



The Underprivileged Children Foundation

helpWVkids.org

A YEAR IN REVIEW FOR 2019

Annual Newsletter

May 2020

Making an Impact: Our Mission to Serve

The Underprivileged Children Foundation (UCF) was established in 2016 by native West Virginians with more than 50 combined years of witnessing and assisting impoverished families. With a mission to "enhance and advance the lives of West Virginia families in need," we set out to make a difference one family at a time.

We are continuing to stay true to our mission by servicing our State's most vulnerable population. From purchasing beds and other necessities for children and families living in poverty, to continuing efforts for our overall goal of providing in home therapy, UCF has not slowed down our momentum this year. You may have seen us in your communities at events, on news broadcasts promoting our vision, or perhaps on TV making our mission known to community leaders and members. We want to yell from the mountaintops of this great State that we are here to help, to lead and to empower!

Did you know West Virginia is ranked 48th in Economic Well-Being according to The Annie E. Casey Foundation? We have approximately 94,000 or 26% of children living in poverty in our state. **One in five** children struggles with childhood hunger due to poverty. Our current opioid crisis has only

exacerbated this problem. That's why we're here. We provide support, services and other needs to families whose children fall into that 26% and we need your help to continue.

Sticking to Our Roots

We're proud of our roots. We're proud of the amazing things we've done in our short 4 years. Here are some community activities we've participated in over the past year.



In July 2019 we were a sponsor of the 9th Annual Jason Taylor Memorial Golf Tournament hosted by Mark Boggs.

August 2019 brought some exciting press coverage and a repeat partnership with Mountain State Harley Davidson for their "Ride for Underprivileged Children."



With the beginning of a new school year, came our **Back to School Campaign**. So



many children go without the basic things they need to start the school year off on the right foot. Our friends at Huntington Federal Bank were vital in our efforts. Because of them, and others, we were able to make sure children started their first day with everything they needed to be successful.

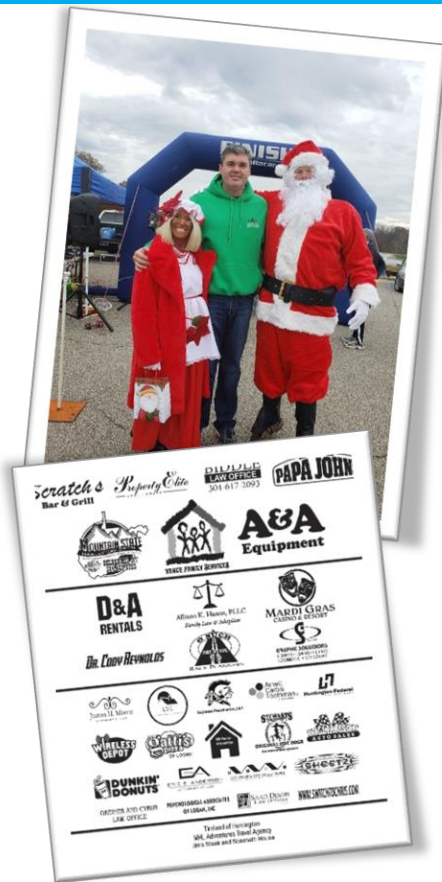


November brought a time of giving and a sense of community. Our December to Remember campaign was in full force, as was our community presence. **"Make Some Noise for Toys"** proved to be fun and rewarding!



"Chalk it up for Children" was arguably our most entertaining event. Pizza, popsicles, music, good friends and of course, children. The children from the PRO Kids Afterschool Program of Piedmont Elementary teamed up with local artist, Rob Cleland, to make some very special artwork. Those in attendance could see the pride in the children's faces when their artwork was purchased for our cause. You could really FEEL the joy and excitement in the atmosphere.

"HoHoHustle: Chilly morning air, hot chocolate, Howard's Hot Dogs, Dunkin' donuts, and 100 people decked out in their craziest Christmas attire: Barbourville Park was THE place to be for our 3rd Annual HoHoHustle! Runners (and walkers) gathered for a good time with Santa and Mrs. Claus for a great cause. Directed by Tri-State Racer, 100% of the proceeds went to our "December to Remember" campaign.



items needed to have a traditional Christmas feast.

With the help of our communities, our "elves" and YOU, we continue to bring back all the wonderment of Christmas every year.

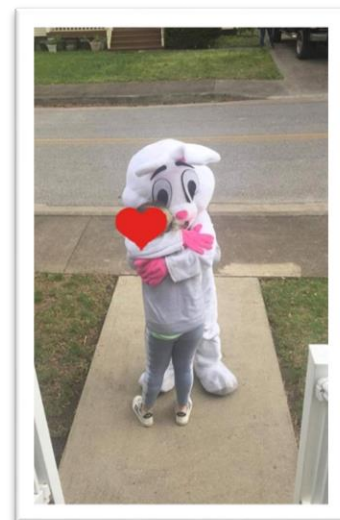


A December to Remember

Our "December to Remember" campaign is one that's dear to our hearts. So many of the community events and fundraisers are done just to help make smiles brighter on Christmas morning. With our "can-do" attitude and a little help from our community friends, we were able to provide gifts for more than 600 children this year! Just think of the joy on those 600+ faces on Christmas morning!

