

ANNUAL REPORT 2025





A WORD FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

In 2025, United Christian Ministries strengthened its mission of service and achieved significant growth in operations. Everyday, families in Jackson County turn to our organization for essential support, including food assistance, financial aid, and community resources. We are committed to addressing these critical needs with compassion and efficiency. The success of our pantry operations relies on the unwavering dedication of our volunteers. These remarkable individuals play a vital role in managing deliveries, sorting donations, and ensuring that resources are readily available to those in need.

In addition to food assistance, we actively collaborate with community partners to provide financial relief to families facing hardships. Through strategic partnerships with organizations such as the Department of Social Services, Mountain Projects, Salvation Army, and Jackson County Neighbors in Need, we offer crucial support for overdue rent payments, utility bills, and winter heating expenses.

Donations and grant funding fully support our programs. We extend our deepest gratitude to all our supporters who stand by United Christian Ministries, whether through financial contributions, volunteer efforts, or the donation of essential goods. Your generosity fuels our mission, enabling us to serve our neighbors with integrity and strengthening the community we are proud to uplift.

Ann Selby Nicholson
Executive Director,
UCM

Pictured on the front cover:

Frank Royce, Chairman of the Board
Heritage Christian Academy
New walkway and Sign

IN THE PANTRY



United Christian Ministries was established primarily as a food pantry in 1989. We strive to meet the needs of our community by allowing individuals and families to visit the pantry every two weeks. To ensure a steady supply of nutritious food, we purchase food from MANNA, one of our key partners, every two weeks. In addition to these purchases, we collect donations five days a week from local businesses, including major grocery chains such as Food Lion, Walmart and Dollar General.

This year for Thanksgiving, UCM spent \$6,000 to purchase 200 Food Lion gift cards. Clients could use these gift cards to plan their own Thanksgiving meals.

Our largest food initiative of the year is the Christmas Food Bags for children in Jackson County Schools. Starting in August, we reach out to local school counselors to determine how many children will face food insecurity during Christmas break. Once we have an estimated number, we begin planning a list of necessary food items.

For several months, we have coordinated with local churches to collect these items. This is no small task for the congregations, as we asked each church to collect over 730 of a specific item. We generally plan to include 13 different food items in the children's bags.



UCM would like to extend special thanks and appreciation. First, we thank First Baptist Church in Sylva for hosting this year's event. Secondly, we appreciate the Balsam Mountain Preserve Fund Foundation for its generous \$4,000 donation, which we used to purchase additional needed items. Finally, we express our gratitude to Tim and Marcia Jones for not only providing the NAPA truck to hold the bags but also for assisting with deliveries to each school.

HELPING OUR NEIGHBORS

At United Christian Ministries, we warmly welcome all Jackson County residents. No matter your income or circumstances, we're here to support you and provide a caring community. You're not alone; we'd love to have you join us.

WHAT OUR CLIENTS THINK

In the fall of 2025, we conducted a client survey that successfully engaged over 100 families. Their feedback provides valuable insights that we are eager to share:

- Has UCM treated you with kindness and courtesy? YES, 100 %
- Does the food you receive help maintain a healthy diet? YES, 100 %
- Do you have any other preferred foods ? Gluten-Free, diabetic-friendly items & cheese.
- Are our opening hours suitable for you to receive our services? Yes, 98%
- Are you aware of other local agencies that offer services that could help you? Yes, 98%
- In which community do you reside in Jackson County? Sylva (49), Savannah (1), Whittier (12), Dillsboro (2), Tuckasegee (5), Balsam (11), Cullowhee (17), Glenville (1), Webster(1), Barkers Creek (1).

" You have been a blessing."

" Thank you for everything you do for the community."

" I thank God for places like you that we can turn to when we have no one else."

"UCM has been a blessing to my family while raising my grandchildren."

" Thank you for the diapers and wipes."

