



Our vision is that youth who have suffered trauma can become our future leaders.

Dear Friends,

Fiscal year 2010 has now come to a close, and we are thrilled to report that it was a fantastic year for UCAN! Working with more than 13,000 disadvantaged children, youth and families, we achieved many goals. We could not have accomplished everything that we did last year without generous supporters, donors, and volunteers like you. Thank you very much for your continued support and for everything that you do to help us realize our vision. We greatly appreciate your contribution.

Although fiscal year 2011 has just started, we're excited about the future and what's in store for us this year. Our plans include developing an Office of Spiritual Formation to advance youth healing and leadership, and we're also moving ahead with exciting plans to build a new Residential Treatment Center. I look forward to sharing more of our organization's achievements throughout the next year; in the meantime, you can always find out more about what we're doing on our website www.ucanchicago.org.

Thank you for your belief in UCAN and for continuing to support our youth.

Thomas Van den Berk
President & CEO

From the President's Desk: 2010 Highlights

- **UCAN launched its new 360° Model**, which is a multi-pronged school-based program that works with students, teachers and families to recognize the impact of violence and trauma in order to create safety and healing for students in schools. Read more about the program and our partnership with AUSL inside!
- **We also launched our new LGBTQ Host Home Program.** The first of its kind in Illinois, this innovative program matches volunteer host homes with LGBTQ homeless youth with the goal of transitioning youth beyond life on the streets.
- In January, **UCAN's Teen Parenting Service Network (TPSN) received the exclusive contract from the Department of Children & Family Services** to oversee the case management of all pregnant and parenting teen wards in the state of Illinois. Formerly, TPSN services were available in six counties only.
- Congratulations to the 8th and 12th grade graduates from UCAN Academy! **UCAN Academy, formerly Uhlich Academy and High School, is the largest and one of the most recognized therapeutic day schools in the area.** The Chicago Board of Education holds a standard that 10% of therapeutic day school students will be reintegrated into public schools each year. Last year, UCAN Academy reintegrated 12%, exceeding the standard!
- UCAN was chosen as one of two recipients of the **2010 Distinctive Innovation in Social Services Award** from The University of Chicago's School of Social Service Administration **for our agency-wide Diversity & Inclusion strategy.** This is wonderful acknowledgement of our strong commitment to fighting discrimination and providing culturally relevant services and support to both our clients and staff.
- **UCAN has been in the news for its leadership on violence prevention.** In March, UCAN released the results of our 2009 national Teen Gun Survey at a successful press conference involving Hands Without Guns youth, Congressman Michael Quigley (IL-5) and State Senator Donne Trotter (17th District). UCAN was also featured in an article on gun violence in Chicago in the August 2010 edition of Ebony Magazine.
- **UCAN's 11th Annual Youth Advocacy Awards Dinner was a huge success.** This event recognizes the academic and personal achievements of some of our most outstanding youth, providing scholarships for secondary education. Held on June 9th at the Four Seasons Hotel Chicago, this event raised a record \$703,482 and drew over 400 guests! Thank you to all of our sponsors. Read more about our award winners inside.



Building future leaders

Donny Cooper was eight years old when he first came to UCAN's Residential Treatment Center. One of six kids at the time, he and his siblings had been removed from their home by the Department of Children & Family Services. Donny spent two years in Residential, running away often, but also appreciating what Residential provided him. "It was something I never had before—my own room, my own space," Donny said. "And I didn't have to worry about gangbangers or drugs."

After two years, Donny returned home where he continued to lead a troubled life. His father remained absent (they did not meet until Donny was a grown man). While Donny had been away, his mother had had two more children, adding stress to the home. His grandmother had always told him he was handy, and using this skill, Donny began to pick up odd jobs to make money. However, at the age of 11, Donny also began to sell drugs. He considered joining a gang, but decided not to after he saw a young man get beaten by gang members. Shortly after this, Donny returned to UCAN.

