



United  
Community  
Center



# Annual Report 2022 - 2023



# Message from our CEO

Thank you for your support of the United Community Center. Together, we are providing exceptional opportunities for low-income families on Milwaukee's southside.

UCC has two top priorities: education and the health and wellbeing of our community. Our goal is to help our community find their path to success and provide options and direction when needed.

We believe that every child deserves the highest quality education and we know education will be the path out of poverty. We are determined to scale the achievement and opportunity gap for our community. With this goal in mind, I'm excited to announce our new expansion of Bruce-Guadalupe Community School. We will be adding on a 3rd floor to create new classrooms and allow for smaller class sizes. This will help our students as they journey to success providing more individualized attention to maximize their growth.

The health and wellbeing of our community ties directly into achieving our vision of an empowered and thriving Hispanic community where all achieve their fullest potential. Health equity means increasing opportunities for everyone to live the healthiest life possible, no matter who we are, where we live, or income level. Through many of our programs we aim to provide direction and guidance to the community to live a life of health and happiness. I hope you'll see this priority reflected throughout the pages of this report.

Again, thank you for making this work possible. I'm really proud of where we are as an agency and am excited to see how we evolve in this next phase of growth!

*Laura E. Gutiérrez*

Laura Gutiérrez  
Chief Executive Officer



## Vision:

An empowered and thriving Hispanic community where all achieve their fullest potential.

## Mission

To transform the lives of Hispanics, families and individuals of all ages by providing the highest quality comprehensive services in education, human services, health, community development, and cultural arts.





# Facts at a Glance

## Who do we serve?

**60%**

Under the age of 18

**75%**

Low-income families

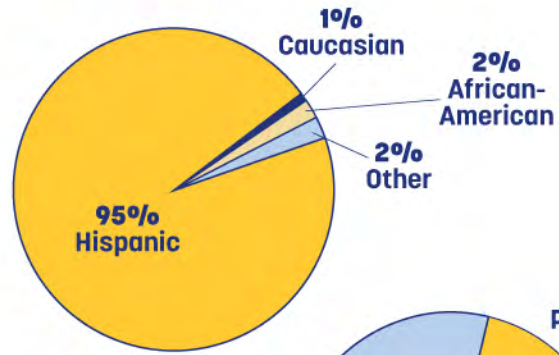
**65%**

Reside in the 53204 or 53215 zip codes

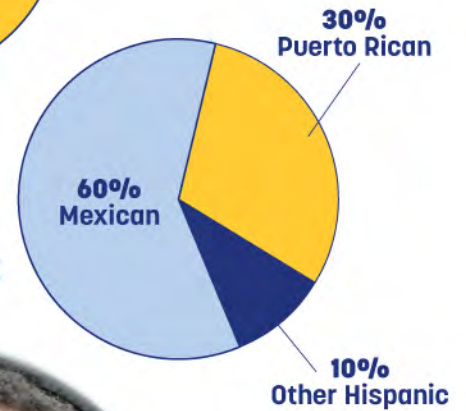
**90%**

Reside in the City of Milwaukee

## Ethnicity:



## Within Hispanic Ethnicity:



## Who helps us with our mission?

**495**

Full-time staff and 35 part-time staff manage, guide, and lead our programs and services

**430**

Individual donors

**109**

Corporations and foundations

**100's**

of partners, stakeholders, and collaborators join us to develop and deliver creative, quality programs





# Educational Programs - Early Learning

**UCC Early Childhood Education Programs** – A comprehensive and nurturing early childhood education program including Head Start and Early Head Start, serving children six weeks to four years of age in an educationally rich bilingual atmosphere. The program focuses on fostering the development of social, emotional, and intellectual skills, to ensure children are confident to experience, explore, and engage in the world around them.

## Program Highlights

- Early Learning programming available year-round on our three campuses.
- Early Learning (**6 weeks – 4-year-old** kindergarten) enrollment is at an all-time high serving more than **500** children.
- In its 2nd year of operations, the new Ricardo Diaz Early Learning Academy is at capacity. All **25** classrooms are open, serving more than **300** students.
- To meet the demand of high-quality early educational opportunities, UCC Guadalupe - South campus was renovated to accommodate more infants and students. Within two months of opening, the building is at full capacity!

