

ORGANIZATION UPDATE

As we continue through the rest of the year, I ask all friends of UCC to please keep us in both your prayers and actions. This year has been one of groundwork for the organization, and I truly believe that we are currently in the process of great transformation and growth. We're very close to completing construction on our last center, Bethlehem. It's been a very long process to completely rebuild our three centers, but we are all nearly at the finish line! UCC has been serving the community for over a century, and we are proudly continuing to do so while also expanding and evolving our core programming.

One area of growth we are very excited to continue progressing our relationship with is the AVANCE program. AVANCE focuses on early childhood development and parenting education, and this past year UCC hosted their program at the Bethlehem Center with tremendous success. Thanks to the Morningside Coalition, Hesta Stuart Christian Charitable Trust, the King Foundation, and the Rees-Jones Foundation UCC will be able to host an additional AVANCE class at the Bethlehem Center and also bring the program over to the Polytechnic Center. The new Bethlehem Center class will be the first African American based parenting class in the DFW, and we're very grateful to have the opportunity to bring this class to the community. Because we realize that a holistic approach is what genuinely helps our clients, UCC is incredibly enthusiastic to have AVANCE hosted at two of our centers. We hope to bring AVANCE to the Wesley Center in the future.

I would like to give a huge thank you to our staff and volunteers. The summer season is always a very tough and hectic time at the centers. If it wasn't for the sincere love and passion of the staff and those who donate their time to our centers summer programming would be extremely difficult. I thank all of you for your hard work and time.

Until next time,

Celia Esparza
President & CEO

Celia Esparza

My little children, let
us not love in word,
neither in tongue; but
in deed and in truth.

1 John 3:18



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Summer 2015

Celebrate!



2ND ANNUAL Full Plate Dinner & Silent Auction

We are thrilled to announce the return of our Full Plate fundraiser for its second year, featuring Chef Jon Bonnell as our local celebrity guest and chef!

The Full Plate dinner and silent auction will take place on Thursday, November 12 at 7 p.m. at the Cendera Center in Fort Worth. Chef Bonnell will be preparing the menu for the evening, and will also speak briefly about each course. Tickets start at \$100 per person, or you can host a table for \$1,500.

Last year we raised \$100,000 and of that total, over \$18,000 stemmed from the silent auction sales alone! This year our goal is to raise \$125,000 to be used towards annual operations.

Today we are turning to friends of UCC and community partners to ask for support of the event and consider a sponsorship for this annual fundraiser. Sponsorships start at \$2,500 and there are various levels at which you can participate.



For more information about the event, a table or a sponsorship, please visit our website, UnitedCommunityCenters.org, or call the Maddox Center at 817-927-5556.

SAVE THE DATE UPCOMING EVENTS

North Texas Giving Day
September 17th

Mobile Food Pantry
September 26th
October 24th

Full Plate
November 12th

Be sure to follow us on Facebook and keep your eyes peeled for the dates of our Fall Festivals that will be happening at each of the centers in late October and early November this year!

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Janna Elliott
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Dr. Morri Wong
Vice Chair

Mae Rossi
Secretary

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WESLEY CENTER OPENING

Last month, we celebrated the highly anticipated opening of the new Wesley Center with an open house. Members of the business community, local officials, donors and family and friends of United Community Centers attended and toured the new facility, met teachers and staff and enjoyed a fiesta-style evening, which featured mariachis, food, and a dedication.

The rich history of United Community Centers began with the Wesley House located on North Commerce in 1909. A new Wesley Center was constructed in 1967 at 3600 N. Crump in order to further accommodate the needs of the growing community and today the history continues for Wesley as it moves into its next chapter of growth. This facility will mark the third building for the Wesley Center since it opened its doors.

The City of Fort Worth partnered with United Community Centers to allocate \$766,000 towards the direct completion of the construction of the new facility. Efforts to rebuild the center began in October 2014 and were completed in early June.

It was a wonderful opportunity to work with both Linbeck Construction Company and Bennett Benner Partners Architects for the completion of the Wesley Centers. UCC is ecstatic to be able to be in a building that will allow the Wesley Center to serve more clients and host more children and youth in our Educational Enrichment and ACTIII programs.



