

UNIVERSITY AREA CDC

ANNUAL REPORT 2015





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Make it Happen!

University Area Community



Message from the CEO

It is my privilege to report on the accomplishments attained this year through the initiatives and efforts set forth by the University Area Community Development Corporation, Inc. (UACDC). Through the creation of effective, innovative, and lasting partnerships and programs, we continue to work together to improve our community.

This past year is best described as a year of significant growth. This is made most evident in our thriving community garden and the construction of our community kitchen. Additionally, we tripled our DreamCatchers participants, doubled the residents in our INVEST: Workforce program, and tripled those served through our STEPS for Success® Program. Alongside these improvements, we've continued to provide positive afterschool programming to nearly 3,400 community youth through our Prodigy® program which we've expanded to include our newly developed Prodigy® Moves program which consists of two fully rigged vans that serve as mobile arts classrooms for hard to reach youths.

This would all be truly impossible without our board, staff, partners, donors and entire community who join hands year after year to keep us moving forward. Together may we continue to grow, strive, and work tirelessly in the effort to impact the lives of those we are so blessed to serve.

Sincerely,



Sarah Combs
Executive Director & CEO

Celebrating 15 Years of Transforming Young Lives....



UACDC's Prodigy® Moves! program serves youth in communities where no programming is available. (Pictured L to R) **Rebecca Thomas**, Prodigy® Moves!; **Jennifer Rees**, Prodigy® Cultural Arts; **Yartiza Bermudez**, Prodigy® Intern **Dharti Patel**, Prodigy® Cultural Arts

UACDC's Prodigy® program, celebrating its 15th year anniversary is for at risk youth ages 7-17 years old. Partnering visual and performing arts with core life skills, the program teaches youth how to creatively express thoughts and feelings while building confidence.

The program prevents youth who live in high risk neighborhoods

from entering, or diverts them, from delving deeper into the Juvenile Justice system, saving the state money and improving our communities through transformed young lives.

In 2014-15, over 3,400 youth participated in the program throughout 45 different locations in its 8 west central Florida county service area.




Cultural Arts Program
"Transforming Young Lives"



Prodigy® Youth performing at "I am Prodigy" Music Fest

Prodigy® Cultural Arts Program

Community Garden



In an area plagued by health disparities, it is essential that UACDC and its partners help the people who live in our community take control of their health and wellness. UACDC's 3,400 square-foot Community Garden in the heart of the community offers area residents an opportunity to do just that.

Residents can contribute to gardening efforts and keep a percentage



of what they grow to bring home to their families. By investing time and sweat equity, they take pride and ownership of their community and enhance their families' nutrition.

Producing organically grown fruits and vegetables, including green onions, collard greens, kale and grapefruit, promotes good nutrition and makes strides in improving the health outcomes of area residents.

Get Moving! Program



Volunteers during the annual Paint the Town event work together to plant seedlings in garden beds.



Local youth compete in the Youth Basketball League tournament.



Community members & their families harvest vegetables from the garden to take home.



Prodigy staff members and volunteers paint a mural on the side of the Harvest Hope Center.

Implemented in 2015, UACDC'S Get Moving! program promotes health and wellness in the University area and surrounding areas by offering an array of healthy activities, including:

- Youth and adult basketball leagues
- Adult fitness classes
- Adult volleyball
- Educational workshops
- Coming soon! Indoor youth soccer league

Getting more than 245 participants active through youth and adult programs, and counting!



INVEST Workforce



A student in the "Intro to Green Construction Training" course gets hands on experience from one of the instructors.

UACDC's Workforce program helps connect individuals to the resources they need to search for and obtain job training and employment. Workforce programs offered included:

- Free computer lab and guidance
- Computer skills courses
- Job readiness workshops
- Job search assistance



University Area CDC
**PARTNERS
COALITION**

MAKE IT HAPPEN!



(L to R) Deputy Alvarez, Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office; Jennifer Webb, University of South Florida.



(L to R) Marc Hutek, Hills. County Public Schools; Gene Marshall, NorthStar Bank; Nestor Ortiz, UACDC.

*Sarah Combs, University Area CDC's Executive Director & CEO,
addresses the members of the Partners Coalition*



Partners Coalition

The UACDC Partners Coalition brings together area businesses, organizations and individuals who have a vested interest in the University Area community and a mission to improve it. On a quarterly basis, the group gathers to learn about important initiatives, such as Safe & Sound Hillsborough, that are being implemented in our service area.