## Early Learning Student Demographics:

- **56%** of early learners are from households with income at or below 100% of the federal poverty level.
- **304** dual language learners
  - **10** foster care students
  - **23** homeless students

## Partnership with MATC

UCC is addressing the existing early childhood teacher workforce shortage by taking a “grow our own” approach. This past year, UCC began partnering with MATC to create our own pipeline of early childhood educators within our own community, so enrolled students earn while they learn and hold staff positions at the centers.

**Thirteen** staff graduated from this program in 2022 and an additional **25** are currently enrolled.



**Ricardo Diaz  
Early Learning Academy**



**Guadalupe-South  
Early Learning Academy**



**Bruce-Guadalupe  
Community School**



“When Christopher first started, he was very hesitant. He didn’t engage with the group and his vocabulary was limited. After a year of attending Guadalupe-South, we now call him the mayor. He says hi to everyone, draws pictures for his teachers and is making an effort to communicate and expand his vocabulary.”

**-Christopher’s teacher**



# Educational Programs - Elementary & Middle School

**Bruce-Guadalupe Community School (BGCS)** – A multi-cultural public charter school for children in K-4 through 8th grade delivering a curriculum that fosters high expectations and emphasizes core academics. Programming beyond the school day is offered to students providing well-rounded school experiences.

**UCC Acosta Middle School (UCC AMS)** – A 6th-8th grade public charter school emphasizing literacy, math, science, and technology with an environment that fosters high expectations, hard work, and parental involvement to equip students with the skills to be competitive in dynamic future job markets.

**Fifth Quarter - Summer School** – A 19-day program designed to enhance academic performance within core subjects during the morning while providing recreational and enrichment activities in the afternoon.

**Afterschool Programming** – Wrap-around services for students of all ages in the areas of academic, cultural, and athletic activities. Programs range from tutoring, homework help, sports, music and school clubs.

## Program Highlights

- UCC Schools (UCC Acosta and Bruce-Guadalupe) earned an **“Exceeds Expectations”** rating on the State of Wisconsin School Report Card.
- More than **700** students in kindergarten through 5th grade enjoy a new science curriculum which includes engaging lab experiences for elementary students.
- Launched a new math curriculum pilot for the elementary school aimed at boosting achievement by building understanding through active inquiry. Full implementation planned for fall 2023.
- Expanded programming at Acosta Middle School including fine arts, STEM with university partnerships, afterschool programs and new clubs such as Art Club and Eco Club.
- **100%** of students receive social-emotional learning focused on problem solving, stress and emotional management, and empathy.



“Isaac’s growth in his demeanor and behavior has been remarkable since starting the 5th grade. After moving several times during 4th grade, he found the stability and support he needed and is now a completely different student. He is able to take notes, follow along, and complete assignments.”

**- Isaac’s 5th grade teacher**



# Youth and Pre-College Program

**Pre-College Program** – Comprehensive services for high school students to assist with the pursuit of post-secondary education including the college application and admissions processes, test-taking skills, financial aid applications, and college visits. Established curriculum to deliver content to each grade level in the areas of academic success, financial literacy, social-emotional health, community development, and leadership.

**UCC College Network** – Supports undergraduate students in Milwaukee from traditionally underserved backgrounds (low-income, minority, first-generation) to remain in, persist through, and graduate from college through case management, professional development training, workshops, and networking opportunities.

## Program Highlights

- Expanded the program to serve **690** UCC alumni (grades 9-12) enrolled at more than **40** different high schools (up from 580 students in 2021).
- **200** high school students committed to the Youth Volunteer Corps service learning experience to give back through volunteerism and community service.
- UCC Summer Recreation program for 1st - 7th grade students reached full capacity, actively engaging **350** students in educational enrichment and recreation activities.
- **100%** of graduating seniors who applied to college received at least one acceptance letter.
- Expanded Y.E.S. (Youth Empowered to Succeed) healthy exercise and nutrition habits programming to UCC Acosta Middle School 6th graders.
- UCC Scholarship Fund awarded more than **\$120,000** to nurture academic success for alumni in high school.



“Because of UCC’s Pre-College Program, I have learned to be organized, responsible, and motivated. I am proud to share that I will be the first in my family to attend college. I have been accepted to nine colleges and universities and plan to major in business administration and minor in communications.”

**- Dayanara, Pre-College Program participant**





# Health and Fitness

**Athletics** – A full range of activities for youth including the FIT KIDS program for grades 2nd and 3rd, indoor and outdoor soccer, basketball, indoor and outdoor flag football, volleyball, cross country, fitness club, Badges for Baseball, and several fitness and wellness programs for students and families of various ages, including the UCC Boxing Club.

