

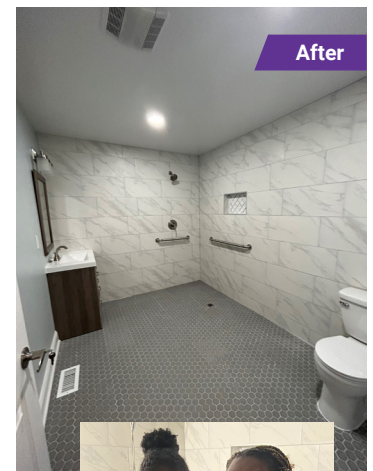
New Bathroom Completed

Unified's Harding House community living group home now sports a new, enlarged and more functional bathroom and laundry area thanks to the generosity of the Home Builders Care Foundation of Maryland, which donated \$19,000 for this project. Additionally, all the flooring on the first floor was replaced. The four women who reside in the home are thrilled with the renovation.

"It's easier to move around on the new floors," says resident Patrice Merrick who uses a walker. She finds personal care easier and more enjoyable now too and especially likes the new vanity with the large mirror.

"The new mirror is very popular," says Latarsha Robertson, a direct support professional who works in the home. "The modern fixtures and bright colors make it feel like a spa and, because the wall between the bathroom and laundry room was removed, the space is more open and accessible. Everyone appreciates the new space, especially our resident who uses a wheelchair."

The renovation included new stainless-steel fixtures; a remodeled bathing area with recessed floors and a detachable



showerhead; a new, taller, toilet; and a larger vanity top with a sink and medicine cabinet. A space-saving stackable washer and dryer was installed in the laundry area.

Thank you to Home Builders Care Foundation of Maryland for making these renovations possible and helping to improve the quality of life for our individuals.



▲ Resident Patrice Merrick (l) and Direct Support Professional Latarsha Robertson (r).



▲ The Salvation Army recognized individuals in Unified's Hagerstown CDS program for their volunteer service at its local food pantry.

CDS Participants Recognized for Volunteer Service

Congratulations to the participants in Unified's Hagerstown Community Development Services (CDS) program who were recently recognized by The Salvation Army for their volunteer service. Beginning last November, CDS participants have volunteered up to two times a week at The Salvation Army's food pantry in Hagerstown. Volunteers help with a variety of essential tasks, from sorting donations in the warehouse to passing out donuts to guests in the cafeteria.

Story continued inside >

Around the Agency



▲ Taco Tuesday brings smiles to individuals who participate in the Crossroads Day Program.



▲ An individual from the Crossroads Day Program (l) and an individual from the Frederick Day Program (r) show their patriotic spirit in honor of the Fourth of July.



▲ An individual from the Frederick Day Program welcomes spring with a new plant.

Story continued from front page >

"Volunteering is very important to me, and I really like the people I meet," says CDS participant Cristal Hall. "I usually wash the trays and wipe down the tables."

CDS participant Billy French enjoys organizing the canned goods and placing them into crates. He says, "It's fun volunteering with my friends."

CDS participant Mark Price says, "It feels good to be able to help other people." He knows the warehouse so well he can easily find any item someone might request.

Thank you to all our CDS participants who have been volunteering their time and making a difference in our community.

Development News

The **Montgomery County Targeted and Specialized Mobility Operating Grant Program** awarded Unified \$45,000 to replace the conversion van used by the four individuals who reside in our Clarksburg community living group home. The new vehicle, a 2022 Chrysler Voyager LX conversion van, can accommodate three ambulatory passengers, two wheelchair passengers and a driver. It directly impacts these individuals' lives by ensuring they maintain their daily routine and continue to have safe transportation to and from our Meaningful Day Habilitation Center in Frederick as well as to medical appointments. Additionally, the new van gives them opportunities to learn, socialize with friends and participate in social and recreational activities in their community.

Mr. and Mrs. Snowden Stanley gifted Unified \$3,200 from the Baltimore Community Foundation to fund half the cost of the MANDT certification training course for two of our staff. The Stanley's funding focus has always been to support, train and retain our direct support staff. We appreciate their dedication to this area as it is also a top priority for Unified, and we are extremely grateful that the Stanleys have recognized our need for more MANDT instructors.

The **MECU Foundation** awarded Unified a \$1,000 grant to support our Meaningful Day Program in the Baltimore region. Our program offers people with disabilities opportunities to build relationships within the community and engage in activities focused on socialization and the development of daily living and vocational skills. The mission of the MECU Foundation is to support educational and financial literacy programs. The grant will be used to help the individuals we serve manage their money.

