

UPPER CUMBERLAND  
DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT AND  
UPPER CUMBERLAND HUMAN  
RESOURCE AGENCY



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2024

ANNUAL REPORT

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>02.</b>	Our Leadership	<b>21.</b>	DeKalb County
<b>03.</b>	Executive Director's Report	<b>23.</b>	Fentress County
<b>04.</b>	Vision & Mission	<b>25.</b>	Jackson County
<b>05.</b>	Agency Overview	<b>27.</b>	Macon County
<b>06.</b>	UC: By the Numbers	<b>29.</b>	Overton County
<b>07.</b>	Leadership: UCDD-UCHRA Board of Directors	<b>31.</b>	Pickett County
<b>09.</b>	Legislators of the Year	<b>33.</b>	Putnam County
<b>11.</b>	Our Team	<b>35.</b>	Smith County
<b>13.</b>	2024 Employees of the Year	<b>37.</b>	Van Buren County
<b>15.</b>	Cannon County	<b>39.</b>	Warren County
<b>17.</b>	Clay County	<b>41.</b>	White County
<b>19.</b>	Cumberland County		

# OUR LEADERSHIP



**MARK FARLEY**  
*Executive Director*  
UCDD-UCHRA

UCDD  
Upper Cumberland  
Development District

UCHRA  
Upper Cumberland  
Human Resource Agency



**TOMMY LEE**  
*Deputy Director*  
UCDD



**SHERRY THURMAN**  
*Administrative  
Director/Office Manager*  
UCDD



**GINGER STOUT**  
*Director*  
Finance



**SHERRY BILBREY**  
*Field Manager*  
UCHRA



**LANELLE GODSEY**  
*Deputy Director*  
UCHRA



**HOLLY WILLIAMS**  
*Director*  
Area Agency on Aging and  
Disability



**TOMMY LEE**  
*Director*  
Community Development and  
Planning



**MEGAN CHOATE**  
*Director*  
Economic Development



**MYRA WALKER**  
*Director*  
Housing



**MELISSA HOISINGTON**  
*Director*  
Community Intervention



**LANELLE GODSEY**  
*Director*  
Community Services



**MEGAN SPURGEON**  
*Director*  
Empower Upper Cumberland



**HOLLY MONTTOOTH**  
*Director*  
Public Transportation



# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT



As we move into 2025, the momentum continues to build. Both of our agencies have experienced positive changes, not just in our daily operations, but across the entire region.

This year, we've made significant strides in efficiency, saving both time and resources. We conclude this year with the exciting launch of a major new initiative – the implementation of our opioid abatement program, **UC Recovery Connect**.

We also celebrate the progress taking place across the region, with many of our communities making remarkable strides. We are incredibly proud to support the 14 counties that make up the heart of Tennessee's Upper Cumberland region.

We remain steadfast in our commitment to our shared vision for the region, where families have access to safe, affordable housing, economic opportunity, and a quality of life that is truly unique to the Upper Cumberland.

Mark Farley

Executive Director, UCDD and UCHRA

# VISION & MISSION



## VISION

A region abundant in resources, fostering a productive and vibrant life for the people of the Upper Cumberland.

## MISSION

To help the Upper Cumberland region cultivate self-sufficiency and build true wealth through innovation, collaboration, and leadership.



# AGENCY OVERVIEW

## UCDD AND UCHRA

In 2018, the Upper Cumberland Development District (UCDD) and Upper Cumberland Human Resource Agency (UCHRA) entered into a shared management agreement in which both agencies would be led by the same Executive Director and Administrative team.

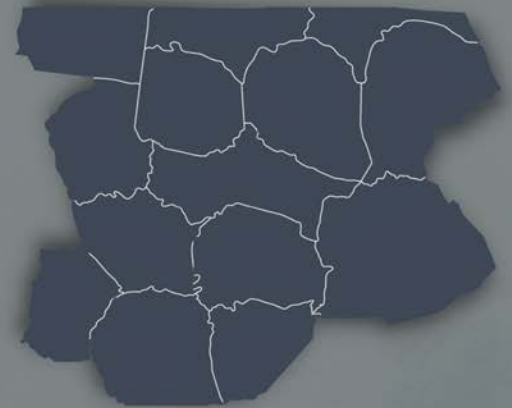
Both UCDD and UCHRA are very much their own unique organization; each tasked with specific

responsibilities and obligations within the 14-county Upper Cumberland region. There are also many similarities between the two.

While each agency maintains its own unique DNA, UCDD and UCHRA are very much sibling agencies, and the branding is mirrored between the two agencies - distinctively different but, at the core, united.



