



**UNITED
COMMUNITY
MINISTRIES**

At the Heart of Community

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**Belle View Elementary Girls On the Run Team
Supports UCM's Mount Vernon Kids Programs**



Photo 1: File name 05-20-16_UCM_GOTR photo1.jpg
Photos are attached to email for media distribution.



Photo 2: 05-20-16_UCM_GOTR photo2.jpg

For their community service impact project, the Girls on the Run (GOTR) Team at Belle View Elementary decided to provide school supplies and backpacks to benefit the Back to School program at United Community Ministries. The team conducted bake sales at the school that generated a \$300 donation to UCM. They also hosted a backpack drive, collecting a total of 35 new backpacks for students whose families are struggling to make ends meet. The GOTR team is pictured at their recent end of the year party at their school (photo 1).

Photo 2 caption: Belle View Elementary Girls on the Run Team members Anja, grade 3, and Isabel, grade 6, are pictured with their mother Coach Erica Beck at the Mother's Day Flower Power 5K Race/Walk at Fort Hunt Park. More than \$535 in proceeds from the event was donated to benefit UCM's Mount Vernon Kids programs, by race host The Fun Runz.

"Our Back to School campaign kicks off in the summer," explains Susan Johnson, UCM Development Associate. "The GOTR team was excited to help now even before this school year has ended. And they have us gotten us off to a fabulous start with their generosity! We

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appreciate Coach Beck and the Belle View team's enthusiasm and community spirit. We are so inspired by our young community members who care about helping other children so they have the tools to succeed. Every year, thanks to generous community support, more than 850 students in Kindergarten through 12th grade got to choose a new backpack at UCM, filled with school supplies for their grade."

"We all know the value of a good education," she continues. "A big part of success in school is having the right supplies -- which can be expensive, prohibitively so for families who are struggling to make ends meet. A monetary donation to UCM helps us purchase new supplies at deep discounts to fill backpacks, which are donated by community members. Every donation to support our young students helps build our community of tomorrow: you give creativity, literacy, empowerment, and self-esteem – because it means they can fit in with their peers from more fortunate family circumstances. And that they can have the same chances for success."

For more information about UCM's Back to School program and how you or your group can help local students in need to succeed, email info@ucmagency.org.

United Community Ministries (UCM) mobilizes the power of community to equip, educate, and empower people to measurably improve their lives. For the past 46 years, UCM has provided a vital connection between people in need and the people committed to helping them thrive. Services include:

- **Immediate Help.** For families and individuals in crisis, UCM provides counseling, food, financial aid, and referrals to other resources.
- **Children's Programs.** UCM provides the next generation with essential education and enriching experiences, including full-day early care and learning, new parent education, and after-school programs for youth leadership development and computer access.
- **Workforce Development.** UCM helps adults increase their employability with job counseling and computer training and with ESL and citizenship classes.

In Fiscal Year 2015, thanks to generous community support, UCM provided life-changing assistance to 10,200 individuals in 4,000 families in the Alexandria portion of Fairfax County. This included 5,000 children – more than any other private nonprofit agency in the Huntington-Mount Vernon area.

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