Unified Is Hiring Direct Support Professionals

Are you a compassionate people person? Our Direct Support Professionals provide supports for people with disabilities in ways that promote individuality and independence. **Learn more and apply at www.unified.org/hiring-now.**

Annual Golf Classic Raises \$66,000

Braving unseasonably chilly weather, 100 golfers participated in Unified's 17th Annual Golf Classic on May 1 and had a wonderful day on the links at the Elkridge Club in Baltimore. Afterward, players and sponsors enjoyed a beautiful cocktail reception inside the club.

A special thank you to Presenting Sponsor Sandy Spring Bank; our Golf Classic Chair Matt Lenihan and his committee: Sarah Lieb, Scott Rodgville and Mike Schiller; and to all our sponsors and golfers. You truly made the day a success. This year's Golf Classic raised \$66,000 in support of Unified's programs and services for individuals with disabilities.

Save the date! Mark your calendar for our 18th Annual Golf Classic on **Monday, May 6, at the Elkridge Club.**



▲ Committee Chair Matt Lenihan (c) presents a check to President and CEO Amy Kreitz (l) and Director of Development Lauren Bussard (r).



▲ John and Stephanie (seated), who receive services from Unified, greet the golfers alongside Unified staff.

Thank You to Our Sponsors

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▲ Guests of Presenting Sponsor Sandy Spring Bank enjoy the post-tournament cocktail party.

Welcome New Board Member Sandy Snyder

Sandy Snyder, an associate broker for eXp Realty, has been helping Unified find attractive, affordable and accessible homes for our residential program since 2012. She generously donates a portion of her commission from the sales of these homes to Unified and has also sponsored some of our fundraising events. From Hagerstown, Sandy is a licensed real estate agent in Maryland, Pennsylvania and West Virginia with 23 years of experience in the industry. She has always had a passion for supporting people with disabilities going back to when she worked in a community living group home for people with disabilities while putting herself through college. Sandy is also a caregiver to her mother who lives in an assisted living community, and she feels a deep connection with families who have a loved one supported by residential services.



★ ★ ★ 20TH JAMIVERSARY ★ ★ ★

Hoodstock XX Honors Chair Russ Causey

Join us on **Friday, November 10,**
to celebrate the 20th anniversary
of Hoodstock! Twenty years

ago, Russ and Jennifer Causey
held a neighborhood event in
their backyard in Federal Hill
that sparked the inspiration for
Hoodstock, Unified's beloved
music festival and fundraiser.

While staying true to its roots,
Hoodstock has become a major
fundraiser for Unified, supporting

our programs and services for
people with disabilities. Russ has

chaired Hoodstock from the beginning, contributing his
musical talents, featuring his band Roses n Rust and
showcasing the talents of many local musicians.



▲ Hoodstock Chair
Russ Causey

Let's make history with Hoodstock XX as we honor Russ for
his 20-year commitment to Unified. Once again, Hoodstock
will feature folk-rock music from the '60s and '70s with live
music, dancing, food by Copper Kitchen, beer and wine,
raffles and a silent auction. Dress is casual. Tie-dye, bell
bottoms and peace necklaces are welcome.

A highlight of the evening will be the presentation of the Samuel
A. Tucker Memorial Can Do Award to recognize an individual
who receives supports from Unified for their ability. Baltimore
Ravens Senior Advisor for Player Development and former
Unified Board Member O.J. Brigance will present the award.

When: Friday, November 10, 2023, 6:30-11 p.m.

Where: The Winslow, 333 West Ostend St.
free on-site parking

Event Headliner: Roses n Rust

Tickets: www.unified.org

\$45 in advance | \$50 at the door

\$10 for kids ages 6-12; free for children under six

Become a Hoodstock Sponsor

Visit www.unified.org/sponsor-an-event for details or
contact Director of Development Lauren Bussard at
443-449-2461.



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New Terminology: Direct Support Professional

As you read our newsletter, you may notice that Unified is using
the terminology **direct support professional** in place of **personal
development associate**. A direct support professional provides
daily personal care assistance and supports adults with disabilities
in developing independent living skills and participating in
recreational and meaningful activities.

OUR MISSION:

To support individuals with disabilities in achieving
independence, productivity, and the quality of life they seek.