**WORKING TOGETHER TO PROMOTE  
MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES**



*UCDD and UCHRA vehicles began displaying signage promoting the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline in 2024. UCHRA Public Transportation buses mark the first public transportation entity in the state to feature this number.*

# UC: BY THE NUMBERS



**22.9K**

HOUSEHOLDS PROVIDED  
WITH COMMODITIES



**220.4K**

MEALS SERVED OR  
DELIVERED TO OLDER ADULTS  
AND THOSE WITH PHYSICAL  
DISABILITIES



**384**

AFFORDABLE HOUSING  
UNITS



**\$30.5M**

GRANT FUNDS AWARDED IN THE  
2024 CALENDAR YEAR (AND  
COUNTING)



**37**

JOBS CREATED THROUGH  
LOANS WITH CAIC



**83**

GRANTS SUBMITTED DURING  
2024 CALENDAR YEAR (AND  
COUNTING)



**294.3K**

TRIPS PROVIDED BY PUBLIC  
TRANSPORTATION



**13**

LOANS GRANTED TO SMALL  
BUSINESSES



**710**

FAMILIES SERVED BY  
EMPOWER UC



**\$5.3M**

DOLLARS INVESTED IN THE  
REGION THROUGH  
EMPOWER UC PILOT FUNDS



**439K**

CHILD AND ADULT CARE FOOD  
PROGRAM DOLLARS REIMBURSED  
TO DAY CARE HOMES



**\$351K**

DOLLARS INVESTED IN  
WEATHERIZATION IMPROVEMENTS  
MADE TO CLIENT HOMES

*Based on FY 2023-24 data.*

# LEADERSHIP

## UCDD & UCHRA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### CANNON COUNTY

Greg Mitchell, County Executive  
Stan Hollandsworth, Mayor-Woodbury  
Martye Jean Harris, Mayor-Auburntown  
Greg Goff, Industrial Representative

### CLAY COUNTY

Dale Reagan, County Mayor  
Luke Collins, Mayor-Celina  
Doug Young, Industrial Representative

### CUMBERLAND COUNTY

Allen Foster, County Mayor  
Emmett Sherrill, Mayor-Crab Orchard  
R.J. Crawford, Crossville  
Don Dowdey, Pleasant Hill  
Ethan Hadley, Industrial Representative

### DEKALB COUNTY

Matt Adcock, County Mayor  
Josh Miller, Mayor-Smithville  
Beth Tripp, Mayor-Alexandria  
Pam Redmon, Mayor-Dowelltown  
Audrey Martin, Mayor-Liberty  
Suzanne Williams, Industrial Representative

### FENTRESS COUNTY

Jimmy Johnson, County Executive  
Harvey Stowers, Mayor-Jamestown  
Yvonne Gernt, Mayor-Allardt  
Jacob Rosenbaum, Industrial Representative

### JACKSON COUNTY

Randy Heady, County Mayor  
Lloyd Williams, Mayor-Gainesboro  
Hope Vargas, Industrial Representative

### MACON COUNTY

Steve Jones, County Mayor  
Tony Day, Mayor-Lafayette  
Kenneth Hollis, Mayor-Red Boiling Springs  
Richard Thomas, Industrial Representative

### OVERTON COUNTY

Steven Barlow, County Executive  
Lori Burnett, Mayor-Livingston  
Shannon Cantrell, Industrial Representative

### PICKETT COUNTY

Stephen Bilbrey, County Executive  
Sam Gibson, Mayor-Byrdstown  
Bruce Elder, Industrial Representative

### PUTNAM COUNTY

Randy Porter, County Mayor  
Danny Holmes, Mayor-Baxter  
Lisa Chapman-Fowler, Mayor-Algood  
Alex Garcia, Vice Mayor-Monterey  
Laurin Wheaton, Mayor-Cookeville  
Amy New, Industrial Representative

### SMITH COUNTY

Jeff Mason, County Mayor  
Joey Nixon, Mayor-South Carthage  
John Potts, Mayor-Gordonsville  
Patrick Geho, Industrial Representative

### VAN BUREN COUNTY

David Sullivan, County Executive  
Alisa Farmer, Mayor-Spencer

### WARREN COUNTY

Terry Bell, County Executive  
Ryle Chastain, Mayor-McMinnville  
John Hankins, Mayor-Centertown  
Trent Prater, Mayor-Viola  
Sue Anderson, Mayor-Morrison  
Marvin Lusk  
Wendy Sneed, Industrial Representative