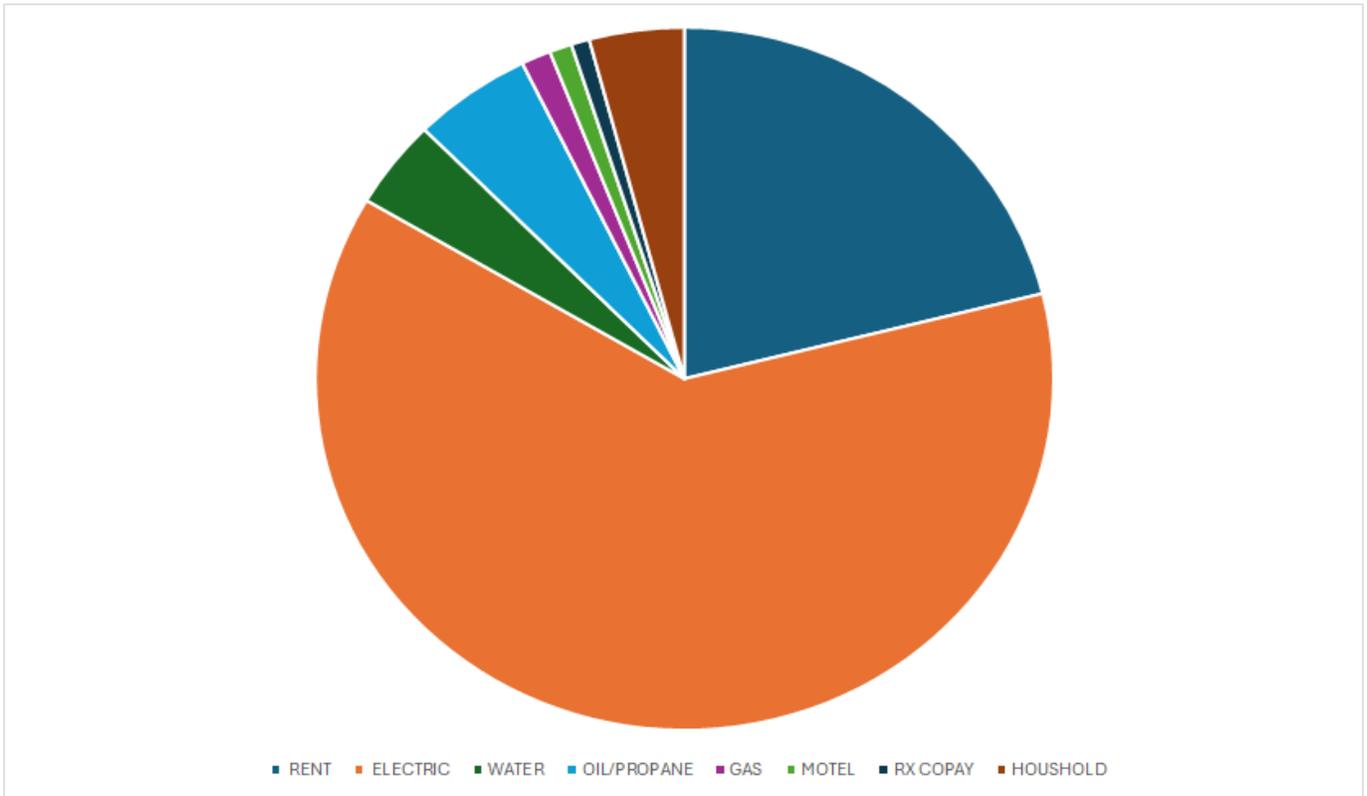
" Thank all of your wonderful people."

" Extremely grateful for all your services. Nice, pretty ladies."



FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

2025



217

\$30,000

PAST DUE ELECTRIC

Households received
help with critical
expenses totaling over
\$45,000

FOOD SUPPORT



40,737

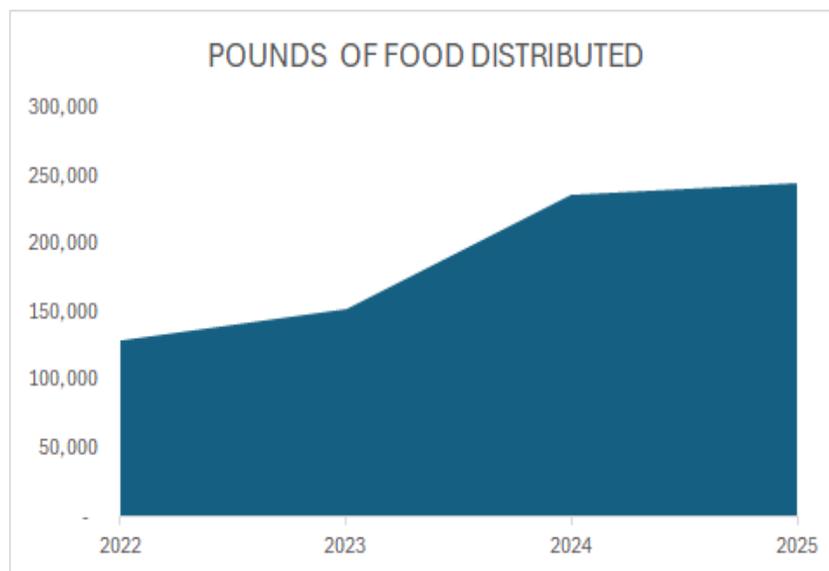
Bags of food distributed to families in 2025.

