



**UNITED
COMMUNITY
MINISTRIES**

At the Heart of Community

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NORTHERN VIRGINIA ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS DONATES \$15,000 TO UCM TO FIGHT LOCAL HUNGER



PHOTO file name: 12-11-15_UCM_NVAR photo.jpg
Photos attached as 300+ dpi with email distributed to media.

United Community Ministries (UCM) is pleased to announce a generous \$15,000 donation from the Northern Virginia Association of Realtors (NVAR). Pictured for the check presentation at UCM during the week of Thanksgiving are (from left): Ryan T. Conrad, new NVAR CEO; Mary Bayat (Bayat Realty), 2015 Chair of the NVAR Board; Nichelle Mitchem, UCM Executive Director; and Virgil Frizzell (Long & Foster), 2015 NVAR Chair-elect.

Every October at the NVAR educational convention at Northern Virginia Community College in Annandale, the association asks members to bring a bag of nonperishable groceries (or a check donation) to support UCM – in lieu of paying an admission fee. This year, the result totaled more than \$2,400 and more than 5,400 pounds of food to feed neighbors who are struggling to make ends meet.

“We are so grateful to NVAR’s ongoing generous support,” says Nichelle Mitchem, UCM Executive Director. “This gift will make a critical impact to stock our UCM Food Pantry this year with fresh dairy products for families facing food insecurity. Realtors are truly the heart of our community. We appreciate the important part they all play to help us help families achieve financial stability.”

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United Community Ministries (UCM) mobilizes the power of community to equip, educate, and empower people to measurably improve their lives. For more than 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 food, financial aid, counseling, and referrals to other resources.
- **Education and Employment.** Services such as job training and coaching, full-day early care and learning, ESL and citizenship classes, and parental education help people achieve stability and self-reliance.
- **Community Engagement.** UCM's neighborhood centers, with after-school programs and leadership training, engage youth and families in skill-building and broader social networks for success.

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 agency in the Huntington-Mount Vernon area.

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