**Cesar Pabon Fitness Center** – A community fitness center offering cardiovascular and strength-building equipment, and engaging and high-energy fitness classes.

**Student Health Center** – On-site health care and preventative services provided by Carroll University and 16th Street Community Health Center faculty and nursing students.

## Program Highlights

- Since February 2022, school athletics has been in full swing, with more than **950** youth participating and **65** volunteers helping to run after school athletics.
- After 2 years off from COVID, UCC has partnered once again with the Badges for Baseball program. This program brings police officers and approximately **100** students in 3rd and 4th grade together to play sports, games, and talking about healthy lifestyles.
- The UCC boxing club has **20** athletes actively boxing in competitions and another **40** training to compete in the future. Five boxers are ranked top 5 in their divisions in the country.
- UCC has partnered with The Ability Center, which provides people impacted by disabilities with a daily opportunity to be fit, active, healthy, and to play. In this partnership, UCC provides open gyms in the middle school for anyone interested in playing sports and games in a wheelchair.



“To get up, to not be depressed - I come here. I see people much older than me. Mr. César Pabón was a great inspiration in my life and he was talking to me on the phone and urging me to come here again, and I feel very grateful, first to God and then to UCC.”

**- Lily, Fitness Center client**

**Health Research** – Facilitating collaborations with area research universities (such as Medical College of Wisconsin, UW-Milwaukee, UW-Madison, Marquette University, Carroll University) and other community partners in a variety of community-based health research projects or health prevention programs, to address health disparities and increase better health outcomes in our community.

## Program Highlights

- Leveraged \$1,225,000 in new funds for UCC, including COVID-19 vaccine outreach, regional telehealth dementia services through the Latino Geriatric Center Memory Clinic, and a Research Ambassador position at UCC.
- Facilitated a World Café workshop series at the October 2022 Summit on Poverty, to identify key health priorities learned from the pandemic, leading to the creation of a Changemakers Task Force for 2023.
- Successfully concluded the Pisando Fuerte research project (a Spanish falls prevention program) through UW-Madison and the Senior Center, increasing capacity of UCC staff as Master Trainers to provide this program here and other Latino-serving sites in Wisconsin.



# Elderly Programs

**Senior Center** - A safe and culturally sensitive environment for older Latino adults to gather with friends and enjoy recreational, educational, and wellness activities. This Milwaukee County Senior Meal Site provides nutritious meals five days during the week and also offers a monthly Food Box through the Hunger Task Force.

**Adult Day Center** – A home-like environment which provides support and respite services for frail elders and those with physical disabilities or dementia. The center offers meals, health care, personal care services, and culturally sensitive activities.

**Memory Clinic** - In collaboration with Froedtert/Medical College of Wisconsin and Alzheimer's Association, UCC offers the only memory disorders clinic in the state of Wisconsin specifically serving Latino adults with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias.

**UCC – US Bank Village and Olga Village** - Apartments on the UCC campus that offer local elderly affordable living and the convenient opportunity to participate in UCC activities. It's operated in partnership with Capri Communities and the US Department of Housing and Urban Development.

**Community Care Family Care (CCFC)** - Medicaid long-term care program for eligible adults with physical or developmental/intellectual disabilities and frail elders. CCFC provides care management services, coordination of care, assessment, and comprehensive member center planning to help individuals meet their long-term care needs.

**Transportation Services** - UCC offers transportation for seniors to participate in UCC Elderly Programs.



"It feels so good to see my aunt Teresa and her sister spend time together reminiscing about their youth and singing songs that their dad taught them."

- Teresa's niece



## Program Highlights

- UCC houses the only Senior Center and Memory Clinic in the State of Wisconsin that specializes in serving the unique needs of Latino elders.
- More than **90%** of our elderly clients are Latino.
- **84%** have incomes under **\$14,999**.
- **100%** of participants live in Milwaukee County.
- **275** total seniors were served across our Adult Day Center and Senior Center, with a daily average of 150 participants in the programs.

### Participants:

- **100%** of seniors surveyed believe the UCC Elderly Programs help them to socialize and make friends and **95%** shared that their participation improved daily living skills.
- **100%** of elderly clients feel more safe and secure because of their participation in UCC's Elderly Programs.



