



Joanne and Bruce Malkin were honored with the second annual UCM Gerald W. Hyland Humanitarian Award at the UCM Gala. From left are UCM Board Chair Ken Disselkoen; UCM Executive Director Alison DeCoursey; retired Mount Vernon District Supervisor Gerry Hyland; and Bruce and Joanne Malkin.

## UCM Gala Raises \$180,000

The Friends of UCM hosted the 2018 Give From The Heart Gala at the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office, Madison Building, on Saturday, April 14. The event raised \$180,000 for United Community Ministries, Inc. (UCM) to support families and children in need.

Adam Tuss of NBC4 Washington emceed the evening's festivities, which included cocktails, dinner, auctions, and dancing, plus the presentation of the UCM Gerald W. Hyland Humanitarian Award and a testimonial from a UCM client.

"We appreciate the energy and creativity of The Friends of UCM," said UCM Executive Director Alison DeCoursey. "We are especially grateful to Elin Bohn, president of The Friends, and event co-chairs, Elaine Kolish and Paula Lettice, for their hard work. The Friends have raised nearly \$2.8 million for UCM since the group's inception in 2001. We thank them and all of our generous sponsors, supporters, and guests for making this evening a success."

Long-time Mount Vernon residents Joanne and Bruce Malkin were presented with the 2018 UCM Gerald W. Hyland Humanitarian Award. Retired Mount Vernon District Supervisor Gerry Hyland, the namesake and last year's inaugural awardee, helped

to honor the Malkins in recognition of their commitment to service and dedication to the betterment of others that enriches the community of Alexandria.

"UCM serves hardworking, amazing people who need a hand up," said Bruce Malkin. "Along with our fellow members of Mount Vernon Kiwanis and AAUW Mount Vernon Branch, Joanne and I are happy to partner with UCM wherever possible to assist to meet the needs of our community, especially our children and young people, who are the future of our country. They deserve the best chance we can give them."

Guests also heard from Lorraine, a UCM client who shared her personal journey to financial stability and good health: "Without UCM, I would not be the happy, healthy person standing here tonight. Thanks to the fresh food at UCM's food pantry, I am able to eat healthy even on my limited budget. I am off high blood pressure medicine and no longer diabetic. I am living proof that when you have healthy food, you have energy. Food is energy. Healthy food is even better. I never thought I could be feeling as good as I do now. The UCM team has inspired me with the confidence to take good care of myself and to stick with it. I feel strong and excited about my future."

## Local Group Supports Monument

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A meditation area, located at the center of the spiral, features an infinity pool made to resemble the pottery indicative of where the names of the 11 tribes of Virginia are engraved.

Among those attending the ceremony were Run-

ning Strong Executive Director Lauren Haas Finkelstein and General Counsel Paul Krizek, a member of the Virginia House of Delegates.

For more information about Running Strong for American Indian Youth, located at 8301 Richmond Highway, Alexandria, visit <http://indianyouth.org/>.

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