Donny lived in UCAN's Residential Center until the age of 16, and today says that, "[It] changed me big time. In the projects, it's like being a horse with blinders. There was one track: gangs and drugs. UCAN's Residential Treatment Center took my blinders off. I didn't have to worry about gangs and drugs—UCAN let me be me. The [Center's] walls pushed me along, carried me to where I needed to be. I knew how to be bad, but I didn't know how to be good. They helped me. All I had to do was ask."

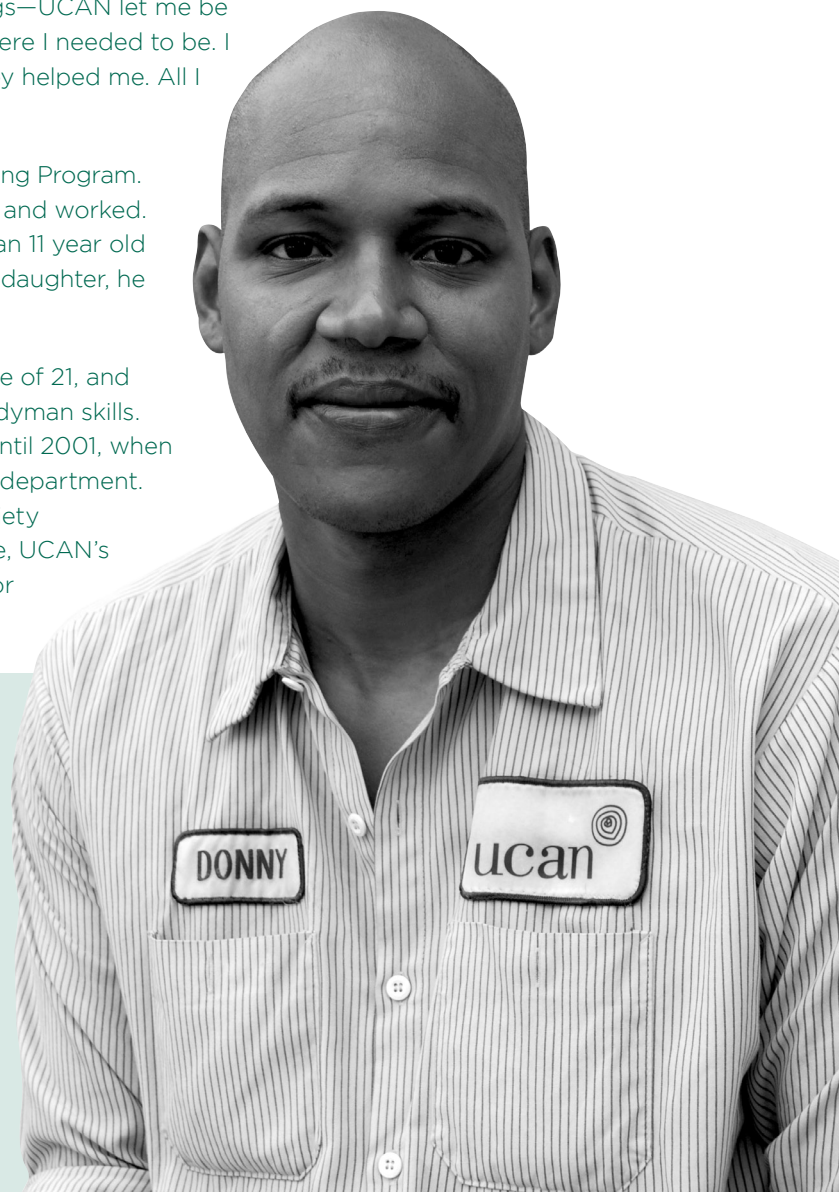
At the age of 16, Donny moved into UCAN's Independent Living Program. During this time, he attended high school, played basketball and worked. After graduation, he met his future wife, with whom he has an 11 year old daughter today. One of his most important messages to his daughter, he says, is that "your grades are your number one priority."