Denotes Executive Committee Members



## **WHITE COUNTY**

Denny Wayne Robinson, County Executive

Jerry Lowery, Mayor-Sparta

Ray Spivey, Mayor-Doyle

Rodger McCann, Industrial Representative

## **LEGISLATIVE MEMBERS**

Representative Cameron Sexton

Senator Paul Bailey

## **UCHRA POLICY COUNCIL**

### **Elected Officials/Local Representatives**

Randy Heady, Jackson County Mayor

Sam Gibson, Mayor-Byrdstown

Charlene Whittaker, McMinnville Electric Systems

Keisha Richards, Crossville Housing

Cindy Putman, WCTE Central Tennessee PBS

Zach Gilpin, Cookeville Police Department

### **Consumer Representatives**

Misty Phy, Overton County

Barbara Wheeler, Jackson County

Patti Ognibene, Putnam County

Bob DePriest, DeKalb County

Linda Pastrick, Pickett County

Marilyn Davis, Warren County

### **Provider Representatives**

Phil Fox, UCDD/AAAD (Social Assistance)

Kristi Paling, Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth

Marie Ferran, Aging Services for the Upper Cumberland

Bill Gibson, Power of Putnam

Anne Stamps, Volunteer Behavioral Health

Michael Burton, Tennessee Department of Corrections

### **Minority Representative**

Marvin Lusk, Warren County



**UC STRATEGY SESSIONS**



**WASHINGTON D.C. TRIP**

# LEGISLATORS OF THE YEAR



## FAST FACTS: KELLY KIESLING

### **Tennessee State Representative Keisling**

- District 38: Clay, Macon, Pickett, Scott, and part of Fentress counties
- Chairman of the State Government Committee
- Member of the following committees: Calendar & Rules; Finance, Ways, and Means; Government Operations; Appropriations Subcommittee; Corrections Subcommittee; Departments & Agencies Subcommittee; Joint Commerce, Labor, Transportation and Agriculture; and Public Service Subcommittee

In addition to his legislative duties, Representative Keisling serves on the Board of Directors of the Children's Center of the Cumberland; is President of Keisling Insurance; a member of the following Chambers of Commerce: Macon, Clay, Pickett, Fentress, and Scott Counties; and, is a member of the Tennessee State Employees Association. Representative Keisling and wife, Janet, have been married for 51 years. They are the proud parents of three children, seven grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.







## FAST FACTS: PAUL BAILEY

### **Tennessee State Senator Bailey**

- District 15: Cumberland, Jackson, Overton, Bledsoe, Putnam, and White countiesChair of the Commerce and Labor Committee
- Member of the Fiscal Review Committee and the Transportation and Safety Committee

Senator Bailey is a lifelong resident of the Upper Cumberland. Today, he and his wife Amy reside on their White County farm with their son, Caleb, who is also a student at Rhodes College. Senator Bailey was a senior at Tennessee Tech when his father Charles approached and persuaded him to join a new trucking business. From meager beginnings, borrowing money against two used trucks, they built a thriving family business, CB Trucking, employing 100 people. Today, with Bailey serving as General Manager, CB Trucking remains a family enterprise. Amy serves as CFO, with son Jordan and daughter Korry also involved in day-to-day operations.





# OUR TEAM

Meet the staff of UCDD and UCHRA

*At the Upper Cumberland Development District and Human Resource Agency, we are passionate about helping people. Through our wide array of services, we connect individuals, families, businesses, and local officials with the resources they need to improve their quality of life. UCDD and UCHRA employ approximately 450 of the region's most passionate and skilled individuals to better meet the needs of the Upper Cumberland.*

UCDD is designated by the Tennessee Dept. of Aging and Disability as the **Area Agency on Aging and Disability (AAAD)** to provide care, nutrition, transportation, and other services to older or physically disabled Middle Tennesseans. The AAAD's three primary functions are advocacy services, information and assistance, and provision of services.

UCDD offers a variety of **Planning & Community Development** services to communities across the region including grant writing, administration, and technical assistance related to land use and zoning, solid waste, historic preservation, and housing. UCDD provides data collection and analysis. These services are often used for planning, grant applications, presentations, and publications.

The **Economic Development and Lending** department works with community leaders to secure grant funds primarily for industrial development as well as offering loans to small businesses seeking to expand and create jobs. UCDD staffs the Small Business Development

Center (SBDC), which provides free counseling, technical support, and connection to financing including the business development loan fund through UCDD. The department has also partnered with Empower Upper Cumberland as a core partner focused on removing barriers to entering the workforce and advancing families' economic standing.

UCDD's **Housing and Family Services** provides affordable housing to low-income seniors and individuals with disabilities. The department also administers programs that provide support to relative caregivers and housing repairs to those in need.

