

Partner & Donor News

February 2022



Reflections from June Gin (Co-Founder)

In recent weeks, God has been bringing to mind the word "Community." As I ponder this word, I am seeing that "Community" is what describes who, what, and why we are here at UCA.

Who – We are not individuals, individualistic, and isolated; but rather, we are a community as we all work together at UCA, caring for each other and serving with a common purpose. Similarly, we want our students to see UCA as their community with a felt sense of belonging.

What - We practice real presence with our students. They are valued and a safe space is given as they study, work on homework, and enjoy each other's presence.

Why - In John 8:12, Jesus announced that "I am the Light of the world." There is the presence of God among our staff who, as His lights in this community, bring hope and love to all families that come through our doors.

It is generally believed that the current pandemic has deepened the sense of loneliness among both youth and adults (see Harvard and Harris Poll reports). We are thankful that UCA is here to welcome each student that arrives after the end of their regular school day. May we continue to be a life-giving "community" to them.

Staff Testimonies

"Some of the simple joys of my life with the students as of late have been: When my students learn practical skills like sweeping. When they put away each other's desks without saying anything. When they help each other finish their homework so they can help tutor the younger students together. When they recognize how to be polite to adults, especially during sports. When they're laughing by themselves in the gym. When they ask if they can pray; and ask for my help because they don't know how. When they know exactly what I'm talking about, without my words. When they tell me their worries and goals. When I look at them and realize how much they have grown, from the time they were as tall as my shoulders to now where I am looking up at them. When I realize how much God loves them and knowing it's more love than I could ever give them. These are just some of the joys that I stop and see everyday. I am hoping that someday they can realize how much they are loved, without shying away from it."

~ Miss Hannah Manalili (Teacher 5th-8th Grade)

Student Experiences

Blessings at Christmas:

Bibles: One of our church partners, Wheaton Chinese Alliance Church, gave Bibles to each of our students. This gift blessed our students with the beautiful opportunity to read and learn from the Bible on their own.

Presents: With the donations made to the Bing Gin Memorial Fund, we purchased individual gifts for our students. Our staff experienced the joy of seeing many shouts of glee and smiles.

Pancakes: Dr. Elizabeth Sung, a long-time UCA supporter, spent an afternoon making pancakes with, and for, our students. It was so yummy!

Movie and Popcorn: We celebrated all the K-4 students' academic accomplishments with a movie, popcorn, and hot chocolate.

Year of the Tiger: We celebrated the new lunar year with home-cooked Chinese noodles and candy treats. Many of our younger students came wearing their Chinese clothes.

Praises & Prayer Requests:

- Praise: Recent hire of new tutors from Moody Bible Institute. We are thankful for their servant hearts and a desire to build meaningful relationships with the students.
- Praise: Provision of a website company to work on the redesign of our website which has become outdated. It is our prayer that the new website will be informative and helpful to both parents and donors.
- Praise: Our bi-weekly Bible study on the book of John (open to staff and parents). We are thankful for the opportunity to grow together in knowledge and wisdom from God's word.
- Pray: Preparation for our spring online fundraising event for late April. Pray for donations of products and services which can be auctioned online. We are raising funds to expand our capacity as we are currently limited in space.

Spring Fundraiser: Changing Lives

As we start to come out of the pandemic, by the grace of God and your donations we were able to keep our doors open for the community.

We provide a range of educational programs. Serving grades K through 8, we offer after-school tutoring and homework assistance. We also offer a faith-based summer school and a high school intern program to provide opportunities for academic and personal growth.

The pandemic has hurt students in their education and holistic development. As a result, we are seeing a greater need to increase our capacity to service more students. There are nearly 7,000 school-age students from among the local area Bridgeport Public Schools, and it is our prayer to reach more of them. Our current facility is nearly at maximum capacity.


We depend on the support of our ministry partners and friends. UCA is holding an online auction and pledge campaign, Changing Lives, from April 30, 2022 noon thru May 7, 2022 midnight. As God puts on your heart to donate and support the work of UCA, please respond. We are thankful for each of you.

Pledge opportunities:

- Expansion Support
- Summer High School Intern Program (Stipends)
- Student Financial Aid (for low income students)
- General Operation Support

Support us easily.

UCA is a 501c3 non profit and all donations may qualify as tax deductible for federal income tax purposes. There are 3 ways to donate.

- Online at www.UCAChicago.org 
- Mail your donation by sending a check made out to Urban Christian Academy 1826 S. Indiana Ave Unit F, Chicago, IL, 60616
- Facebook donation button

Support UCA on Amazon!

Want to help make a difference while you shop in the Amazon app, at no extra cost to you?

Simply follow the instructions below to select "Urban Christian Academy" as your charity and activate AmazonSmile in the app. They'll donate a portion of your eligible mobile app purchases to us.



How it works:

1. Open the Amazon app on your phone
2. Select the main menu (=) & tap on "AmazonSmile" within Programs & Features
3. Select "Urban Christian Academy" as your charity
4. Follow the on-screen instructions to activate AmazonSmile in the mobile app

UCA QR Codes

Find us with your cell phone camera.