Donny emancipated from the child welfare system at the age of 21, and continued working in a variety of jobs which utilized his handyman skills. He worked in various construction and drywall companies until 2001, when UCAN called about an opening in its Facilities Management department. Donny has worked for UCAN since that time, handling a variety of tasks including remodeling the bathrooms in his old home, UCAN's Residential Center. In his spare time, Donny rehabs homes for private clients.

UCAN's Residential Treatment Center provides a structured, stable and therapeutic living arrangement for children in the care of the Illinois Department of Children & Family Services. The Center works primarily with children and young adults between the ages of 7-18 who have histories of severe trauma, abuse and neglect. Because of their past experience, the clients placed in this program are in need of a highly structured, 24-hour-a-day treatment facility to address the behavioral and emotional difficulties that surround their previous exposure to trauma and abuse.

“Donny is a perfect example of our vision. Every day, he demonstrates his leadership qualities through his positive attitude, strong work ethic, and his accomplishments. He is a wonderful role model for our young clients.”

—Tom Vanden Berk,
UCAN President & CEO





From left; Eddie Bland IV, Shena Jones, Julie and Jeff Diermeier, Andrew Zoll, and Christopher McCollum, Jr.

2010 Youth Advocacy Awards

An Evening to Honor Our Future Leaders

For more than a decade, UCAN has been hosting its annual Youth Advocacy Awards Dinner, an evening dedicated to the academic and personal achievements of UCAN's youth. Dinner guests have the chance to learn more about UCAN and to see our vision come to life. We are thrilled to announce that this year's 11th annual event raised \$703,482! Thank you to those of you who helped us reach this goal.

It was truly an extraordinary evening: guests enjoyed a cocktail reception, silent auction, and dinner, followed by acceptance speeches by our award winners. We were thrilled to have U.S. Cellular once again partner with us for this fabulous event and pleased to have the chance to salute a great champion of UCAN, retired CEO of U.S. Cellular Jack Rooney, for his unwavering commitment to our programs and vision. We also had the opportunity to pay tribute to Richard Driehaus, this year's Corporate Honoree, for his philanthropic spirit and his commitment to giving back to the community.

The true purpose of the Youth Advocacy Awards Dinner is to recognize the terrific young women and men who are part of UCAN and to honor their achievements. Our impressive scholarship recipients have worked hard to overcome obstacles and bring our vision to life: **youth who have suffered trauma can become our future leaders!** This year's winners are:

Greishen Rodriguez, our John E. Rooney Dynamic Scholar, has been in UCAN's **High School to College** program for five years. Greishen has enrolled in Northeastern Illinois University and plans to study Social Work.

Eddie Bland IV is committed to impacting the lives of others and advocating for those who are less fortunate. He has been a **Young Leaders Development Institute** participant

since eighth grade, and will attend the University of Illinois this year.

Johnetta Fort is part of UCAN's **Professional Foster Parenting** program in Cook County and she firmly believes that it is important to serve others throughout one's life. She has spent time volunteering, and her passion to assist carries over into her career aspirations of becoming a veterinarian.

Shena Jones recognized from a very early age that there were significantly negative influences in the world around her, and she has worked hard to insulate herself from the harm these influences might cause. Shena participates in UCAN's **FamilyWorks** program and plans to attend the University of Illinois this year.

Christopher McCollum, Jr. is one of four youth leaders in his **Project Visible Man** group, and has been called upon to represent the group in multiple UCAN forums. He enjoys leading by example, and intends to pursue an education in math or engineering at Northern Illinois University.

Andrew Zoll hopes to dedicate his future to helping both adolescent and adult populations. He is a part of UCAN's **Professional Foster Parenting** program in Lake County and will attend Illinois State University this year, where he is considering studying psychology or psychiatry.