Those who think Christmas is just about getting gifts, a jolly guy in a red suit and buying the next big thing could not be more wrong. Here at UCF, we believe in the magic of Christmas and the innocence of children. All children should get to experience the excitement of Christmas and learn it's a season of giving. So many of the families we have helped in our "December to Remember" campaign have struggled to provide basic needs for their children. Providing a magical Christmas is just something they cannot afford. Our little "elves" have been known to not only deliver gifts for each child in a struggling family, but also Christmas Trees, decorations and

Operation Easter Basket



Easter came at a troubling time this year. COVID-19 had effectively shut down our world as we know it. Stay home orders were in place, people were scared and anxious. One thing that didn't change was the love of

the Easter Bunny. After raising funds and accepting donations, numerous volunteers put baskets together and delivered them to area

children. Some volunteers even dressed up like the rabbit himself, spreading a little joy during an otherwise troubling time.

Yelling it from Mountaintops

While UFC may be “young”, our experience and dedication bring wisdom to our organization. We were given many opportunities to show the community who we are, and we loved every one of them! Several press releases have been made on local television stations, radio stations and at events. We want everyone to know about us and the amazing things we’re doing.

One such opportunity came from our friend and board member, Jim Strawn. Our Children, Our Future is a public access TV show which highlights resources and people giving back to their communities. We were excited to be a guest on

the show to tell people what we do. Now, the show informs the community of our local events and news about our organization. Our Children, Our Future reaches over 3,000 people on Suddenlink’s public access channel 17 at 12pm during the week.

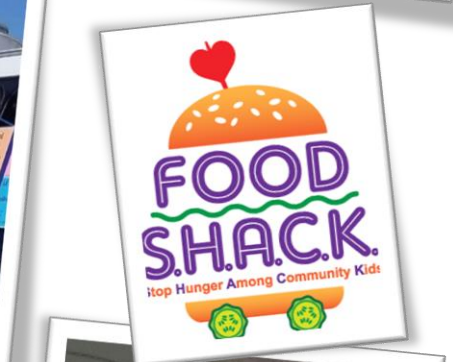
The Food S.H.A.C.K.

UCF has been hard at work again, making a difference one child (or several) at a time. Our newest ambition: The Food S.H.A.C.K. (Stop Hunger Among Community Kids). Our goal is simple: feed as many impoverished children daily with our food truck.

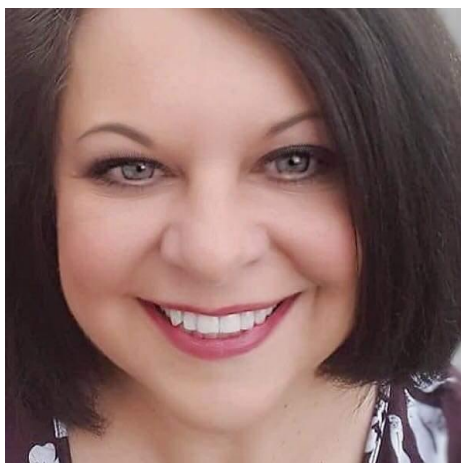
Have you ever been hungry? Sure, we all have. But childhood hunger is different. Most of us can simply eat when we are hungry. Some children in our communities can’t do that. Imagine feeling that way every single day. It’s hard to concentrate, to focus, on anything.



Children cannot learn and develop appropriately if they’re hungry. With the recent purchase of our food truck, we can help eradicate hunger among our community children, by taking the food directly to where it is needed most. Hot meals will be prepared and handed out in our most impoverished areas, beginning with Kanawha County.



Friendly Faces



Donna Eleo

UCF is proud to announce the addition of our newest team member! Donna Eleo is an Approved Licensed Professional Supervisor and Counselor and Licensed Social Worker in both WV and Ohio. She is also a Certified Addictions Counselor with supervision endorsement in WV. She graduated in 1989 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Counseling Psychology with a double minor in Youth Counseling and Christian Counseling from Liberty University in Lynchburg, VA. In 1995, Ms. Eleo completed her Masters of Arts Degree in Community Agency Counseling with a concentration in Marriage & Family Counseling from Marshall University in Huntington, WV.

She has had the joy of working in the counseling field for over 25 years in multiple settings which have included home based, school based, private practice, inpatient, outpatient and residential detox. Additionally, she has served as a graduate level adjunct professor at an Ohio university. Her passions include her clinical work, as well as providing supervision to new clinicians and program development. Donna will continue her passion while with UCF by providing therapy and supervision to other therapists as a part of our in-home therapy program.

Kim Hughes

For the past 22 years Kimberly Hughes has been seeking to make a difference in the lives of her patients. As a clinical psychologist she specializes in encouraging her patients to find their purpose in life. Her motto is to treat through self help and support whenever possible. She was inspired to enter the field of psychology after witnessing the lack of mental health services in her state and the negative stigma that was attached to Mental health services. She then made it her priority to ensure future generations would have access to counseling therapy and mental wellness options that would enable them to grow as a community.

