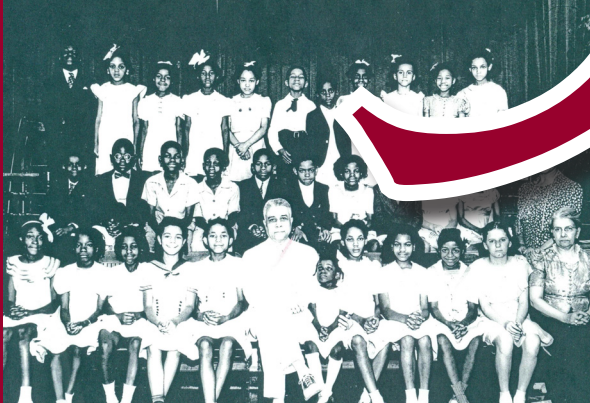


Annual Report 2013

Celebrating



Years

From the President of the Board



It has been an exciting and fulfilling year here at United Neighborhood Centers. Celebrating 90 years of service has given us a chance to reflect on how we have evolved from a small neighborhood gathering and support organization to the far-reaching services we now provide. At the basis of all we do is the desire to continue to serve the neediest populations and to help people achieve self-sufficiency. It has also been a time to consider where the needs are now and how United Neighborhood Centers can continue to fulfill those needs. This year's special programs were a step in that direction as we examined the relationship between poverty and health, examined what living in poverty means, and started to plan ways to address the issues we have discovered.

As President of the Board of Directors, it has been an honor and a pleasure to help to celebrate this special anniversary. I am proud of the many new programs and projects instituted this year-- from the development of our new Cabrini Center for the Arts for at-risk youth, to new wellness programs for girls in our daycare centers, to trips and special events for our seniors, and to the start of new, affordable housing units in South Scranton.

There will never be a shortage of tasks or challenges to be met for the hard-working staff of UNC, but with the continued help of our many funders and you, our wonderful donors, we know that we will be here another 90 years, still looking at how to best serve the people who rely on us.

Sincerely,

Kevin E. Rogers
Kevin E. Rogers

“
This agency is a beacon of light for thousands of low-income people in our area... my heart will always be with U.N.C.
”
Dawn Brennan,
Executive Director
1976-1995

In 1923, a group of African-American community members from the Bethel A.M.E. Church gathered at a christening party and formed the idea to create a center for children, youth and adults of all races, colors and creeds in their neighborhood. Thus, the Progressive Recreation and Social Service Association was formed and received its first Community Chest appropriation in 1926.

Meanwhile, in 1925, 22 civic organizations came together with Bertha MacNeill as their director to form Big Sisters, which would eventually move to Railroad Avenue in the Bellevue section of Scranton and become the Bellevue Community Center. For the following fifty years, these two organizations worked separately, yet toward a common goal – to better their communities by uniting neighbors. It wasn't until 1970 that these two agencies officially came together to form United Neighborhood Services of Lackawanna County under the direction of Norman Stanton.

Expansion of United Neighborhood Services began almost immediately with renovations to the Progressive Center. UNC's childcare programs began in the early 1970's to provide services for working parents. Under the direction of Dawn Brennan in 1977, the senior center programs were added. In the 1980's the childcare program was expanded to include a new center location in Green Ridge. In 2007, United Neighborhood Centers of Lackawanna County officially changed its name to United Neighborhood Centers of Northeastern Pennsylvania to better represent the six counties it serves. In 2011, UNC merged with SCOLA to provide adult literacy education services.

Since 1995 under the leadership of Michael Hanley, the agency has continued to grow exponentially, always keeping its fundamental ideology in mind – to improve the quality of life for neighbors and empower individuals to build strong interdependent communities. Today, UNC operates 10 centers and over 20 programs through five programmatic departments and a community development corporation.



“UNC has provided hope to generations of residents through effective, relevant and compassionate programs and services to those who are most in need.”

Michael Hanley,
Executive Director
1995-Present





90th Anniversary Planning Committee Chair: Andrew Hailstone

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Throughout 2013, United Neighborhood Centers was excited to celebrate and honor its history as part of the agency's 90th anniversary. UNC's beginnings date back to 1923 when a small settlement house was opened in central city Scranton along with a center in the Bellevue area of Scranton. Today, UNC operates over 20 programs and has 10 locations throughout Lackawanna County.

Over the course of the past year, a number of events have been held in honor of this milestone. One of the main focuses of 2013 was to look at the intersection of poverty and poor health. On May 1, UNC collaborated with The Commonwealth Medical College to host its first special event, "Poverty & Poor Health-Changing the Equation". This was a community forum that allowed a discussion about the correlations between being poor and having poor health. Sondra Myers moderated a panel that consisted of nationally-recognized speakers Dr. Buz Cooper, Tine Hansen-Turton and Mariana Garrettson. Over 100 community members, including those from the medical arena, attended the event. A great community conversation began as a result of this event, and in 2014, UNC plans to begin a community health initiative.

