

A high-contrast, black and white close-up portrait of a young man with short hair, looking directly at the camera with a serious expression. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting the texture of his skin and the intensity of his gaze.

vision

2009 ANNUAL REPORT

ucan 

In fiscal year 2009...

13,000+

children, youth and families served

473

full time staff, 79 part time staff

207

volunteers

127

mentors

56

interns

30

programs

9

key office locations

5

volunteer boards with more than
80 trustees and members

3

areas of focus: healing trauma, educating
children and families, preventing violence
through youth empowerment

one vision

youth who have suffered trauma can
become our future leaders

dear friends



2009 was a year of tremendous challenge for all of us—and especially for those in our community who are subject to trauma, violence, abuse and poverty. The economic downturn threatened to jeopardize many of our families' abilities to access the healthcare, therapy and community services and programs that are so critical to their well-being. Cuts in funding from critical government and investment sources threatened our ability to meet the tide of growing need. Yet the dedication and creativity of our board, leadership team and staff and the inspiring and enduring commitment of supporters like you empowered us to do more with less.



In fiscal year 2009, we were able to expand service in our existing programs, serving more than 13,000 children, youth and families. UCAN saw the launch of several new initiatives, including a partnership with the Academy of Urban School Leadership which allows us to provide our services in three of AUSL's turnaround and teaching schools in North Lawndale. We also successfully launched the LGBTQ Host Home program, which aims to help the growing population of homeless LGBTQ youth find stable housing and work towards independence. Furthermore, we strengthened our commitments to both youth violence prevention and diversity and inclusion, paid our short term line of credit down from \$3 million to \$828,000, and raised an astounding \$525,000 at our 10th annual Youth Advocacy Awards Dinner in June. We share these success stories with supporters like you because they are your successes as well; we could not have accomplished all that we have without your support.

And now, we look towards 2010 with great hope for our youth and for our growth as an agency. As our clients' needs have grown and shifted, so too has UCAN. Recognizing the tremendous impact that our Teen Parenting Service Network has had on teen parents in Cook and the collar counties, UCAN was invited to expand this program throughout Illinois; 2010 will thus mark the first year that UCAN's impact is felt statewide. Additionally, recognizing the important role that spirituality can play in the healing process and building upon our faith-based heritage, we are exploring opportunities to develop an Office of Spiritual Formation. Finally, UCAN is moving ahead with exciting plans to build a new Residential Treatment Center and to realize our bigger vision of creating a campus for transforming youth. Stay tuned for more news and ways to get involved!

We look forward to the future, and will continue to share our achievements with you. Thank you for your ongoing commitment to UCAN.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Thomas C. Vanden Berk".

Thomas Vanden Berk
UCAN President & CEO

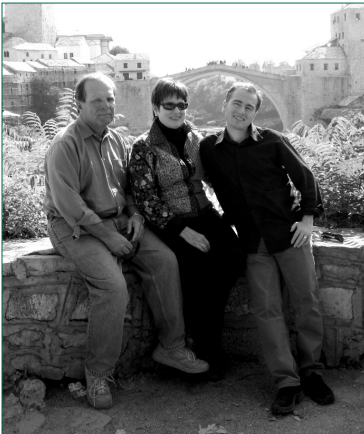
A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Judith C. Rice".

Judith C. Rice
Chair, UCAN Board of Directors

building leaders

“Scott is an outstanding example of the validity of our vision: Youth who have suffered trauma can become our future leaders.”

—Thomas Vanden Berk



Scott with UCAN President & CEO, Thomas Vanden Berk, and his wife, Kathryn Vanden Berk.

Thinking back on his time at UCAN, Scott says that, “the organization acted as scaffolding which a young person is wrapped into, which then gives the youth an opportunity to build himself back up.”

In 2009, Scott Lang started his new career as Vice Consul at the U.S. Consulate General in Montreal, Canada, where he interviews intending U.S. immigrants. Scott has been working to achieve peace and to help those traumatized by war since the early 1990s, something that is especially important to him due to the fact that he has experienced trauma himself.

As a high school sophomore in 1987, Scott “rebecame” a ward of the state. As a baby, he’d been a ward but was quickly adopted. Unfortunately, that situation didn’t work out, and at the age of 15, he was removed from his household by the Department of Children & Family Services and brought to UCAN’s Residential Treatment Center. The opportunity to live at UCAN was particularly important to him, for it meant that he could continue to attend nearby Lane Tech High School.

Similar to most 15 year old boys, Scott was in the process of developing his sense of identity and figuring out who he was as a person. Having been removed from where he grew up and thrown into a residential environment made this even more difficult for him—he had to develop completely new coping skills and to learn to understand a new system of living. Being the only non-African-American on the dorm added a further challenge, which wound up becoming an asset: Scott believes that UCAN is where he started to develop the diplomatic skills that he has translated into his international career.