Kimberly graduated from Marshall University with her master's in clinical psychology. As a clinical psychologist she can treat children, adolescents as well as the adult population. After graduating she took her West Virginia licensing exam and became a licensed clinical psychologist in 1996. Her first job as a clinical psychologist was at Shawnee Hills mental Health Center where she practiced as a psychologist working with developmental disabilities of patients that receive services through title 19 waiver program. In this position she became a developmental specialist, brain injury specialist and she served on the waiver selection committee to approve new waiver recipients that were qualified and met eligibility criteria to receive intense services within their home and community. In addition to working as a developmental specialist Kimberly worked as the clinical director of the outpatient crisis program at Shawnee Hills. In this position she worked with adults that had severe mental health issues that required intense intervention.

After working many years at Shawnee Hills the company closed due to bankruptcy and Kimberly then opened up her own private practice located in Charleston West Virginia to continue to provide intense services to her patients.

Currently she is employed as a clinical psychologist through Psi med Inc. Psi-Med provides clinical services to correctional facilities and community-based programs for juveniles as



well as adults. Kimberly currently provides services for juveniles that are involved in the court system in Boone Lincoln and Logan Counties. She works closely with the court system and the juvenile detention centers. She also provides clinical supervision to supervised psychologists to assist with their expanding their treatment and services in the field of psychology.

In the past 24 years Kim has seen well over 800 patients and assisted them through a variety of situations including depression, mental illness addiction, legal issues, IQ testing and multi-dimensional services to the whole family.

She offers careful and compassionate therapy with focus on understanding and connecting with the patient in a non-judge mental approach. Kim possesses the ability to stay in close relationship with patients that were seen in the past to ensure they are recovering and continue to be healthy.

Kim is motivated by the success of her patients and fosters bonds of her relationships to ensure that her practice is therapeutic as well as comprehended to all patients that she is serving. Her approach to meeting all these challenges is with an incredibly positive attitude and in a non-judgmental environment for good problem-solving skills. She is sincere and personable with her approach and thrives on the relationships she develops. She will go the extra mile to make sure her patients succeed in a therapeutic environment

Exciting News

In 2020, our world is electronically charged. Everything must have a social media presence and an amazing website! A special thank you to Lindsey Crittendon for designing our new and improved website! At www.helpwvkids.org you will find information about us, our mission and our people. You can also browse employment opportunities and see what we're up to next. As our website says, "It takes a village" and if you're interested in joining our "village," you just have to click on our website.

This year came with a few firsts for us. We're learning a lot while on this journey and continue to learn and plan every day. One of our most exciting firsts comes from the Pallottine Foundation of Huntington. We are a proud recipient of a \$4,600 grant offered to increase our electronic presence. With that grant, we vamped our website and have continue increasing our social media presence. You can find us on Facebook and see all the wonderful things we do and all the amazing individuals who help us do what we love: helping community children.

The Year Ahead

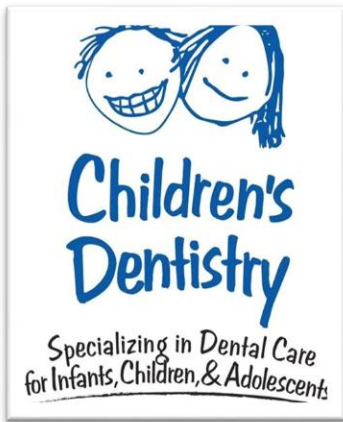
With a phenomenally successful 2019 behind us, we're gearing up for an even better 2020.

As we prepare to launch our in-home therapy services (coming summer 2020), we reflect on how much help it's taken us to get here. An incredibly special "Thank you" to Tommy Bailey, our Executive Director, for working non-stop to bring this vision to fruition.

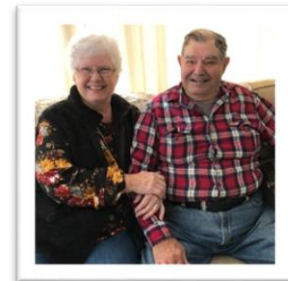
With so many children becoming victims to our horrible opioid epidemic, they need us more than ever. Trauma focused therapy, Therapists specializing in children and families, as well as general mental health, we look forward to becoming the shining light in a state shrouded in the darkness of substance abuse. We have so many children who are hungry and suffering. Our Food S.H.A.C.K. program can put us right in the areas where it is needed most. We know our state statistics do not define our hearts. We may make national headlines due to our struggles, but no one can match the resilience of a Mountaineer!

Hometown Heroes

UCF could never do the things we do without the help of our community friends. Giving hearts who want to help us obtain our goals and stay true to our mission. These heroes have allowed us to continue our aspirations to improve our communities. Without their generous donations and time, none of our goals could be reached. Please remember to consider their generosity when you need something they provide.



Pallottine Foundation



The Dugan Family



Webb Law Centre





Vance Family Services



Vinyl Graphix of West Virginia



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For more information about UCF or to donate, find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/helpWVkids.org or visit our website at www.helpwvkids.org