UNC held a celebration on June 11 at the Scranton Cultural Center to premiere a video documentary on the agency, as well as to officially launch a capital campaign to support the Cabrini Center for the Arts. Senator Robert Casey and Austin Burke stepped up to honorary co-chair this worthy initiative. The agency worked diligently throughout the year with a Founders Committee to raise \$400,000 for this project.

On September 13, in partnership with the University of Scranton and PNC Bank, UNC coordinated a poverty simulation that was host to over 75 local community leaders, students and staff. The simulation was meant for participants to experience what it is like to live a month in poverty. Each participant was given a role for the day— be that a small child with ADD, a grandmother raising her grandchildren, or a homeless, single mother. The day was split into four 15 minute sessions each meant to represent a week in time. Participants had to earn money, pay bills and take their children to school, among many other activities. After the simulation was over, Father Quinn of the University addressed the crowd and an informative and lively Q&A was held where those taking part voiced their frustrations on how hard it was to "survive". A follow-up session was held with participants in November.

Lastly, United Neighborhood Centers celebrated the conclusion of its 90th anniversary year with a dinner celebration and awards ceremony at the Scranton Cultural Center on December 5. We were honored to host past Executive Directors, including Norman Stanton and Dawn Brennan, past board members, and past employees of the agency. The night featured a keynote presentation by Susan Dreyfus, the President/CEO of the Alliance for Children and Families. Additionally, awards were presented to Senator John Blake (Visionary Leader Award), Andrew Hailstone (Jane Addams Service Award), and PNC Bank (Community Cornerstone Award).

Thank you to everyone who attended and took part in all of the events throughout 2013. Here's to another successful 90 years!

Food Centers' 90th Anniversary



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 Anonqmous
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*as of 12/17/2015



The Cabrini

One of the most exciting new projects begun this year was the establishment of a capital campaign to support the Cabrini Center for the Arts. The campaign will support UNC in its mission to develop a state-of-the-art center for at-risk youth to experience the arts. This center will expand upon the agency's already existing Illumination Youth Arts program that has been in place for over a decade.

As we began to see important changes and development of our young people involved in photography, writing, and dance classes, among others, we noticed that the programs were having an effect on all aspects of their lives—they were improving their grades, improving their behavior at school and at home, attending school more regularly, and beginning to see a new and better future for themselves.

The Cabrini Center for the Arts is a response to these changes. The West Side Community Center, located at 1004 Jackson Street in Scranton, will be transformed with a new and improved auditorium/theater, upgraded and new restrooms, and plenty of cosmetic improvements. The goal is to create a home for arts and creativity. Programs to be offered will include dance, theater, art installations, photography, creative writing, a teen book club, culinary arts, pottery, songwriting, poetry, and video production.

This project is being funded solely by donations. The fundraising is being spearheaded by a Founders Committee, led by board member Thaddeus Kenny. The goal is to raise \$400,000 to complete the first phase of the project, and we are well on our way thanks to the donors you see on this page. There will also be a Steering Committee formed to oversee the programming of the center with a number of local artists and writers participating. UNC is still accepting donations, and if you are interested in getting involved with this exciting project, please contact the agency today.



Founders Committee
Honorary Co-Chairs: Senator Robert Casey & Austin Burke
Chair: Thaddeus Kenny

Elizabeth Burns
Ida Castro
Phillip Condon
Dr. Peter Cupple
Ruth Gerrity

Michael Gilmartin
Dr. Dan Ginsberg
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Andrew Hailstone
Dave Hawk

Ruth Koelwyn
Jude McDonough
Morey Myers
Sondra Myers
Jane Oppenheim

John Palumbo
Kevin Rogers
Bill & Dede Tersteeg
Debbie Trichel
Jane Yeomans

Cabrini Center for the Arts Capital Campaign



Cedar Avenue revitalization project breaks ground on next stage

Take a drive down Cedar Avenue in Scranton and you will see the current changes being made through our Community Development Corporation. The agency is currently in the process of adding a total of 40 housing units to the area. The first phase of this initiative was the construction of the Willow Apartments which was completed in 2012. The second phase of this development, which will build six new townhomes, will be available as home-ownership opportunities in 2014.

The next phase of this initiative, which broke ground in October, is a 30 unit apartment community that is currently under construction. This phase will transform multiple properties on Cedar Avenue and Alder Street with a mix of one, two, and three bedroom units that will stretch over nine buildings. This final phase of development will be completed in the fall of 2014. In total, over \$15 million is being invested with both adaptive reuse of buildings and new construction.



