

UCOM's Hope-filled Fall Fundraising Events

Hope is how UCOM started. Bringing hope to neighbors. Empowering lives so people can be in charge of outcomes. The resources you help UCOM provide are all directed to raise people up so they can pay attention to whatever is next on their list; precipitating active involvement in their life's direction.

We have a few fundraising events coming up and would love participation, because we can only provide the level of hope needed in our community with the continued help from mission partners. Thank you for all you have and are doing to continue to address the growing needs of many; during this time of uncertainty.

2nd ANNUAL GALA; Covid Addition: Share through video our joined mission of addressing hunger in the South Jacksonville communities, **Sunday, November 15, 2020.** We are directly asking all of our mission partners, churches, friends, families, neighbors, and community advocates to **share a 2 ½ - 3 minute video** about the work of UCOM that you all support. You can share this video by posting to your personal or church Facebook, hosting a 'watch party' on facebook, run the video during your mission moment at your in person church service and/or online streaming service, or share by emailing to everyone you know so they can see your involvement! If showing at your church, please consider including in your stewardship campaign so those that support you will know the good work of your local mission, UCOM, and all of the work, volunteering, and networking you do with us to make sure no one is facing crisis or hunger alone! I will have the video for you by link or download the Friday before November 15th. Please have your media person, or your pastor reach out to me for additional opportunities or questions.

MASTER HUNGER with UCOM; 2020 PGA Highlights Party with guest Len Mattiace: Sunday, November 15, 2020 at San Jose Country Club, a select number of tickets (only 70 people; \$300 per person) to be part of a night of discussion and fun with other golf enthusiasts, celebrating the greatest players of our time. Share with every golf enthusiast you know to come to help us reach our 2020 fundraising goals. Sponsorships are limited, but available by contacting me – saramitchell@ucomjax.org.

November 8, 2020

Psalm 78.1-7

- ¹ Give ear, O my people, to my teaching;
incline your ears to the words of my mouth!
² **I will open my mouth in a parable;
I will utter dark sayings from of old,**
³ things that we have heard and known,
that our ancestors have told us.
- ⁴ **We will not hide them from their children;
but tell to the coming generation
the glorious deeds of the LORD, the might,
and wonders God has wrought.**
- ⁵ He established a decree in Jacob,
and appointed a law in Israel,
which he commanded our ancestors
to teach to their children;
- ⁶ **that the next generation might know them,
the children yet unborn,
and rise up and tell them to their children,**
⁷ so that they should set their hope in God,
and not forget the works of God,
but keep his commandments.

1 Thessalonians 4: 13-18

¹³ But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. ¹⁴ For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.

¹⁵ For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive *and* remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. ¹⁶ For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ Then we who are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. ¹⁸ Therefore comfort one another with these words.

Matthew 25: 1-13

“Then the kingdom of heaven shall be likened to ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. ² Now five of them were wise, and five *were* foolish. ³ Those who *were* foolish took their lamps and took no oil with them, ⁴ but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. ⁵ But while the bridegroom was delayed, they all slumbered and slept.

⁶ “And at midnight a cry was *heard*: ‘Behold, the bridegroom is coming; go out to meet him!’ ⁷ Then all those virgins arose and trimmed their lamps. ⁸ And the foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us *some* of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ ⁹ But the wise answered, saying, ‘*No*, lest there should not be enough for us and you; but go rather to those who sell, and buy for yourselves.’ ¹⁰ And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding; and the door was shut.

¹¹ “Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, ‘Lord, Lord, open to us!’ ¹² But he answered and said, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, I do not know you.’

¹³ “Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming.

Christmas 2020

Christmas is almost here and shortly after that a new year. Many of us are praying that when January 1, 2021 comes, we will see a “light at the end of the tunnel.” We all want to see hope, peace, joy and love around that corner of the new year, anticipating a big sigh of relief....**We Made It!!!!** It also makes me think of traditions that we normally participate in but, we all know, “normal” is not what we will be doing for the holidays.

One “normal” tradition that Faith members do every year is being generous to those who need a little extra help during the holidays. Last year we blessed several Beyond 90 families with gifts and this year we would like to continue this mission.

Beyond 90 has been blessed with a corporate sponsor who is having a Christmas party for the newly arrived refugees on December 5th. They are providing gifts for the children, so I asked Lori how we could contribute. She suggested that we provide Walmart gift cards that she can give to the parents that will be attending so they can use them towards other household needs. I thought that this would be an easy and safe solution for many of us.

I am giving you a **deadline of Sunday, November 29th** to get the gift cards to the church. You could also send your donation to the church and I will purchase the gift card for you. If you do send money or a check, please make sure it is marked “gift card.”

Even though we will not have the “joy” of shopping for gifts, these gift cards will be a reflection of our Christmas spirit of love and how we share Jesus with others. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Blessings,

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