The event was once again emceed by Ms. LeeAnn Trotter of NBC5 Chicago, and for the second year in a row, Jeff and Julie Diermeier acted as the chairs of this event. Our esteemed Vice Chairs included Yasmin Bates-Brown, Keith Cardoza, Chris Gardner, Ron Gidwitz, John E. Rooney, Kai Sotorp and David Vitale. Thank you to both Michael McDermott and UCAN's own Uhlich Voices for providing the wonderful musical entertainment!

DOUBLE Your Impact!

Did you know that there is a way for you to double your donation to UCAN at no additional cost to you? It's true. Many employers today offer what is known as a matching gift program. The idea is that when you contribute to UCAN, your company may match your gift to us with a donation of their own, often dollar for dollar. Some companies may even donate gifts to match their employees' volunteer hours. In effect, your contribution and support for UCAN is actually doubled!

A matching gift donation from your employer allows them to contribute to the community where they do business, where their employees live and where the community needs it most. One of UCAN's longtime partners is U.S. Cellular. Their company and employees have supported our vision that youth who have suffered trauma can become future leaders in the form of volunteer work, donations, and matching gifts.

"At U.S. Cellular, we believe that giving is personal. Our associates are passionate about giving back to the community and supporting amazing organizations like UCAN that help so many deserving young people. We're proud to double the impact of our associates' contributions. We believe everyone has the power to help build stronger communities." —Karen Ehlers, VP, Public Affairs & Communications, U.S. Cellular

How do you get started? Matching gift procedures vary from employer to employer, so the best thing would be to visit your human resources department to see if your employer has a matching gifts program. If so, then obtain their matching gifts form, which should have step-by-step instructions on what to do. If we can help, just give us a call!

Thank you to those of our donors who already solicit matching gifts for UCAN— we greatly appreciate your support! Please feel free to contact Nina Kobilca, Development Assistant, at 773-290-5867 if you would like to match a recent gift or if you have any additional questions.



Have you considered leaving UCAN a gift in your estate?

Leaving a gift to UCAN in your estate plans is a wonderful way to support Chicago's youth and families. With a planned gift, you can combine your desire to give to charity with your overall financial, tax and estate planning goals. You'll also be leaving behind a legacy for years to follow. There are multiple ways to include UCAN in your plans, and we would greatly appreciate your support. Your financial advisor would be best suited to consult with you on your plans, but if you'd like more information on how to support UCAN with a planned gift, please contact Rebecca Faulk, Director of Development, at 773-290-5086 or faulkr@ucanchicago.org.

THANK YOU

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UPCOMING EVENTS

September 17th

Signature Leader's Society
Breakfast with Senator
Dan Kotowski

October 10th

Bank of America
Chicago Marathon

October 21st

Baubles, Bangles, and Bubbles
Jewelry Fundraiser, hosted by
Alper Services

November 27th

94.7 WLS-FM Dick Biondi
Holiday Toy Drive, Stratford
Square Mall

For more information on any of these events, please visit www.ucanchicago.org.

A comprehensive approach to supporting Chicago's students

Last year UCAN successfully launched its **360° Model**, a school-based program that works with students, teachers and families to recognize the impact of violence and trauma in order to create safety and healing for students in schools. Through a range of services, UCAN seeks to empower students, build resilience and hope, and enable students to learn. This also helps to prevent future violence, strengthen communities and build future leaders.

The goal of the 360° Model is to support students so that they are safe and succeed in school. By offering truly comprehensive child and family-focused services situated within an educational setting year after year, we will have a unique ability to maintain ongoing relationships with these youth, further enhancing impact.

Program components include:

- **Hands Without Guns:** Classroom-based violence interruption workshops
- **Project Visible Man and Phenomenal Woman:** After school group mentoring programs for young men and women of color
- **Trauma Intervention:** Counseling and therapy for individuals and families
- **HomeWorks:** At-home and in-school engagement of both students and their families to resolve issues and

promote student success in school

- **Violence Prevention Advocacy:** Education by students for students, families, school personnel and the public about violence prevention issues
- **Teacher Training and Consultation:** In-service training for teaching staff on exposure to trauma

"[360°] has shown me that I can let some things go and go with the flow. When [the Project Visible Man leader] talks, he is telling us what is real and I listen. With me talking to [the clinical social worker] about my losses, it has really helped me. It has given me an opportunity to let it out instead of holding it in."