After subsequent group home and foster home placements, Scott emancipated from the child welfare system in 1991 at the age of 20 and moved to Paris, France. After working several jobs in Paris, Scott returned to the U.S. and started working with refugees through the NGO World Relief. In 1996, Scott was assigned to monitor the first post-war election in Bosnia, followed by others in Kosovo, Montenegro and Russia. He realized that the elections weren’t helping these countries to build peace but conversely were legitimizing oligarchs, so Scott decided to contribute in a positive way. In 1999, Scott founded a non-governmental organization called The Post-Conflict Organization to develop youth leaders from the Balkans after the war. He sought help from a non-profit lawyer in Chicago who turned out to be Kathryn Vanden Berk, wife of UCAN’s Thomas Vanden Berk. After making the connection, Scott developed a lifelong personal relationship with Thomas and Kathryn.

Scott’s impressive resume includes being selected as a Rotary World Peace Fellow at the University of Bradford in England, where he earned a Master’s degree in Conflict Resolution. His career to date has also included policy analysis with the Democratization Policy Council in Sarajevo, programming cultural festivals at the Chicago Cultural Center, leading international projects for Northwestern University, and with his wife Dijana, founding an animal welfare organization called Animal Friends in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Scott and his wife, Dijana, have two twin boys, Alex and Luka.



our history



UCAN's mission is to build strong youth and families through compassionate healing, education and empowerment.

When children are abused, neglected and traumatized, we provide comprehensive care and treatment so that they might heal from their experience and grow to be adults with healthy and thriving lives. When families are challenged, we provide support and education so that a nurturing environment is restored. Our goal is to develop each client's sense of independence and to empower them by building upon their strengths, instilling hope for the future. Our vision is that youth who have suffered trauma can become our future leaders; leaders who will give back to their communities.

Since our founding in 1869 by the members of St. Pauls United Church of Christ, UCAN has remained dynamic, evolving with the tremendous challenges facing disadvantaged children, their caregivers, and families. Today, UCAN is a multi-faceted social service organization serving youth in the care of the state and other at-risk populations. Last year, UCAN served more than 13,000 children, youth and families across a wide spectrum of programs and services.

Unique among social service organizations, UCAN's full continuum of programs includes a residential treatment facility, a therapeutic day school, extensive community and violence prevention programs, support for pregnant or parenting teens, foster care placement, counseling, vocational training, and internships for promising former wards of the state. This array of services enables us to move clients from one program to another as their needs change, yet spares them the transitions and gaps caused by moves from one agency to another. Our clinical philosophy ensures that our approach to healing is united and consistent.

With our 141 year history and a commitment to innovation and diversity, UCAN is recognized as a local and national leader in treatment and therapy. UCAN believes that everyone has a voice and the right to realize their full potential. For more information, please visit www.ucanchicago.org.

financial highlights

statement of financial position

as of June 30, 2009

CURRENT ASSETS

Cash & Cash Equivalents	\$81,298
Accounts Receivable Less Allowance for Doubtful	\$3,373,758
Grants Receivable	\$509,617
Prepaid Expenses & Other Assets	\$214,785

Total Current Assets \$4,179,458

INVESTMENTS

\$9,170,693

INSTITUTIONAL PROPERTIES

Land & Improvements	\$1,048,302
Building & Improvements	\$12,438,022
Furniture & Equipment	\$3,461,653
Motor Vehicles	\$350,066

Total Institutional Properties \$17,298,043

Less Accumulated Depreciation (\$7,350,209)

Net Institutional Properties \$9,947,834

Deferred Financing Costs, Less Amortization \$351,330

Beneficial Interest Held in Trusts \$9,292,106

Total Assets \$32,941,421

LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS

CURRENT LIABILITIES

Accounts Payable	\$2,122,008
Deferred Revenue	\$462,120
Accrued Payroll	\$1,457,750
Accrued Vacation	\$706,043
Accrued Pension	\$1,055,371
Borrowings Under Line of Credit	\$827,805

Total Current Liabilities \$6,631,097

LONG TERM LIABILITIES (Principally Bonds)

\$10,803,440

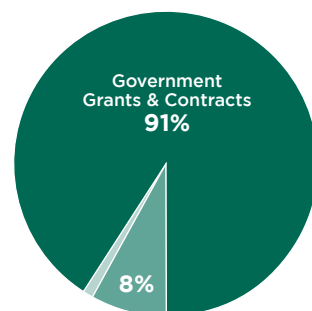
NET ASSETS

Unrestricted	\$5,666,272
Temporarily Restricted	\$199,233
Permanently Restricted	\$9,641,379

Total Net Assets \$15,506,884

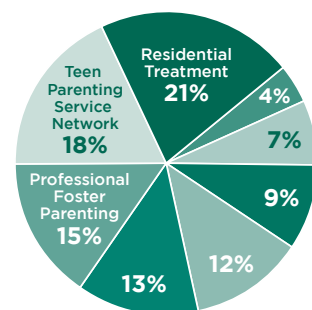
Total Liabilities & Net Assets \$32,941,421

