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Chicago, IL 60619

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773.429.0300

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Riverdale, IL 60827
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773.722.3097

UCAN ACADEMY SOUTH

1551 W. 95th St.
Chicago, IL 60643
773.881.1005



FROM GOOD TO GREAT

2024 ANNUAL REPORT



UCAN is a 501(c)(3) organization. UCAN is a member of the Council of Health and Human Service Ministries of the United Church of Christ and is accredited by the Council on Accreditation.

DEAR FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS,

Fiscal Year 2024 was a year of extraordinary progress and bold ambition for UCAN. As we celebrated our 155th anniversary and the 25th anniversary of our Youth Leadership Awards, we launched our new strategic plan, *From Good to Great*, a vision created with guidance from our Governing Board and senior leadership to push UCAN's already impactful work to the next level.

In a year of shifting policies, uncertain public funding, and increasing community need, UCAN remained focused on what matters most: delivering innovative, integrated programs that children, youth, and families need, want, and deserve. Our nearly 700 dedicated staff provide what we call "heart work" in violence prevention and intervention, foster care, behavioral health, youth development, therapeutic education, residential services, and workforce development.

This year, being relentless meant:

- Hosting national community violence intervention leaders with the University of Chicago.
- Expanding violence prevention services to a new South Side community and contributing to a 33% drop in shootings in North Lawndale, which saved 22 lives.
- Helping 300 job-seekers secure employment.
- Opening Chicago's first Emergency Reception Center with the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services.

OUR MISSION:

UCAN strengthens communities by supporting youth and families, offering a continuum of services for over 150 years.

UCAN's expertise spans youth in care, youth development, mental health, therapeutic schools, workforce development, and violence prevention and intervention.

Our *From Good to Great* vision pushes us further. It's good to reduce violence; it's great to ensure survivors find living-wage jobs.

It's good to care for children in need; it's great to prevent them from entering the system at all.

We know that strategic growth, resourcefulness, and collective commitment are the way forward. UCAN's work is only possible because of the people and institutions in our ecosystem—partners, donors, and community members—who believe in our mission and walk alongside us.

Thank you for your support and trust. Together, we will continue to move from good to great. Because **UCAN is relentless.**

Thank you,



Lourdes Gonzalez
Board Chair



Christa Hamilton
CEO & President



OUR VISION:

UCAN leads with transformational interventions so that families and communities can be safe and prosper. **UCAN is relentless.**

OUR SERVICE HUBS

The UCAN Service Hubs represent a collaborative focus by multiple programs at UCAN working in close coordination, leveraging their strengths and resources to deliver more seamless, holistic support. Whether it's a youth in care needing therapy, a family in crisis requiring multiple layers of assistance, or an individual seeking job and career support, our hub system ensures clients don't just get services—they get a network of support.



FOSTER CARE & TRANSITIONAL SERVICES

- Teen Parenting Service Network (TPSN)
- Professional Foster Parenting (PFP)
- Transitional Teen Services (TTS)

PREVENTION & EMPOWERMENT

- Violence Intervention & Prevention Services (VIPS)
- Workforce Development
- Youth Development

CLINICAL & THERAPEUTIC SERVICES

- Behavioral Health Services (BHS)
- UCAN Academy
- Residential Treatment Facility



“

I like that this program is consistent at helping teens in getting on the right path and staying focused on achieving their goals. I also like that this program gives resources and information so that teens and young adults can get the help they need.”

— TEEN PARENTING SERVICES NETWORK YOUTH

FOSTER CARE & TRANSITIONAL SERVICES

TEEN PARENTING SERVICE NETWORK (TPSN)

UCAN’s Teen Parenting Service Network supported 352 pregnant and parenting youth in the foster care system by providing clinical therapy, parenting education, life skills coaching, and support for healthy child development. The program helped young parents build stability and confidence for themselves and their children.

FY24 Highlights

- 100% of youth in parenting education completed their individualized goals for family success.
- 96% of participants were enrolled in school or employed.
- UCAN assisted in 157 pregnancy outcomes with support, and physical and educational resources.

- 89% of children received developmental screenings to support healthy early growth.
- 27 youth completed risk-reduction training and served as peer educators for their peers.