UCHRA offers a variety of **Public Transportation** services from door-to-door rides, scheduled shuttle services, inner-city bus routes, and driver education. The transportation call center uses innovation and technology to find the "right fit" solution for customers; allowing riders to quickly and easily schedule a trip and simply enjoy the ride to their destination.

UCHRA's **Community Intervention** department provides alternatives to incarceration for juvenile and adult offenders, corrective education programs, and residential programs for troubled youth.

The department also offers a DUI school (Putnam County only) and oversees the day reporting center program. Day reporting centers (DRCs) provide supervision and services in 12 Upper Cumberland counties offering a variety of programs and services designed to address rehabilitation, supervision, treatment, education, programming, and re-entry services through a carefully designed curriculum.

The **Community Services** department oversees several programs that provide support to vulnerable populations. These services include home energy assistance through utility payments, food assistance, home weatherization, in-home care, childcare nutrition, job training for individuals age 55 and over, sales of Ensure and Glucerna at local county offices, and an early childhood development program, Van Buren County Head Start. Additionally, this department offers information and referral services at all local UCHRA offices, connecting individuals to appropriate resources within their communities to help alleviate conditions of poverty.

The **UC Recovery** team offers a comprehensive list

support services to clients from emergency and transitional housing, workforce re-entry, transportation, and case management.

UCHRA staffs an office in each county that gives access to the programs described above through personal service and community outreach. Clients receive hands-on assistance with applications and information. UCAssist.org is a web-based database designed to provide online access to resources and services available in the region.

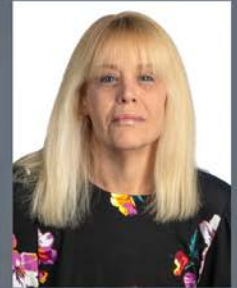
Led by UCHRA, the designated backbone organization, **Empower UC** is tasked with serving the most vulnerable populations of the 14-county Upper Cumberland region which includes the counties of Cannon, Clay, Cumberland, DeKalb, Fentress, Jackson, Macon, Overton, Pickett, Putnam, Smith, Van Buren, Warren, and White with a core objective of lifting 1,600 children and their families out of generational poverty by 2025.



# EMPLOYEES OF THE YEAR

Meet the 2024 Employees of the Year at UCDD and UCHRA

- Amy Maddle, Project Manager (UCDD)
- Brenda Miller, Chance Facility Coordinator (UCHRA)
- Emily Sells, Senior Services Coordinator (UCDD)
- Jennifer Birdwell, Payroll Specialist (UCDD)
- Jerry Myers, Transportation Route Coordinator (UCHRA)
- Johnny Foutch, Driver (UCHRA)
- Jonny Maynard, Driver (UCHRA)
- Laura Andrus, Smith Co. Coordinator (UCHRA)
- LeaAnn Payne, DeKalb COS (UCHRA)
- Melissa Hicks, Driver (UCHRA), *not pictured*
- Mindy Tramel, Loan Officer (UCDD)
- Nestor Chavez, HR Coordinator (UCDD)
- Paige Harris, Empower Collaboration Specialist (UCHRA)
- Phillip Swann, Commodity Warehouse (UCHRA)
- Ty Walker, GIS Specialist (UCDD)





## 2024 UCHRA Public Transportation Roadeo Winners

### T350 Division

- 1st: Sheryl Stephens, Pickett County
- 2nd: Chris Simpson, Putnam County
- 3rd: Ronald Barnes, Warren County

### Cutaway Division

- 1st: Jonny Maynard, Putnam County
  - Won 3rd place at statewide competition
- 2nd: John Carr, Putnam County
- 3rd: Michael Smith, Clay County

### Maintenance Division

- 1st: Joey Bitter
- 2nd: Ryan Slagle



# CANNON COUNTY

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## By the Numbers



869  
Eligible households provided  
with commodities



4,765  
Meals served or delivered  
to older adults and physical  
disabilities



353  
Households provided with  
utility assistance



3,440  
Trips provided by Public  
Transportation





Our team is dedicated to serving our region and their respective communities. In Cannon County, UCHRA County Coordinator Amber Milligan volunteered to read to local schoolchildren during Read Across America Week.



The AAAD awarded American Rescue Plan grants totaling \$543,152 to all 19 contracted senior centers, including Cannon County. Senior centers used the funds to purchase new tables and chairs, exercise equipment for exercise classes, art crafting supplies, and more.

