



United Ministries

Providing life changing opportunities

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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GED Graduates Celebrate Second Chances and Take Steps toward Financial Stability

Greenville, S.C. (February 22, 2016) – United Ministries will hold a graduation ceremony for adult students who recently passed the GED test, earning their high school equivalency diplomas, on Thursday, March 3 at Buncombe Street United Methodist Church. A celebratory reception for students, families, and supporters begins at 6 p.m. with the ceremony following at 7 p.m.

“We love celebrating our students’ success,” says Dr. Lisa Hall, program manager of United Ministries’ Adult Education. “Graduation is a special time for us to honor all of the hard work and achievements of our students who are taking positive steps to change their lives. A major goal that we have for our students is long-term financial stability.”

On average, an adult who lacks a high school diploma makes around \$10,000 less per year than a high school graduate and \$32,000 less than a college graduate. The high school equivalency diploma provides adults with a second chance to develop their earning potential by qualifying them for higher education, technical training, and quality employment. United Ministries’ GED graduates can take these next steps by also participating in the agency’s Employment Readiness program, which offers free soft skills training and one-on-one job coaching.

The SC Department of Education recently adopted a new passing score for the GED test, which is being applied retroactively for students who scored between 145 and 149 on the new, and more difficult, GED test launched in January of 2014. “The new passing score will open doors for our students who are motivated to be college and career-ready,” says Hall.

GED graduate James Burnett attributes his success to the help of volunteers, "That's what's awesome about United Ministries. The people really, truly care about seeing you succeed. At the age of 38, I got my GED and achieved what I thought was unachievable. Through homelessness and rebuilding my education, United Ministries and its volunteers helped me get my life back."

(MORE)

United Ministries' Adult Education program is made possible through the generous contributions of supporting congregations, individual supporters, the United Way of Greenville County, as well as the following: Bank of America Charitable Foundation, Dollar General Literacy Foundation, F.W. Symmes Foundation, Gannett Foundation, Harvest Charities, Jolley Foundation, Northside United Methodist Church, Sisters of Charity Foundation of South Carolina, Thomson Foundation, Trinity Lutheran Foundation, and Westminster Presbyterian Church.

Adults at least 17 years of age interested in earning their GEDs with United Ministries can enroll at 503 Vardry Street, Greenville: Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday 8 a.m.-7 p.m. or Wednesday 8 a.m.-12 p.m. For more information call 864-242-0917 or visit www.united-ministries.org.

About United Ministries

Located in downtown Greenville's West End, United Ministries has been working for 46 years to give every member of our community the opportunity to participate in the prosperity of our community. Originally established by local congregations to meet the crisis needs of people living in poverty, our agency has evolved to focus on developing the potential each family possesses to become self-sufficient – and even to thrive. Our integrated service model discourages dependency on charity and promotes the dignity of work. For more information on United Ministries please visit www.united-ministries.org or call 864-335-2614.

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