

# UCAN News Articles – July 2018



Wednesday, July 18, 2018

## Mobile food pantry will provide fresh fruits and vegetables to rural areas of the county



Residents in rural parts Douglas County will soon have a more convenient option for getting fresh fruits and vegetables without having to drive long distances.

The [Mobile](#) Food Pantry Project will run out of a specially designed motorhome that will deliver the food around the county to remote areas, thanks to a three-year, \$275,603 grant to Mercy Foundation to launch the project.

The grant comes from the CHI Mission and Ministry fund. CHI is the parent organization of CHI Mercy Health Mercy Medical Center and a collaboration with the United Community Action Network and the OSU Extension Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program-Education. It's an initiative of the Blue Zones Project-Umpqua.

The mobile pantry is scheduled to be operational by this fall and will utilize the RV, that will be renovated to include shelves, along with refrigeration and freezers.

The Mercy Foundation donated the motorhome for the program, said foundation president Lisa Platt.

“We are looking to strip the inside of the RV and then look at the actual renovation specifications,” Platt said. “We are first focusing on three pilot areas, and will add communities as we go.”

The Mobile Market will travel once a week to Sutherlin, southeast Roseburg, and Glendale to start, and eventually it will be expanded to other remote areas. It will operate like a farmer's

market style food distribution program, targeting the areas of the county with a greater need for access to fresh produce.

UCAN has applied to the U.S. Department of Agriculture for some additional funding for the project and will be involved in supporting the initiative, but even if that grant is not approved, the project will still go forward.

The produce will come from the OSU Extension SNAP Education from multiple suppliers, grocery stores, local farmers, food shares programs and other sources.

“Our hope is that it will provide fresh fruits and vegetables to areas of our county that are considered food deserts, or have food disparities in their communities,” Platt said.

Shawn Ramsey-Watson, a grant writer for Mercy Foundation, said they will work with local growers in Douglas County to provide the fresh produce, and in the winter months, they will work with local grocery stores, so the food can still be delivered even in the slow part of the growing season. She said not everybody can get to a farmer’s market, and this will give them one more market for their produce.

“It’s also going to be a mobile resource center, so in addition to having the fruits and vegetables, there will be people that can talk about nutrition and community resources and how they can access those services,” said Ramsey-Watson.

“We are very aware that many people in Douglas County have food insecurity, including limited [access](#) to fresh produce,” said Lisa Platt, president of Mercy Foundation. “At a recent Blue Zones Umpqua Food Policy Summit, it was brought to our attention that some residents face a minimum 3-hour round trip to get to a grocery store, so this mobile pantry will be a great solution.”

“This pantry is a way to bring healthy food directly to our friends and neighbors,” said Kelly Morgan, Mercy’s president and CEO. “We are so pleased that both CHI and Mercy are supporting this very important community endeavor.”



*Friday, July 20, 2018*

## Community needs certified Ombudsmen volunteers (RSVP)

By Rebecca de Greyt for the Daily Courier

Sponsored by the United Community Action Network, the Retired Senior Volunteer Program matches the talents of people 55 and older with nonprofit agencies and health care facilities throughout Josephine County.

**OMBUDSMEN VOLUNTEERS NEEDED.** Our community is in need of Ombudsmen volunteers.

Volunteers are certified to inform resident and their families of their rights and to educate facility staff as well as the community about rights and care concerns.

Volunteers objectively investigate all concerns and complaints and seek solutions that best address residents' concerns.

To become a Certified Ombudsman Volunteer you must pass a [background check](#), be available 16 hours a month, attend a five-day training, and attend monthly local meetings. Volunteers do get mileage reimbursement.

If you are interested, please come into the UCAN/RSVP office, 125 N.E. Manzanita Ave. in Grant Pass and fill out a volunteer application.

**ARE YOU PREPARED FOR [MEDICARE](#)?** Have you turned 65 since June, or are you turning 65 by October?

To help educate and prepare you, our SHIBA volunteers are prepared to present a Medicare 101 instructional class on Aug. 30 from 10 a.m. to noon at UCAN, 125 N.E. Manzanita Ave. (Corner of Seventh and Manzanita).

They will review plans and compare coverages for Medicare part A, B, and D plans, and inform you how to prevent [Medicare](#) fraud and the next steps to take in the process.

Seating is limited and participants need to call to [sign up](#) for the training. Please call UCAN-RSVP at 541-956-4472.

**BE A PART OF THE SUCCESS.** The Fresh Alliance, one of the quiet success stories at the Josephine County Food Bank, is in need of volunteers.

Each month local grocery stores donate an average of 20,000 pounds of fresh food to the Food Bank. But the Food Bank needs volunteers to pick up this food.

The Food Bank makes 10 pick-up runs a week, at 8 and 11 a.m. Monday through Friday. If you can spare two or three hours a week to help, please call us at 541-479-5556.

The Food Bank provides the truck and a driver (if necessary). Teams of three are preferable, usually one member of the Food Bank staff accompanied by two volunteers. Many hands help to lighten the load.



*Tuesday, July 31, 2018*

## New Head Start building underway

Construction is officially underway on a Roseburg Head Start project after a groundbreaking ceremony Tuesday night. Several young students in the Head Start program turned the dirt to signify the beginning of the project, by the United Community Action Network building on Kenneth [Ford](#) Drive in north Roseburg.

Mike Fieldman, the executive director of UCAN, said having a permanent home for the Head Start program is going to make the operation much more efficient and allow them to put more [money](#) into the program.

“It breaks our cycle of having to move our Head Start classrooms and administrative offices every few years because we’ve always been renting spaces in the past,” Fieldman said.

The Head Start programs serve the families of young children who face significant risk factors affecting school success. [Enrollment](#) priority goes to children most in need.

Early Head Start/Head Start prepares young children for school and life by improving children’s skills. While the kids attend classes, the parents [receive](#) no-cost childcare and have the opportunity to work or to further their education.

Fieldman said every time Head Start had to move, it was costing between \$50,000 to \$150,000, plus all the disruption that went with it. Having a permanent building will also reduce the operating costs by getting rid of the rent that Head Start has been paying in the past.

UCAN will operate the Head Start program, which is for pre-kindergarten children. There are 330 slots available, but Fieldman said the program serves over 400 kids, with some leaving and others coming into the program during the year.

“The slot numbers are not changing, this will allow us to serve them better and maybe keep is in the future from not having to reduce the number of kids,” Fieldman said.

The building is scheduled to be completed by May of 2019, and is expected to be available for the 2019 school year.

“We’re wanting to make this an early childhood service center, and we have a variety of programs that serve Early Childhood families,” Fieldman said. “It will really make it a one-stop shop for early childhood services. Along with the Family Development Center and Umpqua Community Health Center, this campus will really be a one-stop shop.”

The nearly 12,000-square-foot building will be built by Zerbach Construction of Roseburg after the firm was awarded the bid for \$3,099,000.

Because the building is funded by Community Development [Grant money](#), the city of Roseburg will be a co-owner of the property with UCAN for five years to make sure that all Department of Housing and Urban Development requirements are met. The city applied for the grant so UCAN could access federal money that was available.