## UC Star: Carolyn Motley



*Carolyn Motley has been a key figure in Cannon County for more than 20 years. Since 2002, she has worked at the Cannon County Chamber of Commerce, now serving as chamber coordinator.*

*A former Eastside Elementary teacher and past chairman of the Cannon County School Board, Carolyn has left a lasting impact. She's also been a Woodbury Lions Club member for 15 years, assisting with KidSight Outreach, parades, blood drives, and White Cane Day.*

*Additionally, she volunteers as a bookkeeper for the Eastside Volunteer Fire Department and supports the WE CARE CANNON school event. Her dedication has made her a cherished leader in the community.*



# CLAY COUNTY

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## By the Numbers



1,227

Eligible households provided with commodities



17,850

Meals served or delivered to older adults and physical disabilities



635

Households provided with utility assistance

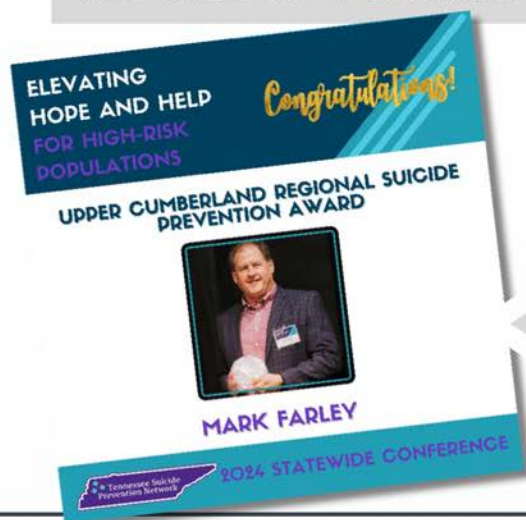


8,713

Trips provided by Public Transportation



In summer 2024, UCHRA Public Transportation vehicles began displaying signage promoting the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline. The move to display the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline logo on UCHRA Public Transportation buses is also a historic one. UCHRA's buses mark the first public transportation vehicles in the state of Tennessee to feature the 988 lifeline information. The lifeline number is also now featured on UCDD and UCHRA fleet vehicles.



Mark Farley, UCDD-UCHRA Executive Director, was named the winner of the Upper Cumberland Regional Suicide Prevention Award by Tennessee Suicide Prevention Network (TSPN) during the group's statewide conference.

## UC Star: Doug Young



*Dr. Doug Young has made his life a life of service. He has served students as a teacher and supported teachers as a superintendent.*

*Since retiring from education, he has continued to serve his communities as a volunteer for the Clay County Chamber of Commerce. He served 11 years as the director behind the community's ThreeStar program as a volunteer and he currently serves as an unpaid volunteer Executive Director for the Chamber.*

*Dr. Young has been a champion of Clay County's economic and community development for decades and cares deeply for the well-being of Clay County's residents, businesses and leaders.*



# CUMBERLAND COUNTY



## By the Numbers



1,828

Eligible households provided with commodities



29,594

Meals served or delivered to older adults and physical disabilities



1,153

Households provided with utility assistance



31,423

Trips provided by Public Transportation





*Wish You Were Here: Adventures in Tennessee's Upper Cumberland* correspondents hit the trail in the Cub Mountain ATV Park and Campground to bring viewers breathtaking views.

Correspondents from the series were honored at WCTE/PBS' annual dinner. Each of these special individuals volunteer their time and their talent to assist in UCDD's efforts to increase regional economic impact through tourism.



## UC Star: Pepe Perron



Oscar "Pepe" Perron has directed Camp Nakanawa, a girls' camp near Crossville, with his wife Ann for more than 40 years. Known for his dedicated community service and philanthropy in Cumberland County, Pepe is active in various civic groups and non-profits. He has served on boards such as Cumberland County Playhouse, Tennessee Cattlemen's Association, Uplands Village, and Roane State Foundation.

He is a past president of Crossville Noon Rotary Club and former chairman of the Greater Cumberland County Chamber of Commerce. Pepe's contributions include support for WCTE-PBS, Cumberland County Playhouse, the Boy Scouts, and the Pepe Perron Scholarship Endowment.

Recently, Pepe and his wife donated \$150,000 to Roane State Community College for a new health science wing on its Cumberland County campus.

# DEKALB COUNTY



## By the Numbers



1,425  
Eligible households provided  
with commodities



9,550  
Meals served or delivered  
to older adults and physical  
disabilities



509  
Households provided with  
utility assistance



10,159  
Trips provided by Public  
Transportation





UCDD staff joined leaders from DeKalb County and Smithville in September to celebrate the opening of Wade House in Smithville, Tenn. This facility will provide housing for eight women in recovery, offering a supportive environment where residents can help each other on their path to sobriety and independence. Wade Recovery House follows a unique model designed to foster accountability, requiring each resident to actively pursue a personalized recovery plan aimed at long-term self-sufficiency.



