



UPSTATE
CIRCLE
OF FRIENDS

Upstate Circle Of Friends (UCF) is a not for profit organization located in Greenville, South Carolina. Our mission is a solid commitment to expand opportunities, enhance the quality of life, and the progression of at-risk children and their families through various educational recreational, and social programs.



Deloris Pinson, George Singleton, and the entire Upstate Circle of Friends staff want to express our sincerest appreciation for your continued trust. This past year has been full of unique challenges and successes, and we are deeply thankful for your support throughout it all.

We are excited for the opportunities of 2024 and are committed to our mission and your participation in our journey.

From all of us at UCF, have a blessed Holiday Season!
The Upstate Circle of Friends Team

SHOP with a COP

Upstate Circle of Friends was thrilled to be asked to partner with the Greenville County Sheriff's Department and Walmart store #1244 to provide Christmas to underprivileged kids ages 6 – 12. A great way to build positive relationships with law enforcement within our communities!

Comments from parents: "Everybody was so excited! The officers interacted with the kids very well. I love the energy..... they got the kids hyped and excited. They asked questions and helped each child pick out their gifts. It was awesome!" and "So happy to see the smiles on their faces. They really appreciated everything and every minute of it. What the officers are doing is a great thing for kids."



Join us in providing Comfort on Christmas Day!

Date: December 25th, 2023

Time: 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Location: Camelot Inn & Greenville Inn & Suites

How can you help? Volunteer your time and contribute to this heartwarming cause. Let's make this Christmas a truly special one for everyone!

Spread the word by sharing this event with friends, family, and colleagues so we can make a greater impact together. Be part of the circle of kindness that can change lives.

To learn more or sign up as a volunteer, visit our website <http://tinyurl.com/ChristmasDayComfort> or contact us at Odessa@UCFGreenville.org



Upstate Circle of Friends will be reaching out to the residents of two District 25 hotels and providing them with a delicious and comforting meal on Christmas Day.

 DATE: DECEMBER 25TH, 2023

 TIME: 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

 LOCATION: CAMELOT INN & GREENVILLE INN & SUITES

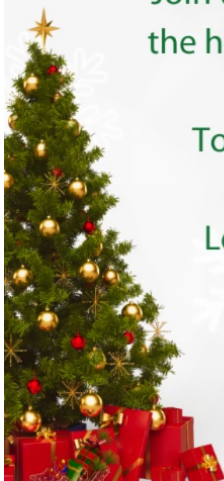
How You Can Help:

- Volunteer your time and contribute to this heartwarming cause.
- Spread the word by sharing this event with friends, family, and colleagues so we can make a greater impact together.

Join us in providing Comfort on Christmas Day and help us make the holiday season memorable for those less fortunate. Be part of the circle of kindness that can change lives.

To learn more or sign up as a volunteer, click the link above or contact us at Odessa@UCFGreenville.org

Let's make this Christmas a truly special one for everyone!



UCFGREENVILLE.ORG





Thank you to all who were able to attend our annual fundraiser on November 15th. If you were unable to attend, you missed some fabulous speakers, including **Ms, Jada Samuels**, our Miss South Carolina. If you want to send your support, **click here** to go to our secure giving page. Every dollar helps.





WHAT WE PROVIDE:

- A Weekend Backpack Program for children in dire need of nutritious food. They will receive non perishable food items to cover the weekend.
- Pay past due balances on children's school meal accounts so they can receive hot meals
- Ensure an annual toy drive for needy children

HOW CAN YOU HELP

DONATE:

- INDIVIDUAL PACKETS OF OATMEAL
- PEANUT BUTTER & JAM
- FRUIT CUPS IN 100% FRUIT JUICE
- SMALL POP TOP VEGETABLES, LOW SODIUM SOUP/STEW
- CEREAL AND SHELF MILK
- SMALL BAGS OF POPCORN
- FRESH ORANGES & BANANAS
- BREAKFAST/ GRANOLA BARS
- INDIVIDUAL PACKETS OF MAC & CHEESE
- APPLESAUCE
- INDIVIDUAL BAGS OF GRITS
- 2 GALLON ZIP LOCK BAGS