*Freddie Barton,
Executive Director
of Safe & Sound
Hillsborough, and
Chloe Coney,
District Director for
Congresswoman
Kathy Castor, attend
a Partners Coalition
gathering.*

STEPS for Success®

Iris and her two sons are participants in the STEPS® Program.



Myranda holding the key to her new apartment for her and her two children.

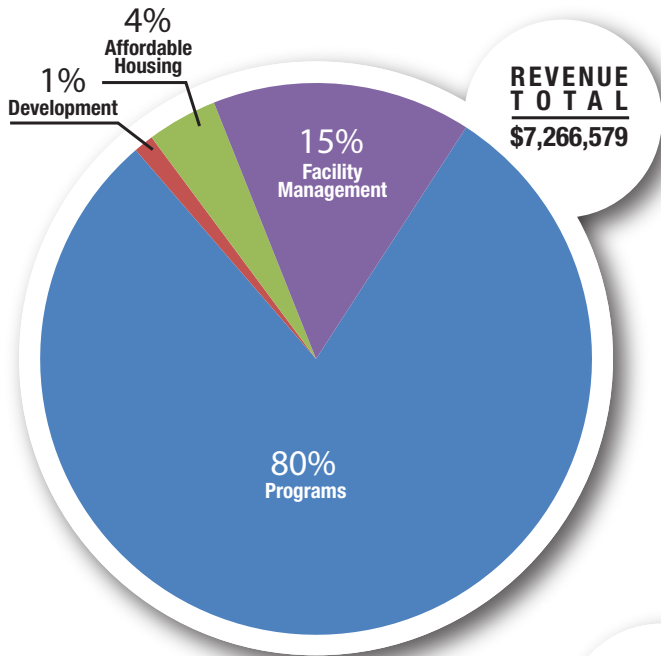
Overcoming the cycle of poverty one family at a time, STEPS for Success® provides one-on-one guidance and individualized goal plans for motivated individuals who wish to improve their circumstances. STEPS® navigators help mitigate crisis, prevent homelessness and stabilize program participants and help guide them towards self-sufficiency.

More than 100 families, children and adults participated in 2014-2015

- 65% of families were provided safe housing and/or prevented from being homeless.
- 64% of participants became employed upon entering the program.
- 77% of major crisis facing families were mitigated in 30 days.



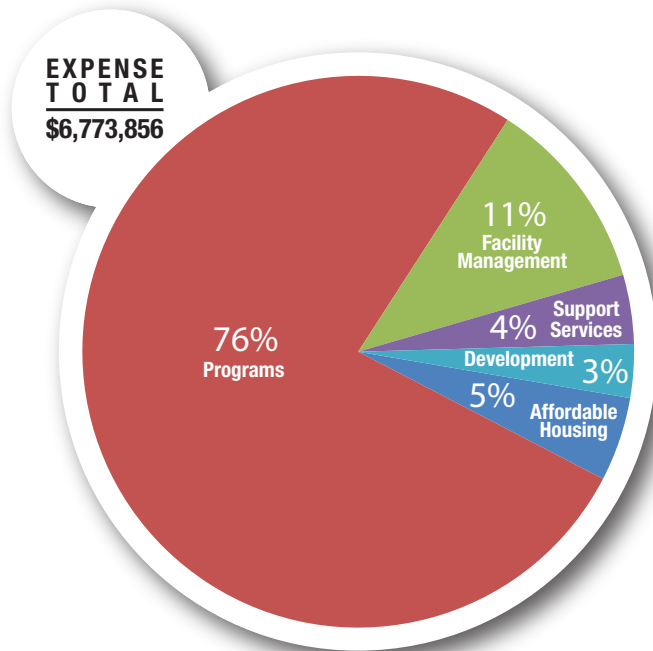
Community Investment



2015

- STEPS for Success® assisted 109 individuals during their inaugural program year
- 3,274 Prodigy® youth participated in programming throughout Central Florida

- Over 500 community members were served through INVEST: Workforce
- Harvest Hope Center and Kitchen went under construction
- Community garden grew 24 beds





University Area
Community Development Corporation, Inc.
"Working to improve the community"

University Area CDC

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