## UC Star: Justin Cantrell



*Justin Cantrell serves as an agent of progress in not only DeKalb County, but across the Upper Cumberland at large. Justin works as a Regional Overdose Prevention Specialist for the Upper Cumberland and helps spearhead "Choosing to Change," an outreach initiative in DeKalb and Smith counties that assists youth who have committed minor offenses at school, guiding them toward making more positive life choices.*

*Among his extensive community involvement, Justin leads Overcomers meetings in DeKalb County, mentors at the Smith County Jail, and serves as vice president of Smith County Recovery Home. "Justin's dedication to his community is unwavering," said DeKalb County Mayor Matt Adcock. "Justin has helped many find recovery, and his selfless mission strikes the heart of all those who hear his story."*

# FENTRESS COUNTY



## By the Numbers



2,028  
Eligible households provided  
with commodities



26,415  
Meals served or delivered  
to older adults and physical  
disabilities



1,007  
Households provided with  
utility assistance



6,543  
Trips provided by Public  
Transportation





Partnerships, like those with Cookeville Regional Charitable Foundation, are critical for the continued success of programs such as Empower Upper Cumberland. The Empower UC fundraising luncheon in Cumberland County was an incredible success; benefiting Circles groups in Cumberland, White, and Fentress Counties.



In May 2024, UC SHIP was recognized for achieving 4 out of 5 performance goals set by TCAD in FY24. SHIP saved beneficiaries an estimated \$733,896.57 in 2024 by comparing insurance plans.

## UC Stars: Pam & Kevin Baz



*As operators of WDEB radio station, Pam and Kevin Baz are dedicated to community service and being an information hub, making WDEB available as a local source of news, resources and community events, fundraisers, and emergency service messages.*

*True community partners, the Bazes can be depended upon to publicize events and happenings for Fentress County Chamber of Commerce, church activities, food distributions, and the community overall. Their continuous involvement, support and promotion of the community keeps the public informed and encouraged to do the same.*

*The Bazes are also involved with several community projects, diligently serving the citizens of Fentress County.*

# JACKSON COUNTY



## By the Numbers



842  
Eligible households provided  
with commodities



11,659  
Meals served or delivered  
to older adults and physical  
disabilities



711  
Households provided with  
utility assistance



6,020  
Trips provided by Public  
Transportation





Each year, UCDD coordinates summer strategy sessions for each Upper Cumberland county, bringing together representatives from the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development, the Tennessee Valley Authority, the Tennessee Department of Transportation, Workforce Development, the Tennessee Department of Tourist Development, and many more. These sessions provide an excellent opportunity to plan for the future and address the needs of today.



As Upper Cumberland schools kicked off the beginning of the 2024-25 school year, UCDD and UCHRA staff attended numerous back-to-school celebrations across the region. These events serve as a great way for UCDD and UCHRA staff to connect with local schools, students, and their families to promote various services and programs offered by both agencies.

## UC Star: Cassie Kessler



*Cassie Kessler, owner of the Stolen Coin Oyster Bar and Bistro in Gainesboro, supports Jackson County's local sports teams, nonprofit organizations, and founded the Share to Care Foundation, a 501(c)(3) that gives back to local schools and others in need.*

*She raises money through an Independence Day celebration, organizes a winter coat drive, and provides hygiene, clothes, and teacher supplies to Jackson County schools. Cassie also serves on the Chamber of Commerce Executive Board and the Jackson County Recovery Committee, hiring employees with federal charges to help them find purpose.*

*"Cassie is a true asset to Jackson County, and we are honored to celebrate her," said Jackson County Mayor Randy Heady.*

# MACON COUNTY

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## By the Numbers



742

Eligible households provided with commodities



9,651

Meals served or delivered to older adults and physical disabilities



474

Households provided with utility assistance



6,516

Trips provided by Public Transportation





2024 was another record year for the annual Senior & Caregiver Expo with approximately 1,100 in attendance. This regional event focuses on the care needs of older adults and their caregivers. The Expo offers an opportunity for individuals seeking assistance with their loved one's care to connect with businesses and service providers. Planning is already underway for the 2025 installment.

Senator Ken Yager, left, chats with Steve Jones, Macon County Mayor, and Mark Farley, UCDD-UCHRA Executive Director, during a stop at the Macon County Courthouse in March.

Yager serves District 12 which includes Campbell, Clay, Fentress, Macon, Morgan, Overton, Pickett, Roane, and Scott counties.