6,063

Households served in 2025.

426

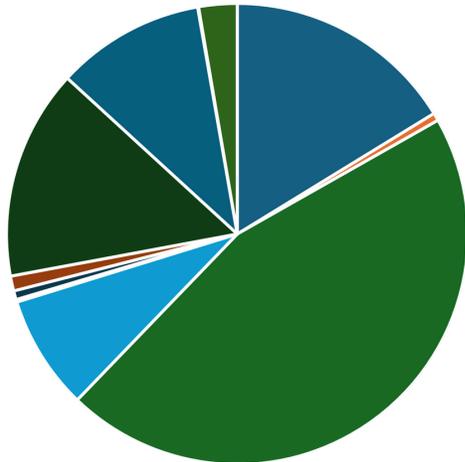
First-time clients compared to 187 back in 2021.



In 2025, UCM distributed over 244,422 pounds of food.

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

Total Revenue



- Churches
- Business
- Donations
- Unrestricted Grants
- Church Related Groups
- Memorial
- Fundraising
- Vanguard Cash Invest
- Individuals
- In Honor
- Restricted Grants
- Vanguard Invest

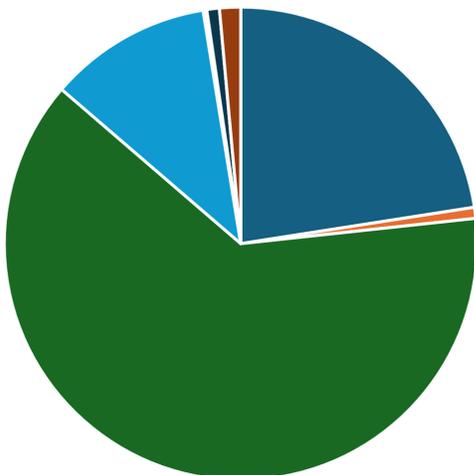
United Christian Ministries relies on donations, grants, and fundraising. Grants make up about a quarter of our total income, while two-thirds of our funding come from donations. About one-third of our financial support is from individual donors. Furthermore numerous volunteers invest substantial time welcoming clients, processing food orders and offering referrals for additional support.

Long-standing grantor's include the Church of the Good Shepherd (Cashiers), The Jackson County Community Foundation, The Sisters of Mercy of North Carolina Foundation, Great Smokies Health Foundation, Jackson County Non-Profit, Nantahala Health Foundation, Southwestern Commission, Balsam Mountain Preserve, and the Rotary Club of Sylva.

Every donation, whether large or small, makes a positive impact on our community. Thanks to your support, United Christian Ministries has consistently helped neighbors in Jackson County in need with food and financial assistance for over 36 years.

At UCM, we sincerely value the generous donations we receive, and we are dedicated to responsibly managing these gifts. We recognize the trust and kindness they symbolize, and we are committed to using them wisely to help those in need.

Donations



- Churches
- Business
- Donations
- Church Related Groups
- Memorial
- Fundraising
- Individuals
- In Honor

Board of Directors

Executive Director

Ann Selby Nicholson

Assistant to the Director

Andi Green

OFFICERS

Dwight McMahan, Secretary

Marcia Jones, Treasurer

**Frank Royce, Chairman of
the Board**

DIRECTORS

Chad Cagle

Evie Caron

Jacke DeLeeuw

Karen Doucette

Frances Hess

Peg Shafer

Annette Sutton

Josh Sutton

Emily Taylor



United Christian Ministries of Jackson County, Inc.

191 Skyland Drive

P.O. Box 188

Sylva, NC 28779

www.ucmsylva.org