SUPPORT, REVENUE & GAINS



Private Revenue 8%
Investment Income 1%
Other Income <1%

PROGRAM EXPENSES



Ulhich Academy & High School 13%
Transitional/Independent Living 12%
Housing Support Services 9%
Other Programs 7%
Youth Empowerment/Violence Prevention 4%

statement of activities

for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2009

SUPPORT, REVENUE & GAINS

Program Support	\$32,462,134
Public Support	\$2,129,047
Revenue & Gains (excluding investments and trusts loss)	\$415,436

Total Support, Revenues & Gains \$35,006,617

EXPENSES

Program Services	\$30,542,666
Support Services	\$4,542,832

Total Expenses \$35,085,498

Operating Loss (\$78,881)

Loss on Investments and Trusts (\$3,220,551)

CHANGE IN NET ASSETS

Current year change in net assets	(\$3,299,432)
Defined Benefit Plan Adjustment	(\$667,818)
Net Assets at Beginning of Year	\$19,474,134

Net Assets at End of Year \$15,506,884

Note: The Loss on Investments and Trusts and the Defined Benefit Plan adjustment are a result of the significant worldwide decline in the value of stocks and bonds during fiscal 2009. Stock and bond prices have rebounded as of December 31, 2009 and a significant portion of these losses have been recouped.

our donors

SIGNATURE LEADERS SOCIETY

UCAN's Signature Leaders Society honors those contributing \$1,000 or more to UCAN annually.

\$100,000 +

Diermeier Family Foundation
Frank A. Knaphurst Family Trust

\$50,000 +

Illinois Department of Human Services
U.S. Cellular
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\$25,000 +

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AND HIGH SCHOOL**

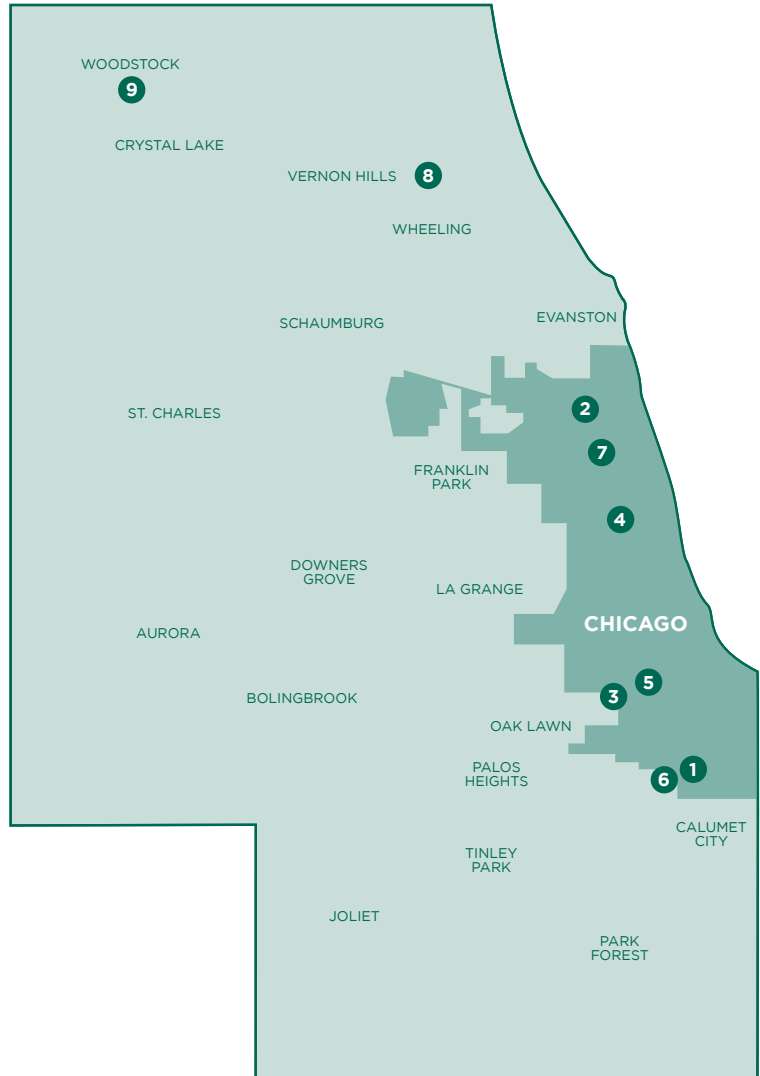
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our locations

get involved

- Donate
- Volunteer
- Mentor a youth
- Attend one of our events
- Participate in your company's matching gift program
- Leave UCAN a gift in your estate
- Help us develop collaborations and partnerships
- Network with us on Facebook or www.ActofGood.org
- Spread the news about UCAN and its work
- Join our e-newsletter mailing list
- Contact your legislator about issues affecting UCAN services

For more information and to find out how you can help, please visit our website at www.ucanchicago.org.



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