# Human Services

UCC offers treatment and recovery services to men and women who have a substance use disorder. UCC serves individuals with co-occurring disorders, Spanish-speaking clients, and participants in the Drug Treatment Court programs. Programs are trauma informed, and gender and culturally appropriate.

UCC recognizes that our clients often have one or more accompanying medical issues. Our initiative includes connecting every residential client with a primary care physician and providing health education.

**Residential Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse (AODA) Treatment** – 24 hour care residential treatment facilities offer comprehensive services to men and women, including pregnant and post-partum women and their children. Services include case management, individual and group counseling, urinalysis testing, educational and vocational skill development, parenting education, therapeutic counseling, relapse prevention, art therapy, and fitness membership.

**Outpatient and Day Treatment** – Services include counseling, education, health and life skills, parenting classes, mental health, and relapse prevention.

**Recovery Support Coordination (RSC)** – Comprehensive case management services designated to provide individuals with a substance use disorder and their families support in their recovery.



## Program Highlights

- **676** clients impacted with our comprehensive continuum of care.
- **315** individuals lived in Residential Treatment houses.
- In addition, **19** children were served in the Residential Treatment program with their mothers, and an additional **59** were served off campus.
- **501** clients helped in 2022 through the Recovery Support Coordination contract with Milwaukee County Behavioral Health Community Access to Recovery Services.

"I turned to drugs to cope and drown out the pain after a pretty tough divorce. I tried to get clean several times, but never really got to the core of what was holding me back. This was my 3rd time at UCC. I actually put in the work I was supposed to. I had to get to know myself again; journaling, talking to people, asking questions. I'm more than five months sober now and can say without a doubt that this is the best program in the city by far."

**- Greg, Human Services - Alum**  
*(pictured on the left)*





# Café el Sol



**Café el Sol** – Café el Sol is a one-of-a-kind restaurant located within UCC offering spacious meeting facilities coupled with delicious Mexican and Puerto Rican cuisine. The restaurant also prepares food for other UCC services including elderly program lunches and daily meals for residential treatment clients. Proceeds from Café el Sol help support vital community services offered by the United Community Center. Eating at Café truly means you “**enjoy good food, while doing a good deed.**”



## UCC Neighborhood Development Initiative

**Neighborhood Development Initiative** - Designed to increase neighborhood stability in the area surrounding UCC by increasing home ownership, rehabilitating houses, and assisting residents through credit and home-buyer counseling along with home repair workshops.

### Program Highlights

- Facilitated **264** home purchases and closings.
- Educated more than **845** clients through homebuyer seminars and one-on-one counseling.
- **\$28,313,239** invested in the Milwaukee community.
- Expanded Homebuyer Counseling seminars to the Ricardo Diaz Early Learning Academy in the **53215** zip code.
- Held twice a month, these Spanish only sessions have been popular averaging **25** people per session.



“I want to thank UCC very much for helping us from day one to achieve our dream of buying our first home. My family is very excited because we needed more space for a new baby that is on the way!”

