



UCOM
COMMUNICATOR
Summer 2019

**Our neighbors, our friends, our community:
Building, growing, and thriving together**



Building Community is Fun!

Games, prizes, food, and
community: you make it happen

Each summer for the past decade UCOM has hosted a community carnival in our parking lot. Not only is the carnival a great way to introduce new neighbors to UCOM, it's also a great way to spread the word about community resources and support.

UCOM carnivals have featured outreach teams from the Wyoming Fire Department, Police Department, Cherry Health, libraries, and more.

The carnival serves as an excellent way to bring our neighbors out to UCOM to learn more about our services and to meet the staff, volunteers and each other!

Games like bucket bonanza, the duck pond and plinko (sponsored by Pilgrim Manor Senior Living),

and hot shot basketball provide fun for all ages. Small prizes like school supplies, books, and more make sure that no one leaves empty handed.

Though the weather dealt us an extra hot day, this year's carnival, sponsored by Hobby Recycling, was well attended and staffed by fantastic youth groups from Ada Congregational, First UCC of Rockford, and Zion UCC from New Baden, Illinois.

All of the food, prizes, and raffle items are donated by UCOM. In addition to spreading the word about UCOM, the carnival is also a thank you to our community at large. So many of our friends, whether current or former clients or just members or the neighborhood, are also supporters of our mission.

UCOM is blessed to have tremendous support from people across the socioeconomic spectrum. Many of the people that use the pantry also donate. Be it volunteering their time, donating gently used clothing, or supporting programs monetarily, our neighbors come through for each other time and time again.

The carnival lets us take a moment to say thank you to our neighbors and to you and all of our faithful supporters. You are the ones that make community possible.



Walking the Walk

Walking Club at UCOM helps strengthen bonds and bodies

Sometimes a walk in the park is just what the doctor ordered and our newest initiative is just that. Led by a staff member, the community walking club is small and intimate, but participation is open to any and all that are interested in taking a break and exploring the beauty and nature of our neighborhood.

For the past month, UCOM neighbors and community members have been meeting each week for short walks to and around nearby Marquette park.

On our latest adventure a four year old led our

group while our 60 year old walkers followed behind sharing stories, proving that there is no age limit on being active. Even animals are joining in as a friendly neighbor and his dog walked with the group on a recent outing. One of the walkers led the group to a hidden neighborhood gem, a creek that most in the group didn't know existed.

As time goes on, our hope is that this group will grow, and that new and lasting bonds will be formed as our neighbors explore nature, exercise, and build community together.

Thank You!

To everyone that came to the Walk for Good Food, thank you! With your support team UCOM had nearly 30 walkers this year and raised over \$1000 for good food in our communities!

Special Needs:

You probably recognize the UCOM logo by now. Our happy orange friend springing from the O is a perfect representation of the outreach portion of our mission.

But did you know that our street front sign and our display boards don't use that playful logo? Providing quality programs to our neighbors has and always will take precedence over marketing, but new signage would increase our visibility to our neighbors, volunteers, and funders. A gift of \$5000 could make that happen today!





Farm Stand and Summer CSA's

Your gift of \$500 provides our neighbors with access to beautiful local produce through a CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) share or by supporting UCOM's farmstand. Everyone deserves access to healthful foods

YOU CAN HELP!

1. Become a sustaining member of UCOM's programs with monthly donations.
2. Volunteer! UCOM has opportunities for all skills and ages.
3. Help register clients during pantry hours.
4. Take a collection at your place of worship or work.
5. Keep an eye out for our Fall event, "Night of a Million Dreams"
6. Share this newsletter with a friend!



Resources for living. Hope for life.

1311 Chicago Dr. SW
Wyoming, MI 49509

616.241.4006
www.UCOMgr.org