

COMMUNITY LIFE

Girl Scout Troops Support UCM

Members of Girl Scout Daisy Troop 3954, rising second graders at Waynewood Elementary School, are pictured with UCM's Volunteer Coordinator Emily Griffin (at far right). The girls delivered a \$200 cash donation to purchase fresh food for the UCM Food Pantry. After touring the Pantry a few months ago and learning more about people who go hungry in our community, the troop wanted to do more to help. They decided to host a bake sale this spring and donated the proceeds to help feed children and families in need.



Courtesy photos



Several members of Girl Scout Juniors Troop 4554 are pictured in the main office waiting room at UCM's Fordson Road location, the site of their Bronze Award project, the highest honor a Girl Scout Junior can achieve. Their project included painting the waiting room, purchasing new book shelves and a table, and hosting a drive to collect children's books for the waiting area. When families visit UCM for emergency assistance services, they are invited to take books home for their children's home libraries.

'Neighbors Helping Neighbors' Still Seeking Food Donations

The annual "Neighbors Helping Neighbors" Food Drive in Mount Vernon neighborhoods is a community-led food drive organized this year by West Potomac High School rising senior Will Shute, through St. Luke's Episcopal Church.

Neighborhoods covered included Belle Haven all the way down to Mount Vernon. The drive end date has been extended from June 30 to July 31.

"I am grateful for the tremendous outpouring of support from the many volunteers who have joined in to be street coordinators and from everyone donating and helping to support families in need," says Shute.

"We decided to extend the col-

lection period to the end of July, to give all streets and neighborhoods the opportunity to participate. Our totals as of the end of June far exceed last year's support: we have already delivered to UCM more than 3,500 pounds of food. Plus we have collected more than \$1,660 in financial donations, which UCM can stretch even further thanks to their discounts with partner agencies, for example to purchase eggs at a really low price point."

Every week day, an average 80 to 100 working poor families receive supplemental groceries at UCM's Cynthia Hull Food Pantry, in addition to emergency assistance, counseling, and referrals

to community resources.

"The primary objective for our drive is to get food for children, so they aren't hungry over the summer," Shute adds.

"Many students in our area depend on the free school lunch program for their sole meal of the day. In summer, these children cannot count on that lunch — and they often go hungry. I heard about this problem, so I decided that as neighbors to these children, we should try to help stock the food pantry with kid-friendly food for the summer. Parents of these children come to UCM for food for their family, which saves their limited budgets for other necessary expenses."



Courtesy photo

Pictured at UCM making a delivery of food donated from the annual Mount Vernon "Neighbors Helping Neighbors" Food Drive is West Potomac rising senior Will Shute, drive coordinator.