

# REPORT TO THE Community

FYE June 2021



United Ministries

Transforming Lives Together

## We Were Made for This Moment.



Dear friends,

Our world continues to experience extraordinary challenges and because of that, United Ministries' work in the Greenville community is more important than ever before. **This is the moment we were made for.**

**In the last year, United Ministries served over 4,000 individuals in the community.** We provided emergency shelter for unhoused individuals, rent, utility and food support. We also offered financial coaching, mental health counseling and adult education tutoring. Additionally, participants received case management, which included securing IDs and benefits, to name a few.

We will continue to adjust our work to support the evolving needs of our participants and community in the year ahead. At our newly dedicated Puckett Center for Economic Mobility, we have expanded our focus on outcomes of both financial and psychological well-being. United Ministries' approach to economic mobility seeks to empower individuals to take the lead in this work. We do this by highlighting a person's autonomy and expertise while also providing structure and guidance toward their personal goals, maximizing the likelihood of success.

**Each of us has a role to play in helping our neighbors** – stepping up as bold, informed leaders to empower those in need, resulting in a positive impact on the vitality of the Greenville community.

**Rising together, we can build a stronger community that is poised for the future.**

I am so grateful for the opportunity to work together with you as we seek to make the mission of United Ministries even more possible—a Greenville community for today and the years ahead *where everyone has the opportunity to thrive.*

With hope,

**Lizzie Bebbler** – Executive Director





# OUR Impact



## Striving to Thrive (formerly Employment Readiness)

- **163** jobs were obtained
- **71** individuals received mental health counseling
- **189** individuals received financial coaching
- **48** individuals completed our Matched Savings program
- **17** individuals completed technical job training



## Adult Education

- **26** students obtained their GED
- **135** new students joined the Adult Education program
- **2,346** academic sessions were conducted
- **91%** passing rate for single subject tests



## Interfaith Hospitality Network

- **130** people were provided shelter through the IHN program including 75 children from 37 households
- **12** families secured permanent housing
- **16** interim houses made available to participants



## Emergency Assistance

- **1,743** families received food
- **195** individuals received rent assistance
- **559** individuals received utility assistance



## Place of Hope

- **793** individuals visited POH for showers, laundry and other services
- **253** individuals received case management
- **12** individuals were permanently housed

# UM's First Virtual Event Connects Supporters



**Our first ever virtual experience, *Rising Together*, was held in April.**

It was a meaningful event where we shared a nurturing meal prepared by Table 301 and enjoyed the lyrical prowess of Kyshona Armstrong. Your engagement and generosity reminded us once again that we do not do this work alone. That common theme—***a community working together***—was weaved throughout the evening and continues to guide our work.

**THANK YOU TO OUR RISING TOGETHER UPLIFTING SPONSORS:**

**Buncombe Street UMC • First Baptist Church, Greenville, SC • Reynolds Investment Management • Table 301**



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Transforming Lives Together

## Mission

Our mission is to serve and empower those on the transformative journey to self-sufficiency.

## Vision

A community working together to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to thrive in Greenville.

## Milestone Anniversary Marked with Unprecedented Community Challenge

**FY 20/21 was a banner year for United Ministries as 2020 marked the celebration of 50 years of serving and empowering those on their transformative journey to self-sufficiency!** In recognition of this significant event, a Golden Opportunity Challenge was unveiled with a goal of \$1.5 million.

The challenge to the community was aimed at strengthening United Ministries' capacity as it helps to shape the Greenville of tomorrow. With the strong support of a generous Greenville community, the **goal was exceeded with \$1,546,642** raised for the Golden Opportunity Challenge! Thank you!

### Gifts through the GOC made it possible for:

- An expansion of our Matched Savings Plan and Financial Stabilization Fund
- Funding for an additional full-time Financial Coach
- Funding to continue providing mental health services
- Sponsorship for technical skills training for careers like medical billing and coding, nursing assistant, and commercial driver's license (CDL)/truck driving
- Refurbishment of our Adult Education computer lab, including new computers
- Additional GED resources including books, calculators, and other educational materials
- Purchase of additional interim housing units for families in our Interfaith Hospitality Network as they regain stability and work to obtain permanent housing

# TRANSFORMATION Together

A community coming together to change lives so that all can thrive.

We asked Mia, one of our 2020-2021 GED graduates, what this milestone accomplishment meant to her and her family. She shared that her GED helped her establish a career that allows her to provide for her and her daughter.