Hunger need reached highest demand yet

The past twelve months have proved to be a struggle to put a meal on the table for many individuals and families. Angel's Attic, UNC's food and clothing bank, saw an increasing demand for food throughout 2013. There were often times when shelves went almost bare because of the growing population in need. The food pantry alone served over 22,000 people throughout Lackawanna County. Additionally, the agency's annual Thanksgiving Feed-a-Friend Program saw its highest numbers in years, aiding over 1,700 families with a holiday meal. Of those served, over 25% were first-time recipients of the program. Thankfully, many area

businesses and organizations stepped up to hold food drives for Angel's Attic and helped keep a supply of items in the pantry. With high unemployment rates and families struggling, the hunger need in the community will only continue.



SCOLA helps celebrate new U.S. citizens; expands class offerings



Twelve new Americans, all students of the SCOLA Learning Center, received their citizenship in 2013. The new citizens hail from countries such as Russia, China and the Dominican Republic. All new citizens were given a certificate from Senator Robert Casey and an American

flag. These adult students worked with the agency to learn English, attending classes and tutoring sessions while holding down jobs.

The popularity of the SCOLA Learning Center and its classes continues to increase, even though the programming is short on funding and is run mostly through the dedication of community volunteers and tutors. Last year, over 225 students from 29 countries took part in classes. Additionally, a career awareness class was added and the Language Partnership program is expanding beyond Spanish by introducing new languages such as Russian, Mandarin and Arabic.

Childcare centers focus on wellness

The agency operates three childcare centers throughout Lackawanna County- Bellevue, Progressive and Green Ridge. Beginning in 2012, the childcare centers began a wellness initiative for young girls called "GoGirlsGo" courtesy of a grant from the Women's Sports Foundation. Young girls from all three centers were able to participate in activities such as dance, rock climbing, volleyball and taekwondo. The program also focused on self-esteem and healthy eating. UNC has received additional funding for 2014, when swimming and baton twirling will be introduced.



Elm St. Farmers' Market experiences growth

The South Side Farmers' Market at the Scranton Iron Furnaces opened for its fourth year in 2013. The market first opened in 2010 at Connors Park in South Side and only had five vendors and minimal attendance. Beginning in 2012, the Elm Street team decided to move the market to a more visible location with better parking, and since then, the initiative has really taken off. The market attracted an average of 232 visitors each week, and almost all the vendors were sold out by the end of the day during the peak selling months. Eleven vendors participated in the market, and a variety of items were sold including produce, wine, meat/dairy products, herbs, locally made honey, cheese, and baked goods. The South Side Farmers' Market looks forward to continued growth in the following year.



“UNC is a sign of hope for those who have lost hope.”

Monsignor Joseph Kelly,
Former Board Member &
Founder of Project Hope

Community health program to begin in 2014

Over the course of 2013, as part of our 90th Anniversary Celebration, we highlighted the relationship between poverty and health in our community. Many of the families and individuals we serve have chronic health issues which can be traced to their lack of financial resources. The absence of health insurance has been identified as just one cause of this dilemma. A lack of resources to pay co-pays or buy prescriptions, a lack of transportation to medical appointments and a lack of sick time at work are just a few of the issues that contribute to a delay in access to health care resulting in the exacerbation of manageable health issues. Other factors include inadequate and unsafe housing, infestation and an inability to access healthy foods.

In the next year we will be working to mitigate these issues for many of the families and individuals we serve. For the first time we will be hiring medical staff to act as a bridge between an individual's primary care physician and neighborhood based supports. Through this new program we will be able to coordinate the services we have offered for generations, community based social services with medical care, partnering with medical institutions and care providers. These partnerships will allow us to provide more comprehensive programs and services to those most in need in our community. Through this initiative we will be able to increase the number of people living safe and healthy lives, put people on pathways for educational and employment success, reduce the cost of health care in our community, and reduce the number of people living in poverty.



Successful fundraisers help aid Angel's Attic & the SCOLA Learning Center

2013 kicked off with our annual Mardi Gras Celebration at the Radisson in Scranton. In addition to gaming tables and fortune tellers, the theme this year was continued into the meal itself by adding a New Orleans flair. We also welcomed Mount Airy Casino and Resort as a new partner and sponsor to the event. The event helped to raise funds to support Angels Attic, UNC's emergency food and clothing bank.

The highlight of the fall is always the Chocoholic Frolic. Fourteen varied vendors participated in this year's ninth annual event. Over 250 people enjoyed chocolate in every variation from chili to soup to sweets. The Chocoholic Frolic supports the SCOLA Learning Center, UNC's adult literacy and English as a Second Language program. This event is one of the only funding sources for SCOLA and is vitally important for the continuation of the program.