 \$BITSPROGRAM

FOR MORE INFO
864-652-1879





The UCF Urban Teaching Farm held a Growing Winter Strawberries Workshop on December 2nd. Our workshops are part of our mission to educate our community and equip them with the tools needed to grow healthy foods at home. The Growing Winter Strawberries workshop was a resounding success, with participants engaging and learning extensively throughout the session. The workshop focused on growing strawberries during the winter season, equipping participants with the necessary knowledge and skills. The attendees expressed great enthusiasm and actively participated in various activities and discussions. The workshop emphasized the importance of appropriate planting techniques, soil preparation, and care specific to winter strawberry cultivation. By the end of the workshop, participants felt confident in their ability to successfully grow winter strawberries at home. Each participant received a strawberry plant and begin the planting process.

To help support Garden Programming, [please click here.](#)





— MLK Day of Service —

Free Potatoes

Telemon | TRC, Francis Produce, Upstate Circle of Friends and its partners are serving the community on this Day by giving away FREE POTATOES called The Potato Dump. What better way to serve by giving away fresh produce on Martin Luther King Day of Service. This is a wonderful way to honor his legacy of service by fighting against food insecurity.

January 15th | Noon - 4 PM
Bring your own Bags!

at
Francis Produce Company
3048 White Horse Rd. • Greenville, SC 29611

Volunteer Times

10:00 am – 12:00 PM | Assignments



For Additional Info: Ms. Odessa Shields, Office manager at Upstate Circle of Friends
Phone: (864) 277-5788 Email: Odessa@ucfgreenville.org

Join us on January 15th from Noon to 4 PM for the Potato Dump event, organized by Telamon | TRC, Francis Produce, Upstate Circle of Friends, and their partners. We're coming together to serve our community by giving away FREE POTATOES!

What better way to honor Martin Luther King's legacy of service than by fighting against food insecurity? This event is a wonderful opportunity to make a difference and contribute to the cause.

- Date: January 15th
- Time: Noon - 4 PM
- Location: Francis Produce Company, 3048 White Horse Rd., Greenville, 29611

Don't forget to bring your own bags to carry the fresh produce!

Volunteer Times:

- 10:00 am - 12:00 PM: Assignments available

For additional information, please contact Ms. Odessa Shields, Office Manager at Upstate Circle of Friends.

Phone: (864) 277-5788

Email: Odessa@ucfgreenville.org

Let's come together and make a difference in our community!

BOARD
MEMBER
SPOTLIGHT

Gina Bridges



Meet the new STAR Center Director

The College recently welcomed a new director to the STAR Center, which houses the Caring Corner Food Pantry and the Student Emergency Needs program. Gina Bridges is a professional who is passionate about equity and community building. She holds a dual bachelor's degree in International Studies and Spanish. Gina began her career working with immigrants and refugees at the nonprofit, FIRN in Columbia, Maryland. Through the years she supported students at Penn State University's Paul Robeson Cultural Center, served as the Vocational Counselor at a state correctional institution, developed services to engage families in the OnTrack Greenville program, and proudly served the community during the pandemic through the United Way of Greenville County. Gina is a board member at Upstate Circle of Friends.

Gina married her husband, Derek- a native Greenvillian, in 2018. She has two wonderful children, Emma and Cameron. During her down time Gina creates art and paintings, and she provides art experiences for local youth and volunteers at Nicholtown Child and Family Collaborative.



Upcoming Events

	LINE DANCING Monday & Thursday 6-8:30PM
	THE GATHERING: SEASONED ADULTS WITH FLAVOR Tuesday & Thursday 10am-2pm
TBA	DREAM PREPARTORY ACADEMY OPENING
TBA	UNITY HEALTH ON MAIN WELLNESS HUB  The logo for Unity Health on Main, featuring a colorful starburst icon and the text 'unity health on main' in a mix of fonts and colors.
TBA	VETFORWARD INITIATIVE  The logo for VetForward, featuring a blue star with a red and white swoosh and the text 'VETFORWARD' in blue.



Upstate Circle of Friends | 29 Ridgeway Dr, Greenville, SC 29605

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