*"I have started a full-time job and I don't think I would be in this position if the United Ministries team hadn't been so welcoming and encouraging."*

– **MIA**, UM Participant and GED graduate



*"I am grateful for all the experiences in my life and the connections I've made in Greenville and through United Ministries."* – **TONY**, UM Participant

Tony came to Greenville seeking to start over and remove himself from a community of drug misuse. Tony was unhoused for some time and wanted to focus on finding a job and getting an apartment. United Ministries' Benefit Bank worked with Tony to obtain the basics for his job search. He was successful in securing a job with Walmart and takes much pride and enjoyment in keeping his store in top shape!

With income, Tony was able to turn his focus toward longer-term goals. He started a savings account and opened a credit builder loan to develop credit that could lead to securing an apartment. With the help of UM, he was placed on the Greenville County rehousing list and was accepted at a brand-new senior housing apartment in Greenville! Tony is so persistent in building the life he wants.

*"I was proud to help launch a **Golden Opportunity Challenge** aimed at raising \$1.5 million to grow UM's capacity to better address root causes of poverty and maximize opportunities for participants' upward economic mobility."*

– **SUZANNE SANDERS**, UM Board Member and Co-Chair of UM's Golden Opportunity Challenge



## GED Grads Celebrated!

In March, we celebrated our GED Class of 2020-2021 graduates virtually! We salute these individuals who persevered through the pandemic to realize this significant achievement.

# UM – Adapting to Serve Well Amid Pandemic Challenges

If there is one thing we have learned from navigating life during a pandemic, it is that we need to be there for each other. Serving vulnerable people, often with limited access to healthcare, required us to be vigilant with our safety protocols, while also committed to providing essential services to those most in need.

Over the past year the staff and volunteers at United Ministries responded to the urgent needs of people in Greenville with even greater focus, strength, and adaptability. While we continued to serve the needs of our community, the way we served has changed.

**Some examples of our adaptability include:**

- Implemented **drive-up food distribution**
- Moved to **phone appointments for rent and utilities assistance** (during the year, we saw an 81% increase for emergency assistance)
- **GED volunteers provided virtual tutoring sessions to students** who came on-site at UM to utilize our socially distanced computer stations (we have now shifted back to a full in-person model)
- The Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN), emergency shelter for homeless families, was unable to use the congregational network for shelter, so **hotels and congregation-owned housing units were used for temporary shelter.**

- **Economic Mobility programming** such as job skills training, employment assistance, financial coaching, and mental health counseling temporarily shifted to virtual sessions (all programs are now offered in-person).

While disruptive at times, COVID-19 did not stop us from meeting the critical needs of our participants during a very uncertain time. We are proud of our staff and volunteers for their hard work, commitment, and determination to continue to serve those in need. We are also very thankful for the Greenville community who showed up in generous and amazing ways, reminding us that we do not do this work alone!



## Employment Readiness Program Evolves

The past year brought about important changes to what was formerly known as our Employment Readiness program, now called Striving to Thrive. These are changes that have been years in the making – an evolution of realizing that while we could help participants find jobs, offering the tools to live a life that goes beyond just surviving was critical to their long-term success.

Utilizing the results of a recently completed two-year study with our partners at the Riley Institute at Furman, we developed a coaching model that puts our staff and participants across the table from one another, as partners together in this very relational work. Over time, coaches, called Economic Mobility Partners (EMP), work with participants to set and reach goals centered around their well-being, career, building assets, establishing credit, home ownership and other key impact areas, all leading to sustainable life changes.

The intensive, one-on-one work of empowerment that happens at United Ministries has such a long-term impact – on the lives of individuals and on our collective well-being.