## UC Star: Ben Bray



*Ben Bray, a well-known local real estate professional and auctioneer, has become a vital part of the Macon County community, not just through his business endeavors but through his commitment to charitable causes.*

*His passion for giving back is most evident in his tireless work to help local organizations raise money, particularly his dedicated support of St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.*

*Ben's generosity and service have made a lasting impact on countless families, and his efforts continue to inspire and uplift the entire community.*

# OVERTON COUNTY



## By the Numbers



2,075

Eligible households provided with commodities



21,055

Meals served or delivered to older adults and physical disabilities



675

Households provided with utility assistance



10,436

Trips provided by Public Transportation





Curtis Hayes joined the Upper Cumberland Development District board 18 years ago after being elected mayor of Livingston. During the October UCDD Executive Committee meeting, UCDD-UCHRA Executive Director Mark Farley highlighted Hayes' impact on downtown Livingston and the region.

## UC Star: Westley Burnett



*Westley Burnett has long been a pillar of Overton County, known for his unwavering commitment to volunteer service and community betterment. As President of American Bank & Trust in Livingston, Westley's professional role is just one facet of his dedication.*

*He serves as Chair of the Board of Directors for the Livingston-Overton Chamber of Commerce and is an active member of the Rotary Club of Livingston. Westley is also deeply involved in the revitalization of the Rickman area, focusing on restoring the Rickman Community Center—a vital space for the area's children and families.*

*His passion for supporting the youth of Overton County and his heart for service make him a true catalyst for positive change in the community.*



Members of UCDD's lending team were able to help make Dan and Connie Nardoizzi's small business dreams a reality through a small business loan. Soon after the loan closed in July, the Nardoizzi's officially celebrated the grand opening of their Italian-themed restaurant, *Cornicello*.



# PICKETT COUNTY



## By the Numbers



1,104

Eligible households provided with commodities



9,213

Meals served or delivered to older adults and physical disabilities



354

Households provided with utility assistance



4,328

Trips provided by Public Transportation





Pickett County drivers Johnny Foutch and Sheryl Stephens surprised a client by volunteering to clean up their overgrown yard, which they could no longer maintain. Sheryl also coordinated with city officials to remove a collapsed retaining wall and had city workers fill potholes and smooth out the client's driveway.

## UC Stars: Pam & Dave Bullock



*Pam and Dave Bullock are true Tennessee volunteers, known for working harder as volunteers than full-time employees.*

*When Pam became Pickett County Archivist, she and Dave undertook the task of streamlining the county's archives to rival any in the state. Pam earned her Archives Management Certification at the 2023 Tennessee Archives Institute and secured funding to bring the archives into the 21st century, purchasing microfilm equipment and microfilm-safe storage. She converted the extensive microfilm collection into a digital format and trained the archives team on the new technology.*

*The Bullocks have made the archives both user-friendly and have protected the county's historical documents for future generations.*



UCDD and UCHRA staff participate in numerous outreach events annually, educating the public on services and resources offered by our agencies.

Jennifer Flowers, UCHRA Pickett County Coordinator, and Jacklyn Medley, UCHRA Public Transportation Mobility Manager, are pictured at an event at the local activity center.

# PUTNAM COUNTY



## By the Numbers



2,516  
Eligible households provided  
with commodities



28,704  
Meals served or delivered  
to older adults and physical  
disabilities



1,704  
Households provided with  
utility assistance



145,019  
Trips provided by Public  
Transportation





UCHRA Public Transportation staff attended the 2024 TPTA (Tennessee Public Transportation Association) Annual Conference & Expo in Franklin, Tenn. The conference included general sessions and workshops focused on current issues facing public transportation. Staff showed up in full force in support of drivers competing in the annual statewide roдео competition.

*Driver Jonny Maynard won third place in the cutaway division of the statewide competition.*



## UC Stars: Putnam County Veteran Honor Guard



*The Putnam County Veteran Honor Guard stands as a symbol of dedication, respect, and unwavering commitment to honoring the service of our nation's veterans. This distinguished group of volunteers, comprised of veterans themselves, serves tirelessly to provide military honors at funerals and ceremonial events across Putnam County and beyond.*

*Their presence offers solace to grieving families and demonstrates the community's deep gratitude for the sacrifices made by service members.*

*They exemplify the highest values of service, respect, and camaraderie, and their commitment to honoring our heroes is both a tribute and an inspiration to all.*

# SMITH COUNTY



## By the Numbers



860  
Eligible households provided  
with commodities



6,666  
Meals served or delivered  
to older adults and physical  
disabilities



451  
Households provided with  
utility assistance



7,391  
Trips provided by Public  
Transportation





UCDD's Planning & Community Development team visited Paris, Tenn., site of the 2024 Tennessee Development District Association's annual conference. Below, UCDD-UCHRA Executive Director Mark Farley participates in the *Chat with District Legends* roundtable.