—O, high school junior

UCAN piloted its 360° Model in partnership with the Academy of Urban School Leadership (AUSL), whose mission is to improve student achievement in Chicago's high-poverty, chronically failing schools through its disciplined transformation process, built on a foundation of specially trained AUSL teachers. When explaining AUSL's approach to improving education,

David Vitale, Chairman of AUSL's Board since 2007, says, "The execution of some basic fundamentals is probably most important in helping to improve our schools." In 2010/11, AUSL will have 19 schools running in Chicago, three of which currently utilize UCAN's 360° Model.

The bulk of AUSL schools are located in areas where violence is prevalent, which has been proven to be a major barrier to youth education. David, who is also a UCAN President's Board member, says, "Not all educators are well-trained in dealing with issues of violence and trauma. Even if they are, this can be a distraction from their main task of teaching. This is why a partnership with UCAN makes perfect sense; it will make the school more effective."

UCAN's 360° Model currently operates in Collins Academy High School, Bethune School of Excellence, and Johnson School of Excellence, all located in Chicago's North Lawndale community. UCAN plans to expand the 360° Model to other AUSL schools as well as Chicago Public Schools in the future.

To learn more about AUSL, please visit www.ausl-chicago.org.



TURNING AROUND SCHOOLS



President's Board Corner

David Vitale's accomplishments could fill a novel, from banking to advising the Chicago Public Schools for \$1 a year to being awarded the 2006 Distinguished Public Service/Public Sector Alumni Award. David recently added UCAN to his impressive list of service, joining our President's Board.

When asked why he is involved with UCAN, David shared his strong belief in community investment, particularly in the social service arena. He commends UCAN for its history and leadership, the latter being an element which David feels is critical to an organization's success. David believes strongly in human capital investment, and says that leadership needs to be supported by a strong system which includes the recruitment of and investment in talented staff. If organizations, including schools, can do this, then results will follow.

It is clear that quality leadership is a critical component of AUSL's model, one which is exemplified by its Board Chairman. UCAN is privileged to have David's leadership on its President's Board and his active participation in our future.



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Meet this year's **STARS**



STARS, or Striving to Achieve Realistic Success, is a career development and leadership program for alumni of the child welfare system. The STARS program is designed to create career focus through job development and leadership training programs for those 20-23 years of age. Program components include career development, internal and external trainings, public presentation, exposure outings, and community outreach.

James Clark is twenty one years old and currently lives with his wife and two year old daughter. He attended Kennedy King College for two years to complete his prerequisites, and has since been accepted into the Mortuary Science program at Malcolm X College. Before becoming a STAR, he was a part of UCAN's **Transitional and Independent Living Programs** for two years. UCAN's Transitional Living Program aims to assist youth in a supervised setting to enhance their skills in developing healthy, supportive relationships and reaching self sufficiency.

Christine Buckner is twenty one years old and a junior attending University of Illinois at Chicago. She is majoring in Criminal Justice with a minor in Black Studies, and she hopes to become a U.S. Marshal someday. Before becoming a STAR, Christine was in UCAN's **Independent Living Program**, which aims to provide clients with the skills, support and resources necessary for emancipation from DCFS care.

Angel Cook is twenty one years old and attended Kennedy King College for a semester, taking classes in Early Childhood Education. She enjoys interacting with younger youth and hopes to serve as a role model for UCAN youth. As a former client of UCAN's **Transitional and Independent Living Programs**, Angel is thrilled to now be one of UCAN's STARS.

To read more about this year's STARS and see what last year's STARS are doing, please visit our website www.ucanchicago.org.