## Striving to Thrive

TRANSFORMING LIVES

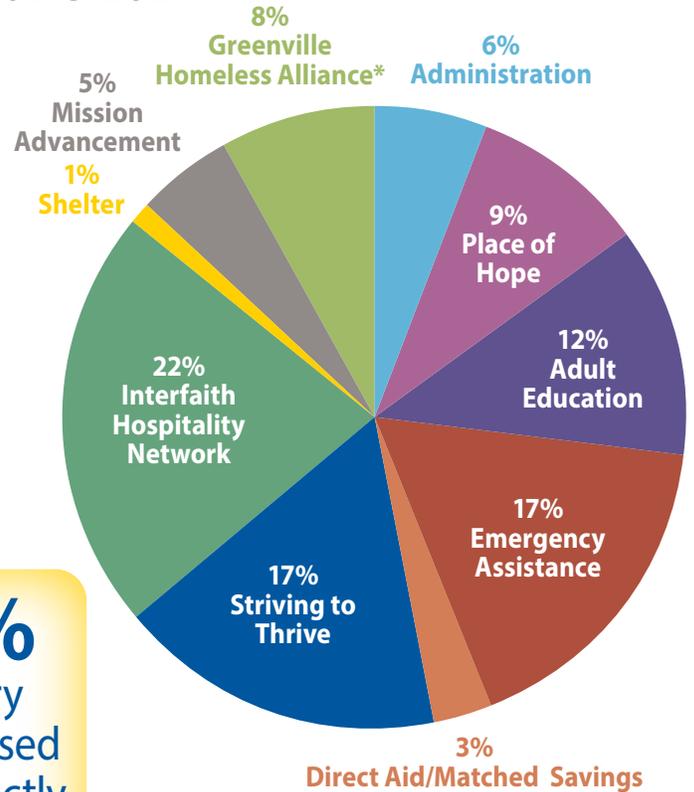
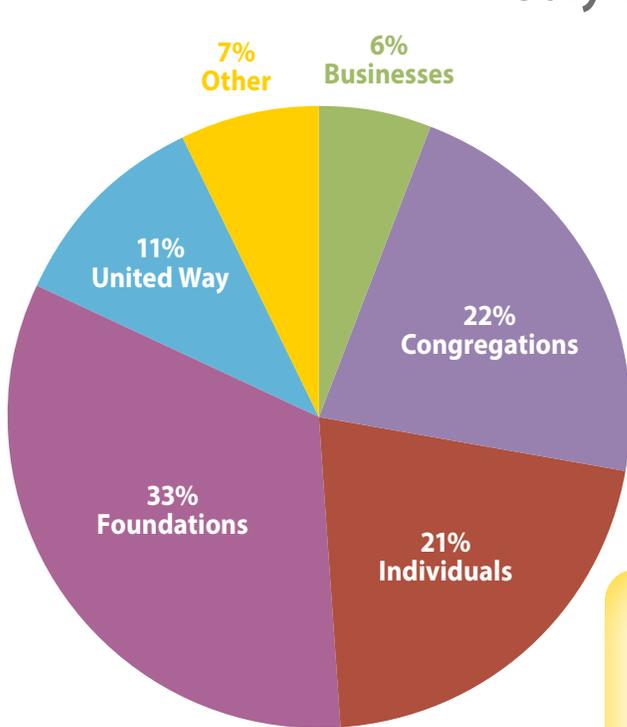


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# FISCAL YEAR BY THE NUMBERS

July 2020 – June 2021



**90%**  
of every  
dollar raised  
goes directly  
to mission  
fulfillment

TOTAL REVENUE  
**\$2,894,343**

TOTAL EXPENSES  
**\$2,682,079**

*Increased revenue due to the Golden Opportunity Challenge, a \$1.5 million capacity-building campaign for our 50th anniversary to strengthen our future work in the Greenville community. Funds will be spent over the next 3 years, with board oversight and approval.*

*\* United Ministries is the official host agency for the Greenville Homeless Alliance (GHA), a collective impact group. GHA's fundraising and operations are separate from United Ministries.*

## 2021-2022 Board of Directors

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Paul Johnson</b><br>Chair                              | <b>Dixon Harrill</b><br>Mission Advancement Committee Chair    |
| <b>Myra Morant</b><br>Vice-Chair                          | <b>LaTonya Phillips</b><br>Community Relations Committee Chair |
| <b>Jim Akerhielm</b><br>Treasurer/Finance Committee Chair | <b>Sima Patel</b><br>Governance Committee Chair                |
| <b>Isaiah Dunlap</b><br>Secretary                         |  |

### AT LARGE MEMBERS

- |                          |                         |                        |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| <b>TJ Angone</b>         | <b>Stephen Eye</b>      | <b>Susan Jones</b>     |
| <b>Matthew Covington</b> | <b>Anthony Gladney</b>  | <b>Suzanne Sanders</b> |
| <b>Bob Dillon</b>        | <b>P. McCrady Gwinn</b> | <b>Michael Shain</b>   |
| <b>Sean Dogan</b>        | <b>Alfred Johnson</b>   | <b>Kevin Shinn</b>     |
| <b>Tom Evelyn</b>        | <b>Herb Johnson</b>     | <b>Julia Watkins</b>   |

With great appreciation we would like to thank our outgoing 2020-2021 board members:

- Thomas Self
- Betsy Boaze
- Debbie Cooper
- Deb Long
- Leigh Stuckey
- Frances Poe
- Katherine Davis
- Tammi Hart



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Join in our work by giving today at [United-Ministries.org](https://United-Ministries.org).  
606 Pendleton Street • Greenville, SC 29601 • 864.232.6463



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