PROFESSIONAL FOSTER PARENTING (PFP)

UCAN’s Professional Foster Parenting program served 135 children and youth, from birth to age 20, through a therapeutic foster care model focused on emotional healing, safety, and long-term stability. The program aimed to reunite families or support permanent placements when possible.

FY24 Highlights

- 100% of youth reported no incidents, meaning no youth experienced harm while in UCAN foster homes.
- 100% of parents/guardians who reunified with their children still maintain custody.
- 95% of foster parents achieved full licensure, which ensures high standards of care.
- UCAN met all safety and permanency standards set by the Department of Children and Family Services across 100% of foster placements.

TRANSITIONAL TEEN SERVICES (TTS)

UCAN’s Transitional Teen Services program provided housing, coaching, and life skills to youth ages 17-21 transitioning out of care, with a focus on employment, education, and legal support.

FY24 Highlights

- Helped 89% of participants secure stable housing and successfully transition to independent living after age 21.
- Expanded on-site workforce development services that increased access to employment support, providing 92% of participants with employment stability at discharge.

- Reduced justice system involvement among participants through consistent coaching and advocacy, keeping 88% of participants from legal involvement.
- Earned an 81% quality rating through the Youth Villages LifeSet program audit.

“

UCAN helped me with my everyday needs.”

— FOSTER CARE YOUTH



PREVENTION & EMPOWERMENT

VIOLENCE INTERVENTION & PREVENTION SERVICES (VIPS)

UCAN's Violence Intervention & Prevention Services program supported individuals impacted by gun violence to provide trauma counseling, legal aid, job readiness coaching, and crisis intervention in several Chicago neighborhoods.

FY24 Highlights

- Supported over 550 participants with trauma-informed care, housing, employment, and legal assistance.
- 74% of participants secured employment, enrolled in school, or engaged in career training programs.
- Responded to more than 200 shootings within one hour of the incident and offered immediate care to victims to prevent retaliation.
- Facilitated over 1,500 conflict mediations.
- Contributed to a 16.7% decrease in firearm homicides in North Lawndale.



The program provided different opportunities for me to change my life.”

— PARTICIPANT IN VIOLENCE INTERVENTION & PREVENTION SERVICES

SHERO PROGRAM

The SHERO program supported young women ages 16-24 at high risk of violence, poverty, and systemic inequities, and connected them to mental health services, housing advocacy, legal support, and job training. During FY24, the program helped graduates begin mentoring incoming participants, which created a strong sense of community and support among peers.

FY24 Highlights

- 100% of participants reported no incidents of victimization after enrolling.
- 90% of participants retained employment for at least 180 days.
- More than 50% of participants received monthly psychotherapy.
- Resolved six legal cases among participants, which helped them gain access to justice and overcome legal barriers.

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT: PIVOT POINT

Pivot Point is a UCAN afterschool program that supported 247 students in grades 3-8 across Chicago. The program focused on academic achievement, creative expression, and social-emotional development.

FY24 Highlights

- 85% of students demonstrated measurable gains in reading and math.
- 90% of participants consistently engaged in art, music, and other creative outlets, which promoted positive identity and emotional expression.
- 80% of students showed growth in emotional intelligence and self-awareness that strengthened their ability to manage stress and build healthy relationships.
- Maintained a 75% retention rate from enrollment through the end of the year.



WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

UCAN's Workforce Development program prepared over 1,000 youth, public housing residents, and justice-involved individuals for careers in high-demand industries. Services included job readiness training, career certification programs, and employer partnerships to build pathways to long-term employment.

FY24 Highlights

- Supported 1,010 participants with job training and placement.
- 85% of participants remain enrolled in key vocational programs.



I went through UCAN's programs, got a steady job, reunited with my kids, and now I'm finally financially independent.”

— PARTICIPANT IN WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT



- Expanded career pathways with Certified Nursing Assistant and Phlebotomy cohorts.
- Achieved 100% completion of all My CHI. My Future.-funded employment programs.
- Launched a new program for individuals at the highest risk of violence through READI (Rapid Employment and Development Initiative).