BETHLEHEM CENTER UPDATE

The last center to be rebuilt in our capital campaign is the Bethlehem Center. UCC is very excited and hopes that the construction of the center will be completed in late fall of 2015. Be on the lookout for our open house announcement once the center is complete!

SUMMER EDUCATIONAL ENRICHMENT PROGRAM

HIGHLIGHTS

What a wonderful and busy summer it has been! The Wesley Center celebrated the beginning of their summer program by moving into their newly constructed center. It's been 10 weeks packed with learning, activities, and excitement. We are very proud to say that every child enrolled in our Summer Leveled Literacy Intervention program at the Bethlehem Center has gone up at least one reading level through the course of this summer. Over the course of the summer, UCC served over 41,000 meals to the children and youth at the Bethlehem, Polytechnic and Wesley Centers.

All three centers had a summer filled with fun, including visits to the library, Amon G. Carter

museum, Rangers games, a swim party at Mira Vista catered by Mama's Pizza, the movies, the Fort Worth Zoo, local community parks, waterparks, the botanical gardens, Log Cabin Village, the Fort Worth Museum of Science and History, the Sid Richardson Museum, and the Perot Museum.

Special visitors came to each center this summer: TWU came out to tutor students at the Poly Center, Joshua UMC brought a vacation bible school to the Bethlehem Center, and the annual North District of the Central Texas Conference Christmas in July was held at the Wesley Center. We are so appreciative there are so many opportunities to learn and have fun at the same time in our beautiful city!



NORTH TEXAS GIVING DAY

Each year, we invite you to join us for the annual North Texas Giving Day where your generous support helps us continue to make a meaningful difference in serving the Fort Worth community in need and kicks off our annual campaign!

On September 17, your gift will help us receive extra funds for our work in the community. Every gift of \$25 or more will go further with more than \$2 million dollars in bonus funds and prizes! By visiting NorthTexasGivingDay.org, the online giving website for North Texas Giving Day, you can make a difference with your gift to United Community Centers.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THIS YEAR'S NORTH TEXAS GIVING DAY ON **SEPTEMBER 17** FROM 6 A.M. TO MIDNIGHT!

This is a unique fundraising event because each gift made through NorthTexasGivingDay.org on September 17 helps our chances of winning prizes given throughout the day ranging from \$500 to \$5,000! With more than 70 total prizes awarded throughout the day, our chances to maximize your gift are great!

For more information on North Texas Giving Day, visit our website at www.UnitedCommunityCenters.org or www.NorthTexasGivingDay.org.

STYLES & SMILES

The Ninth Annual Styles and Smiles Fashion Show, sponsored by Arborlawn United Methodist Women, was held on Tuesday, July 28, at the Arborlawn UMC Family Life Center and was a resounding success! Three hundred tickets were printed and the show was sold out.

We welcomed special guests Jenny Davis, Fashion & Beauty Editor of Indulge Magazine and Meda Kessler, Editor-in-chief of 360 West Publication. The Style Show was dedicated to Earnestine Reeves and all expenses were underwritten in loving memory of Earnestine by her daughter, Melissa Austin-Weeks, through the Earnestine Reeves Foundation. We appreciate the generosity of our major sponsors which include: Pat & Emmitt Smith Charities, Jill & Charles Fischer Foundation, Danny Simpson, Louise Carvey, Peggy & James Huddleston, Doug & Melissa Austin-Weeks, and Earl Wood State Farm Insurance.



The show director, Holley Williams, and her Co-Director, Lynn Newman, assembled and guided the twelve children from United Community Centers into first class runway models and the Coordinator of the ACTIII students, Skipper Schmidt, guided those six girls as they assisted with details of the show and modeled on the runway.

"Styles and Smiles really does make a difference in the lives of the children who participate and the volunteers who love and support them throughout the process," said Show Director Holley Williams. "To see the change in each child from the first rehearsal to the night of the show is truly inspiring!"

The addition of professional models, Laurie Bing and Devin Way, made the show transform into a night that would rival any New York Fashion Event!