**- Reynaldo, First-Time Homebuyer**

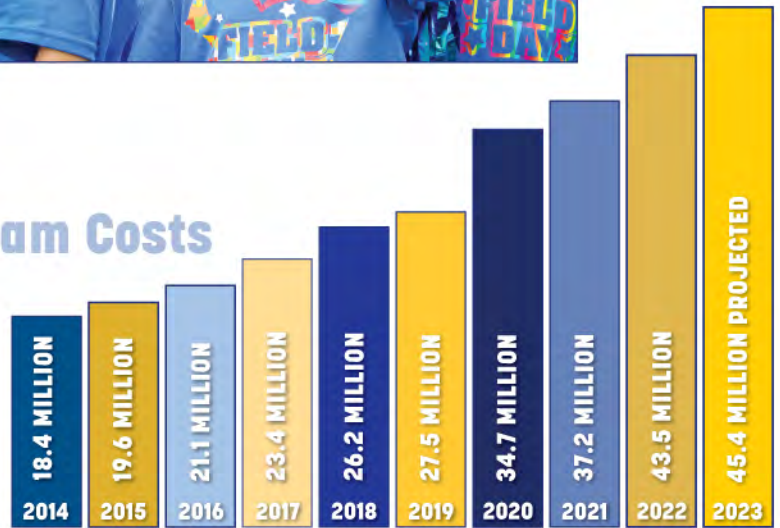


# Financials

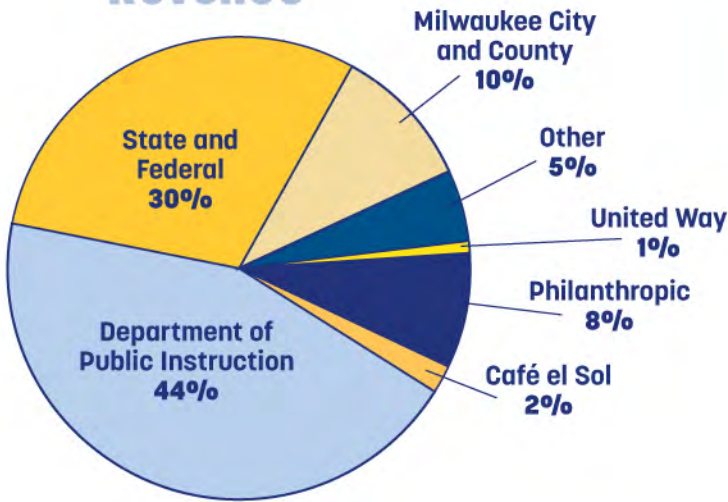


## Agency Assets

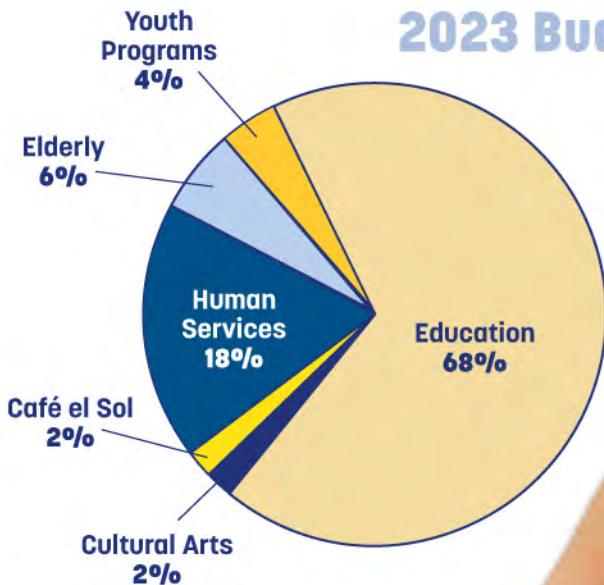
## Program Costs



## Sources of Revenue



## 2023 Budget





# Board of Directors



**Chair**  
**Cristy Garcia-Thomas**  
*Advocate Aurora Health*



**Vice-Chair**  
**Patty Whaley**  
*Retired, Zurn Water Solutions Corporation*



**Secretary**  
**Felipe Muzquiz**  
*Johnson Controls, Inc.*



**Treasurer**  
**Scott Hawig**  
*Froedtert Health*



**Luis Arroyo**  
*Michael Best*



**Mary Beth Berkes**  
*Shorewood Group LLC*



**Michael Byrnes**  
*Rockwell Automation, Inc.*



**Patricia Cadorin**  
*Community Volunteer*



**Marlene Castillo**  
*Johnson Financial Group*



**Peter Coffey**  
*Michael Best*



**Raquel Filmanowicz**  
*VC 414*



**Danny Garcia-Velez**  
*MGIC*



**Chris Goller**  
*PNC Bank*



**Mike Kopischkie**  
*Robert W. Baird & Co., Inc.*



**Susan Martin**  
*Retired, WEC Energy Group*



**Bill O'Toole**  
*Catholic Financial Life*



**Thomas Richtman**  
*US Bank*



**Jorge Saucedo**  
*Medical College of WI and Froedtert Health*



**Maclovio Vega**  
*Northwestern Mutual*



**Suzanne York**  
*WEC Energy Group*



**Marian Zincke**  
*Ingersoll-Rand*



**Laura Gutiérrez**  
*Chief Executive Officer*



**Juan Ruiz**  
*Deputy Director*



[www.unitedcc.org](http://www.unitedcc.org)



(414) 384-3100



[info@unitedcc.org](mailto:info@unitedcc.org)



[/uccmke](https://www.instagram.com/uccmke)



[/unitedcc](https://www.facebook.com/unitedcc)



United Community Center  
 Centro de la Comunidad Unida  
 1028 S. 9th Street, Milwaukee, WI 53204

