

Get involved

- Donate
- Volunteer
- Mentor a youth
- Attend one of our events
- Consider leaving UCAN a gift in your estate
- Help us develop collaborations and partnerships
- Plan your travel through www.ytbtravel.com/ucan1869
- Network with us on Facebook or www.Actofgood.org
- Spread the news about UCAN and its work
- Join our monthly email newsletter list
- Contact your legislator about issues affecting UCAN services

For more information and to find out how you can help, please visit our website at www.ucanchicago.org.

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UCAN is a 501(c)3 organization



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



UCAN—Answering the call

UCAN believes that we all have a voice and the right to realize our full potential.



When President Abraham Lincoln called on the men of Chicago to defend the Union during the Civil War, he also called on the nation to care for the war's orphans. The members of St. Pauls United Church of Christ answered that call. Their dedication to the cause is the seed of UCAN (formerly known as Uhlich Children's Advantage Network). Beginning as an orphanage, we have become a multi-faceted social service agency providing a safe harbor to orphaned, neglected and abused youth, children, and families. Our vision guides us in supporting more than 12,000 children, youth, and families a year in a nurturing environment that can promote healing, provide education, and help to prevent violence.

With fourteen sites in six counties, we have expanded our geographic reach while continuing to be a social service leader in treatment and therapy options through our clinical philosophy.

Unique among social service agencies, we offer a full continuum of services including but not limited to a residential treatment facility, a therapeutic day school, extensive community programs, support for pregnant or parenting teens, foster care/adoption placement, vocational training, and internships for promising former wards of the state. This array of services enables us to move clients from one program to another as their needs change, yet spares them the transitions and gaps caused by moves from one agency to another.

Why UCAN is needed

UCAN's mission

is to build strong youth and families through compassionate healing, education and empowerment.



CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- 258,237 hotline calls were placed in suspicion of child abuse or neglect in Illinois in fiscal year 2009
- 15,780 Illinois children lived outside of their home due to abuse or neglect in fiscal year 2009

HOMELESSNESS

- There were 24,968 unaccompanied homeless youth up to age 21 in Illinois in 2004
- As many as 20-40% of homeless youth in Illinois identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender

TEEN PREGNANCY

- In 2003, 17,670 (9.7%) of births were to girls 19 years of age or younger

HIGH SCHOOL DROPOUTS

- In Illinois in 2005-06, 24,983 students dropped out of high school

GUN VIOLENCE

- From 1999 to 2006, 3,369 children and youth were killed by guns in Illinois
- Firearms are the second leading cause of injury death for young people in Illinois

INCARCERATION

- In fiscal year 2005, 2,771 juveniles were admitted to the Illinois Department of Corrections

**Please see our website for information sources and more statistics.*



How we help

HEALING TRAUMA

Programs designed to help people heal from trauma and improve the skills needed in adulthood.

- Clinical & Counseling Services
- Professional Foster Parenting
- Residential Treatment Center
- Teen Parent Service Network
- Transitional Teen Services

EDUCATING CHILDREN & FAMILIES

Programs designed to educate children in a traditional setting and families in a variety of settings.

- Uhlich Academy & High School
- High School to College
- Career Services
 - Alumni Services
 - S.T.A.R.S.
- FamilyWorks
- Family Habilitative Services
- Foster Grandparents Program
- High Risk Infant Program
- HomeWorks
- Parent & Family Education Classes
- Parents Anonymous®

PREVENTING VIOLENCE THROUGH EMPOWERMENT

Programs designed to empower young people to create life-changing opportunities that ensure safer futures.

- Hands Without Guns
- Project Visible Man
- Phenomenal Woman
- Young Leaders Development Institute
- Uhlich Voices
- Youth Against Violence - Lake County
- Volunteer Program/Mentoring



“UCAN was my backbone while overcoming obstacles and getting through tough situations that I faced growing up. UCAN continues to help push me to want to succeed in life and to strive for a better tomorrow.”

—Reba Misters, former client and current employee



“I joined UCAN’s Advisory Board because UCAN is an organization which helps children to regain hope. Hope allows one to believe that he or she can reach the dreams he or she strives to attain.”

—Kamiar Vossoughi, Director and Wealth Advisor, Harris Private Bank