Leadership Lackawanna helps UNC over past year

Leadership Lackawanna proved to be an important partner through the past year for UNC. The organization selected seven local professionals to work with the agency throughout 2012-2013 and were tasked with conducting a new fundraiser called the "A-Raising Race". On the day of the race, teams had to run to different UNC locations and perform challenges ranging from climbing on our ropes course, to performing a language lesson, to learning the polka with some of our seniors.

Leading up to the race, the group had two small fundraisers at the Backyard Ale House and hosted a Zumba-thon. The year concluded with a presentation of a new large flat screen TV for the West Side Senior Center and a monetary donation to Angel's Attic.



“

UNC, which I knew more of in idea than a reality, has become Scranton's leading social service agency. I am thrilled to see that the community has rallied around the vision of neighborhood services to the needs of so many of Scranton's citizens.

Norman Stanton,
UNC's First Executive
Director

”





Seniors' Got Talent showcases older adults

UNC continues to expand its program and special occasion offerings for older adults who attend one of four senior centers run by the agency- Carbondale, Mid Valley, South Side and West Side. A new event called "Seniors' Got Talent" was held for the first time this year to an excited and large crowd. Sixteen older adult acts- ranging from musicians, singers, dancers, comedians and more- competed against each other for prizes. Lackawanna County Recorder of Deeds Evie Rafalko McNulty emceed the event and the four guest judges included the Fab Three's Jack Bordo, Step by Step Dance Studio's Jack Martin, the University of Scranton's Lynn Scramuzza and Judge Margaret Moyle. The winners were: third place, Precious Flowers Kitchen on piano; second place- Nancy Ramirez, tap dancing; and first place- Alberta Houman, stand-up comedy. The event will be held again in 2014.

Youth programming continues expansion

The past year saw an influx of new funders and programming to the youth department at United Neighborhood Centers. In addition to the capital campaign underway to support the Cabrini Center for the Arts, the agency's arts programs have continued to expand both in size and in opportunities every year over the past decade.

Two new arts platforms were offered to the youth we serve in 2013 including video production and songwriting. UNC partnered with local musicians Doug Smith and Lucia Dailey to conduct songwriting classes at the Carbondale YMCA. These programs were in addition to our already popular classes that include dance, theater, drama, interactive art installations, photography, creative writing and a teen book club where youth get to Skype and interact with authors. In addition, teens who had taken part in the drama program over the past year were given the opportunity to perform and intern with the Scranton Shakespeare Festival this summer. Five teens were cast in the production of "Comedy of Errors" held in late June at Nay Aug Park.

Beyond arts programming, UNC was able to expand its Youth Leaders in Training program for 7th and 8th graders at three new schools- Mid Valley, Mountain View, and Carbondale- for the first time thanks to a partnership with the NEIU and a 21st Century Learning Center grant.



"It's a blessing and a curse that the need for services has been growing. We do things now that nobody ever thought of 40 years ago."

Drew Hailstone,
Board Member since
1970





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 Office of Youth & Family Services
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 Workforce Investment Board
 Behavioral Health/Intellectual
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Lockheed Martin

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Financial Summary 2012-2013

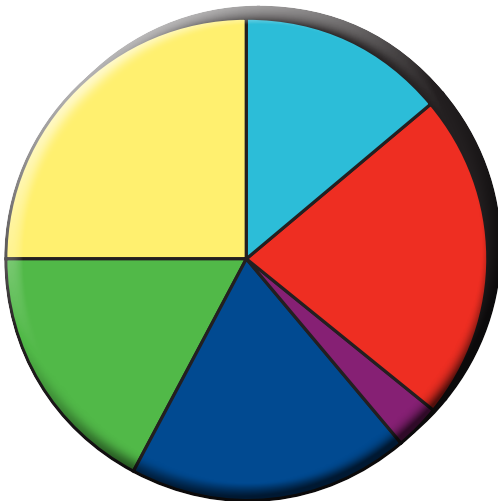
Revenue



- County funds- 28%
- Donations- 19%
- Federal grants- 17%
- Foundations- 13%
- Fees- 10%
- United Way- 8%
- City funds- 5%

Total: \$5,250,576.00

Expenses



- Housing- 25%
- Childcare- 22%
- Youth- 19%
- Community services- 17%
- Aging- 14%
- SCOLA Learning Center- 3%

Total: \$4,869,844.00

Save the Dates 2014

14th Annual Mardi Gras Celebration:
Saturday, March 1

10th Annual Chocoholic Frolic:
Sunday, October 19





1923-2013

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