FY COMPARISON	FY23	FY24
Paid Work Experience	487	490
Job Placement	302	294
Average Hourly Wage	\$16.34 - \$18.00	\$16.20 - \$22.00
Participants Served	729	1,010



CLINICAL & THERAPEUTIC SERVICES

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES (BHS)

UCAN's Behavioral Health Services provided trauma-informed therapy and crisis support to youth and families across Chicago. Services included individual, family, and group counseling, school-based mental health programs, and mobile crisis response.

FY24 Highlights

- 84% of youth in therapy showed progress toward their personal treatment goals, reflecting measurable emotional and behavioral growth.
- 74% of participants successfully completed their counseling programs to help build coping skills and long-term resilience.
- 100% of clients reported that UCAN gave them the opportunity to improve their future.



The UCAN Counseling program allows me to express a problem, and my counselor is there to help me through the process.”

— PARTICIPANT
IN COUNSELING



The teachers help me with my emotions and teach how to deal with them.”

— UCAN ACADEMY
STUDENT

UCAN ACADEMY

UCAN Academy served K-12 students with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) in a therapeutic school setting. The program provided academic support, emotional learning, and career preparation to help students overcome challenges and plan for life beyond graduation.

FY24 Highlights

- Delivered trauma-informed academic support to 137 students; most referred by Chicago Public Schools.
- Achieved a 69% graduation rate at the UCAN Academy Grand campus and 64% at the UCAN Academy South campus.
- Integrated career readiness and restorative justice into the curricula to promote life skills and accountability.
- 90% of students reported being connected to caring adults who helped them work toward their goals.

RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT PROGRAM

UCAN's Residential Treatment Program delivered 24/7 therapeutic care for 128 youth ages 6-21 in the care of the Department of Children and Family Services. The integrated program supported youth with complex trauma and behavioral challenges through individualized therapy, education support, and life skills development.

FY24 Highlights

- 40% of youth transitioned to less restrictive settings, such as returning home, group homes, or foster care placements.
- AWOL incidents dropped by 17% compared to the previous year, reflecting greater program stability, youth safety, and youth engagement.

- Over 85% of youth received weekly individual therapy, helping them build emotional resilience and coping skills.
- 92% of youth actively participated in treatment planning, which ensured services were aligned with their unique needs and goals.
- 75% of youth showed measurable progress in managing emotions and improving behavior.



STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

As of June 30, 2024

Total Assets	\$73,057,185
Total Liabilities	\$17,440,170
Total Net Assets	\$55,617,015
TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	\$73,057,185

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024

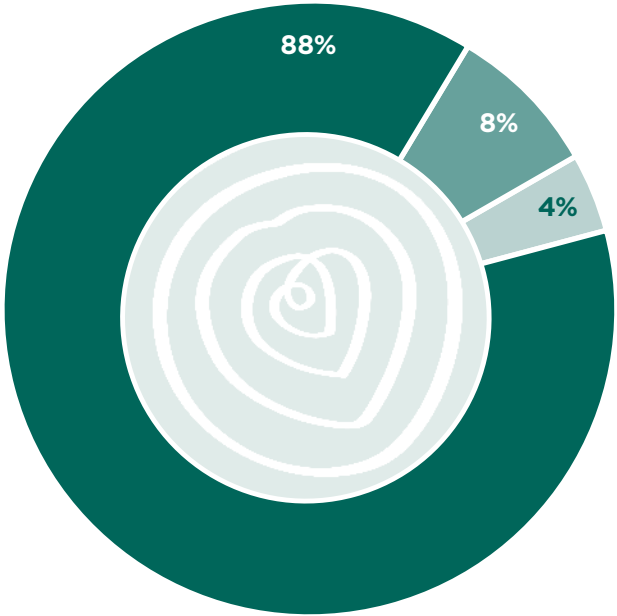
Revenue	
Program	\$58,753,352
Fundraising Unrestricted	\$1,963,983
Fundraising Restricted	\$3,378,055
Investment & Trust	\$ 3,014,480
(Net Assests Released from Restrictions \$821,272)	-
TOTAL REVENUE	\$67,109,870

Expense	
Program	\$49,013,230
Management & General, Support	\$11,139,348
Fundraising	\$1,823,576
Other	-
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$61,976,154
NET SURPLUS/LOSS	\$5,133,716

Net Operations	
Others (Gain from NMTC Loan Forgiveness)	-
Pension-related Changes	\$103,273
TOTAL OTHER	\$103,273
NET SURPLUS/LOSS (CHANGE IN NET ASSETS)	\$5,236,989

CURRENT YEAR CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	\$5,236,989
Net Assets at Beginning of Year	\$50,380,026
NET ASSETS AT END OF YEAR	\$55,617,015

Financials reflect UCAN Operations only. Title Holding Company information not included.