## UC Star: Barbara Kannapel



*Barbara Kannapel is a true civil servant, having served as a Smith County commissioner and currently as a Carthage City Council member.*

*She was instrumental in establishing and leading the Smith County Drug Coalition, and now manages "The Spot" Youth and Family Resources, a nonprofit youth development program for Smith County students in grades 5-12.*

*The Spot provides a safe space for youth to socialize, learn, and develop skills to make positive life decisions.*

*Kannapel is known for always being the first to volunteer, working hard for the community and writing grants to secure funding for her programs.*



During the Annual Governor's Conference (GOVCON) in Knoxville, Tenn., UCDD staff, along with all attendees, were provided with excellent networking and collaboration opportunities aimed at advancing business, community, and rural development across the state.

# VAN BUREN COUNTY

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## By the Numbers



1,082  
Eligible households provided  
with commodities



10,718  
Meals served or delivered  
to older adults and physical  
disabilities



415  
Households provided with  
utility assistance



2,153  
Trips provided by Public  
Transportation





The Sparta Rotary Club visited and generously provided every Van Buren County Head Start student with a brand-new pair of shoes! Rotary volunteers were on hand to help each child select the perfect pair and ensure they fit just right.



UCDD's Planning and Community Development team works diligently to secure and administer grants for communities across the Upper Cumberland. Among the more than \$30 million in grants secured during the 2024 calendar year was a \$586,000 Digital Skills, Education, and Workforce grant, allowing for the purchase of digital devices and services to aid in teaching digital skills to Van Buren County students and the senior population. This project is a collaborative effort between the Van Buren County Board of Education and the Van Buren County Agriculture Extension.

## UC Star: Jill Bouldin



*Jill Bouldin serves as a Homeless System Navigator for Van Buren County Schools and manages the Van Buren County Family Resource Center (FRC). The FRC provides Van Buren County students and their families with access to showers, clothing, shoes, personal hygiene supplies, and food.*

*Since the center's inception in 2022, Jill has overcome many challenges and has built lasting relationships with individuals, churches, and organizations both inside and outside the community to secure resources for homeless and needy residents.*

*Jill's dedication to the FRC has made a profound, lasting impact on those served, and her tireless efforts continue to help build a brighter future for Van Buren County residents.*

# WARREN COUNTY



## By the Numbers



2,204  
Eligible households provided  
with commodities



25,676  
Meals served or delivered  
to older adults and physical  
disabilities



1,123  
Households provided with  
utility assistance



39,909  
Trips provided by Public  
Transportation





2024 marked the five-year anniversary of UCHRA Public Transportation's Go Route in McMinnville and Crossville. The Go Routes have played a pivotal role in connecting countless residents to essential transportation. The Go Route has celebrated many milestones, including route expansions, continuous growth in monthly ridership, and now offering the service fare-free.



In July, UCDD and UCHRA staff, together with local and state leaders, proudly joined the McMinnville-Warren County Chamber of Commerce to celebrate the McMinnville-Warren County Senior Center's ribbon cutting ceremony.

## UC Star: Chad Graves



*Chad Graves, a proud Warren County native, has made a significant impact on his community through both business and civic leadership. As the owner of Graves Family Pharmacy,*

*Chad serves his neighbors with care and dedication. Beyond his business, he has played an instrumental role in returning local radio stations to local ownership through Main Street Media, helping to strengthen the community's voice.*

*As Vice President of Main Street McMinnville, Chad has been pivotal in the ongoing revitalization of downtown McMinnville, breathing new life into the heart of the city.*

*His commitment to the betterment of Warren County reflects his passion for preserving its heritage while driving progress.*

# WHITE COUNTY



## By the Numbers



1,802

Eligible households provided with commodities



8,863

Meals served or delivered to older adults and physical disabilities



742

Households provided with utility assistance



12,283

Trips provided by Public Transportation





The Sparta-White County Activity Center, formerly known as the Senior Center, celebrated its grand re-opening with an open house event and celebration in April 2024. Members of UCDD's Area Agency on Aging and Disability team were in attendance to help celebrate the occasion.



## UC Star: Marvin Bullock



*Marvin Bullock has worked diligently to promote Sparta and White County, boosting tourism by showcasing the area's natural beauty, including its caves, waterfalls, lakes, and rivers.*

*He attracted local businesses, recognized White County's unique claim of having the most waterfalls and caves per square mile in the nation, and leveraged this to enhance tourism.*

*Bullock played a key role in making Welch's Point accessible to the public and advocated for creating Virgin Falls State Park, helping to preserve its hardwoods.*

*Though retired as president of the White County/Sparta Chamber of Commerce, he remains an influential figure in the community.*



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Tennessee's Upper Cumberland

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