

**2016** UNIVERSITY AREA CDC  
**ANNUAL REPORT**





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*University Area CDC Staff*

## MESSAGE FROM THE CEO



As I reflect on the past year, I think directly to the talented team of dedicated change agents that I am so honored to lead at the University Area CDC (UACDC). I am continually impressed by the heartfelt allegiance of our organization's 65 employees, 18 board members and over 10,000 volunteers, as well as their collective commitment to the UACDC's mission, vision and values. I feel it is truly in light of these individuals that we were named among the Top 100 Workplaces.

We at the UACDC are committed to ensuring that progression is reflected in all that we do. In the past year, we secured two new federal grants and went to work emphasizing job placement while serving over 1,500 residents through our Workforce INVEST program. We tripled our DreamCatchers Summer Camp enrollment and launched our Get Moving health and wellness program, aiding over 1,200 residents. Additionally, we implemented our third year of STEPS for Success with record results, and served over 3,400 youth through our Prodigy Cultural Arts Program. We did all of this while growing our Partner's Coalition to over 170 members and launching our Community Engagement Plan – whew, what a year!

Moving forward, we pledge to be purposeful in growing our current programs while striving to increase community sustainability. I'm eternally grateful for such dedication from our board, staff and volunteers, and eagerly look forward to growing our community...one block at a time.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Sarah Combs". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Sarah Combs  
*Executive Director & CEO*



# University Area INVEST Workforce



*Graduates of UACDC's first Tech Hire class*

UACDC's workforce development program provides individuals with training, access to computers, and a connection to resources in their quest to obtain employment or better employment.

INVEST Workforce assistance includes:

- TechHire (CompTIAA+ certification)
- Computer lab and guidance
- Microsoft Office certifications
- Job readiness workshops
- Job search assistance
- Job placement
- Soft skills training



University Area CDC  
**PARTNERS  
COALITION**

**MAKE IT HAPPEN!**



*(L to R) Elaine Thompson, Metropolitan Ministries; Jada McMillon, Positive Spin; Francis Joseph, Bausch + Lomb*



*(L to R) James Wolfe, Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office; Christine Zien-McCombs, Hillsborough County Code Enforcement*

# Partners Coalition



*Sarah Combs, University Area CDC's Executive Director & CEO, addresses the members of the Partners Coalition*

In its 4<sup>th</sup> year of operation, the UACDC Partners Coalition is presently 170 members strong. 2016 brought in speakers such as Career Source Tampa Bay, Council for Educational Change, Hillsborough Area Regional Transit Authority, Tampa Family Health Centers, Tampa Innovation Alliance, Trinity Café and University Mall. During quarterly gatherings, members had the opportunity to network with each other while learning about current programs and initiatives in the University Area.



*Harold Jackson, Tampa Family Health Centers, stops by the Amerigroup resource table at a Partners Coalition Gathering.*

# Harvest Hope Park



Harvest Hope Park is a 7-acre property in the heart of the community that will soon be home to a multi-purpose sports field, children's playground, outdoor fitness stations, walking trails and fish pond. All of this will help to enhance the Park's already existing community garden, teaching kitchen and classroom. Additionally, the Park will be home to Art In The Park, an opportunity for residents to work with artists to further enrich the 7-acre park with community-designed art work.

The Park will be built and opened in four phases, with an anticipated completion date of 2019. With continuous feedback from community residents and stakeholders, Harvest Hope Park will serve as a beacon for community building and shared family experiences while also serving as a safe and healthy space for all residents to enjoy!



Hillsborough County Florida



*Kale, Japanese eggplant, tomatoes and other vegetables are grown in the community garden.*



*Volunteers work to clear overgrowth and debris from the fence surrounding the fish pond.*



*Prodigy staff members and volunteers paint a mural on the side of the Harvest Hope Center.*

## Get Moving! Program



*Local youth attend karate classes at University Area Community Center*

Implemented in 2015, UACDC'S *Get Moving!* program promotes health and wellness in the University Area community by offering an array of healthy activities, including:

- Youth and Adult Basketball Leagues
- Adult Fitness Classes
- Adult Volleyball
- Educational Workshops
- Indoor Youth Soccer League
- Health and Nutrition Classes
- Mort Elementary Walking School Bus
- Youth Marital Arts Classes

Getting more than 700 participants active through youth and adult programs, and counting!



Hillsborough  
County Florida



# Prodigy® Cultural Arts Program: *Transforming Young Lives*



*UACDC's Tampa I Prodigy® classes serve over 400 University Area youth each year.  
Prodigy® students in Ms. Woodbrook's art class proudly show off their work.*

Launched in 2000, UACDC's Prodigy® program provides prevention and student success services for at-risk youth, ages 6-19 years old. Infusing visual and performing arts with life skills, academic enrichment and family support, the program helps youth build confidence, find an outlet for their creativity and reach their full potential. In 2016, over 3,400 youth participated in Prodigy® through 40 different programming locations in the 8 West Central Florida county service area.







**Prodigy® Cultural Arts Program**

*Prodigy® youth performing at the "I Am Prodigy" Music Festival*

# STEPS for Success®

The Scott-Brooks family, graduates of the STEPS® Program, made great success toward self-sufficiency while stabilizing their family and marriage.



Jessica Rodriguez-Colon (left) celebrates her job promotion with her STEPS Navigator.

Overcoming the cycle of poverty one family at a time, STEPS for Success® provides one-on-one guidance and personalized goal plans for motivated individuals who wish to improve their circumstances and break free of government assistance. STEPS® navigators help mitigate crisis, prevent homelessness and stabilize program participants on their quest toward self-sufficiency.

More than 300 households (approx 1,500 children and adults) participated in STEPS for Success® in 2016.

- 70% of families were provided safe housing and/or prevented from being homeless.
- 70% of participants became employed upon entering the program.
- 80% of major crisis facing families were mitigated within 30 days.



# Community Investment

**REVENUE**  
**\$7,880,873**



**\$.94 of every \$1.00 spent goes directly to UACDC Program Services!**

**EXPENSE**  
**\$7,516,804**



**2016 Financial Highlights**



## BECOME A BELIEVER

*Leave your legacy in our Donor's Circle and show your support for this community by purchasing a brick or tile. Visit [uacdc.org](http://uacdc.org) for more information.*

## University Area CDC

14013 North 22nd Street | Tampa, FL 33613

813.558.5212 | [www.uacdc.org](http://www.uacdc.org)



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