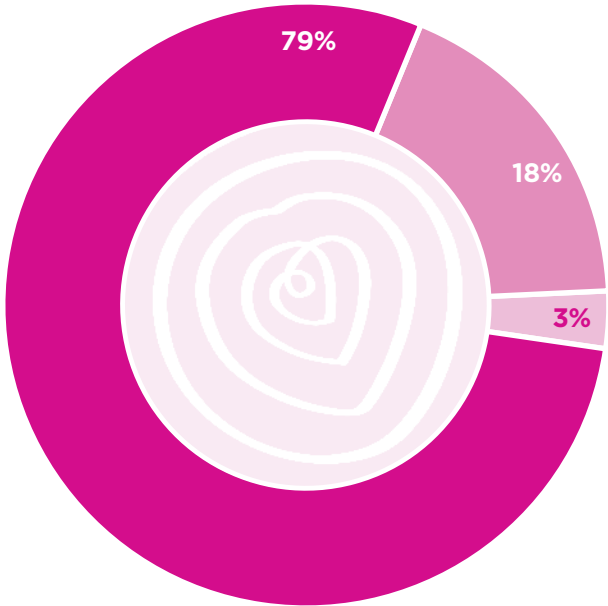
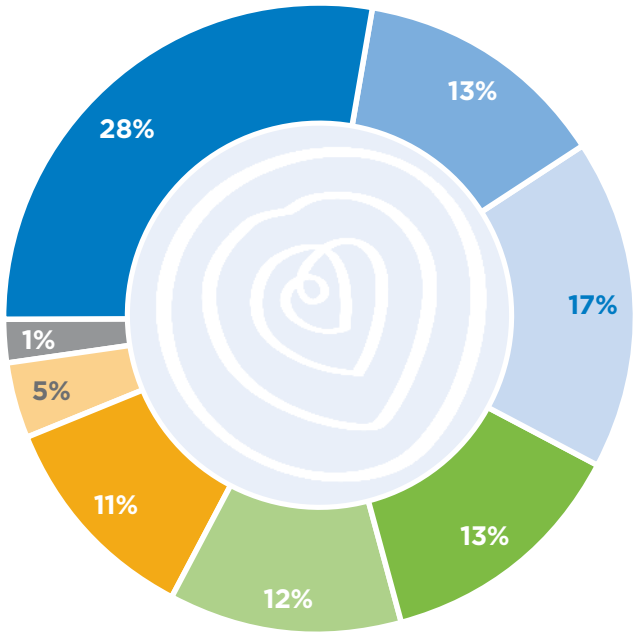


REVENUE

- Government Grants & Contracts
- Fundraising Revenue
- Investment & Trust Income

PROGRAM EXPENSES

- Therapeutic Youth Home
- Professional Foster Parenting
- Youth Development/Prevention Services/Other
- UCAN Academy
- Independent Living/Transitional Living
- Workforce Development
- Teen Parenting Service Network
- Counseling & Youth Development Services



EXPENSES

- Program Services
- Management & Support Services
- Fundraising

OUR DONORS

WE THANK OUR DONORS FOR THE
FOLLOWING GIFTS GENEROUSLY
MADE DURING FY 2023-2024.

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Hazel Matthews-Walker
Michelle A. Redd
Rhonda Watts
Thomas Vanden Berk
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**The 1869 Society,
named for the year in
which UCAN was founded,
honors those who have
chosen to include UCAN
in their estate plans.**

Minnie Abel*
Barbara Arsenault
Garold & Petrine Ashley
Frederic & Nancy Biederman
Markell Bridges
Sheldon & Beverly Copeland
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Tracy & Noah Robinson
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Thomas & Kathryn
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William Watson*
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Caroline Williams* - Trust
George Williams* - Trust

*Deceased



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