condition after he passed out on the football field as an 18 year old. Her own diagnosis didn't come until age 30, after weeks feeling exhausted. Finally, barely able to manage her life, she drove herself to the emergency room and learned she shared her brother's condition.

"I think I fell into that typical thing of prioritizing work over health," she says.

Knox completed her master's degree at Indiana University Southeast despite the dialysis, raising a daughter and working.

She later landed a job with the Clark County Youth Shelter in Jeffersonville, Indiana, taking as many shifts as she could. There she cared for both children with nowhere else to go, and children awaiting trial. The work "changes your heart," she says. "One of my kids was basically mute. She wouldn't talk to anybody. She wouldn't go to school."

But Knox found that the young woman would talk if she was given privacy and understanding. "We had built a comfort," Knox says. She learned the girl had been severely bullied in school. To talk to anyone, in her mind, risked inviting cruelty. She was finally allowed to attend school online, and today, the young woman is working and happy – and talking.

But after a few years, the job seemed to be more about keeping kids in line than helping them. "It broke me," she says. She quit and took a few months off to heal.

When she landed at UCHM, "It went from gray to like rainbows. I love the people I work with. I love the kids there. I can't wait to come back."

JOIN OUR FAMILY HELP GROW AND TEND A TERRIFIC ORGANIZATION

United Crescent Hill Ministries is looking for new board members.

The UCHM board is more than the organization's consulting body; it is an active group that helps in all parts of the ministry.

Through our committee structure, each member takes an active role in shaping UCHM and guaranteeing its continued survival. Some write this newsletter, some work on budgeting, others labor in fundraising. Some do social media. Some keep an eye on the building.

We're inviting those interested in working for the good of Louisville and 40206 to join our working board.

We're especially interested in receiving applications from people with legal experience, those with a human resource background, folks with development work on their resume, and people with grant-writing experience.

To apply to volunteer with our board, email uchmlouisville@gmail.com, with "attention Dianne Feltham" in the subject line.

WE NEED YOU!

Volunteering can change your life

If you have a little spare time, a little extra energy to give, if you are looking to find more meaning in your life, volunteering at UCHM can be a game-changer.

We always have opportunities. We especially need folks to help answer our phones. We have openings Monday afternoon from noon to 4 p.m. and Tuesdays through Thursday from 9 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4 p.m. Let us know the shift or shifts that work for you!

We also often need volunteers in the pantry and other areas. To apply, go to uchmlouky.org. Select "Get involved," along the top of the screen. Choose "volunteer" from the drop-down box. Instructions on how to apply appear near the bottom of the page. Feel free to contact uchmlouisville.com or call 502-893-0346 for further information.

Free tax preparation offered Mondays & Wednesdays until filing day

The Louisville Asset Building Coalition, offers free tax preparation at several locations, including UCHM, 150 S. State Street, 40206.

A volunteer is on duty to work with you on your taxes from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Mondays and Wednesdays until the filing deadline.

Check your eligibility for this service, and make an appointment at LABCservices.org. Click on "more information" to apply.

Walk-ins are also welcome.

March 60 PLUS HAPPENINGS

TUESDAYS

10:30 a.m. March 10: Marty from Martycares NCAA tournament contest. (Must be in attendance to participate in team selections.)

10:45 a.m. March 10: Nutritional education.

10:30 a.m. March 17: St. Patrick's Day

10:15 a.m. March 24: Aunt Sally's Crafts.

10:30 a.m. March 31: Bob Mueller talks about The Gentle Art of Caring.

THURSDAYS

10:30 a.m. March 5: National Women's Day

10:30 a.m. March 12: The Elderbloems Trio

10:30 a.m. March 19: Blue Moon Karaoke

10:30 a.m. March 25: Spring swing dance

EVERY WEEK

- **10:30 a.m. Tuesdays:** Chair yoga with Arnie.
- **11:15 a.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays:** Hot lunch. Reservations required one week in advance by calling 893-0346.
- **11:45 a.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays:** Bingo after lunch.
- **10 a.m. Wednesdays:** Strength and resistance exercise.
- **10 a.m. Wednesdays:** Crocheting. Learn to crochet baby blankets, or join the baby blanket crochet group if you already know how. All ages welcome.

A little bit of dress-up at last year's St. Pat's Day celebration

PLAY TIME!

Join us March 11 and every second Wednesday for Mahjong

Join us every second Wednesday night from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. and *Mahj for a Cause!*

This month, we're playing March 11. To get in the game, pay a $5 entry fee, or bring canned meat, cereal or feminine products for our pantry.

Refreshments are provided. Next month's game is April 8.

WHAT A DIFFERENCE A DONATION MAKES!

The staff, volunteers and clients of United Crescent Hill Ministries have so many reasons to give thanks.

To every single person who dropped by with a pantry donation and didn't want to leave your name, we're grateful.

St. Mark's Episcopal Church gave us a $3,000 check to help people pay their utilities. Demand is always high for utilities and rent.

Folks at St. Leonard Catholic Church every month prepare bagged meals that we give to visitors to the pantry. People love receiving them.

Think of a mom with a bunch of kids who now has a complete meals she doesn't have to prepare. It's a godsend.

St. Frances of Rome also donated food to the pantry, as did Crescent Hill Baptist and Second Presbyterian. What would we do without the churches who support us? Your assistance is invaluable.

PAINLESS GIVING!

The easiest way to donate to UCHM is by setting up your Kroger membership card to send us a little money.

If you have a free membership, log on to the Kroger.com website. Look to the upper right-hand corner for the icon with your name.

Click on the arrow and select "My Account" from the drop-down menu. Then scroll down to where you see "Community Rewards."

Put "United Crescent Hill Ministries in the search bar, and select it.

Now, whenever you use your card, Kroger sends us a little money, and it doesn't cost you a thing. Thank you!

SPONSOR A STUDENT!

Support our after-school program

For $25 per week, or about $225 for the rest of the school year, you can pay the way of one child in UCHM's after-school program.

When Jefferson County Public Schools dropped one of its after-school program, we picked up 16 more children in our program. We need help closing the gap between what we budgeted and what we have ended up doing.

If you want to help children enjoy lessons, help with homework, and an afternoon with friends instead of scrolling at home, call us at 502-893-0346.

A LITTLE SHOPPING FOR UCHM

Help stock our four-day-per week pantry

Next time you head to the grocery store, you might want to buy a little extra for our neighbors.

Our pantry is open four afternoons each week, 1-4 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and its popularity is growing. So many visitors tell us they're grateful they are that the pantry is here to get them through the rough patches in life.

But we're in an unusual situation: As the number of pantry visitors has increased, the amount of food the federal government sends our way to distribute decreased both in volume and in variety, leaving us with more eggs, sauce and green beans than we need, a great deal of fish, and low supplies of most other things.

One need remains pressing: Toilet paper. Also on the toiletry end of things, we seldom have shampoo and conditioner. We need a few boxes of diapers and pull-ups, sizes 2-8.

Our biggest food needs are meat, both frozen and canned; ground beef, chicken, and tuna will help. Also helpful are meals in a can, such as Chef Boyardee Lasagna or Ravioli.

UCHM has an Amazon Wish List. You can access it using the QR code above, or by going online to tinyurl.com/UCHMwishlist.