



United Community  
Housing Coalition



# Annual Membership Dinner

**I.B.E.W. Local 58 Detroit**

| 1358 Abbott Street, Detroit, MI 48226

**Thursday, November 16, 2017**

| 5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

## Celebrating our 43<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary!

United Community Housing Coalition  
2727 Second Ave. | Suite 313 | Detroit, Michigan 48201  
(313) 963-3310  
[www.uchcdetroit.org](http://www.uchcdetroit.org)

## About UCHC

The United Community Housing Coalition (UCHC) is a nonprofit comprehensive housing assistance organization, which has provided a variety of housing-related services to Detroit's low-income residents since 1973.

UCHC works with tenants, homesteaders, homeowners and people experiencing homelessness, fighting for everyone's right to have a safe and affordable residence for themselves and their families. Additionally, we advocate alongside housing, religious, civil rights, labor and advocacy organizations to preserve, improve and expand affordable housing opportunities for low-income Detroiters.

Because of its long history and significant expertise as a comprehensive housing services provider in Michigan, UCHC is frequently asked to provide advice to other organizations in communities across Southeast Michigan.

All services are provided to income-eligible families and individuals free of charge.

*"Was I always going to be here? No I was not. I was going to be homeless at one time, a taxi driver, truck driver, or any kind of job that would get me a crust of bread. You never know what's going to happen." -- Morgan Freeman*



# 43rd Annual Meeting

## 2017 Board of Directors

Robert Shimkoski Jr., Chairman  
Cassandra Walker, Vice Chair  
Beverly Lemle', Treasurer  
Latanya Harris, Secretary

Michelle Fallena  
Cristina Guzman  
Henry Lewis  
Willie Smith  
Margo Dala  
Alexa Eisenberg

## UCHC Staff

Karen Allison, Target Homes Placement Counselor ... Michael Ames, Paralegal ... Barbara Carter, Target Homes Placement Counselor ... Beverly Ealy, Deputy Director ... Richard English, Paralegal ... Pat Foster, VISTA ... Maxine Gardner, Intake Specialist ... Arryn Green, Accounting Assistant ... Bill Halbower, Attorney ... Jamilia Harnois, ESG Program Supervisor ... Sarah Hoerl, Data Management Supervisor ... Tammy Howze, Attorney ... Kammi Johannsen, Paralegal ... Mia Jones, Housing Counselor ... Barbara Katzman, Attorney ... Wanda Knight-Wilson, TH Case Manager ... Liz Lawless, Data Management-HMIS ... Sharon Lemieux, Tax Foreclosure Prevention Counselor ... Karen McLeod, PSH Program Supervisor ... Brenda Miner, PSH Placement Counselor ... Michele Oberholtzer, Tax Foreclosure Program Coordinator ... Ted Phillips, Executive Director ... Claudia Sanford, Tenant Organizer ... Charlene Snow, Attorney ... Meghan Strickland, Tax Foreclosure Prevention Counsellor ... Kim Stroud, Mortgage Specialist ... Jewell Terrell, Intake Specialist ... Ernest Thompson, Special Services Coordinator ... Jolayne Thompson, Finance Director ... Johnny Walker, PSH Case Manager ... Zachariah Wahid, Tax Foreclosure Prevention Counsellor ... Latrice Watkins, Tax Foreclosure Prevention Counselor ... Clarice Werdlow, Target Homes Program Supervisor



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## 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting Agenda

Thursday, November 16, 2017

- 5:00 p.m. .... Registration & Silent Auction Begins
- 5:45 p.m. .... Greeting - Robert Shimkoski Jr., Chair, UCHC  
Board of Directors
- Overview of the Evening - Ted Phillips, UCHC  
Executive Director
- 6:00 p.m. .... Dinner Begins
- 6:20 p.m. .... Annual Report - Ted Phillips & Staff Members
- 6:30 p.m. .... Silent Auction Closes
- 6:50 p.m. .... Board Elections/Membership - Cassandra Walker,  
Vice Chair
- 7:00 pm. .... Housing Legislative Update (Local legislation  
recently passed, pending or proposed)
- 7:15 p.m. .... Awards - Ted Phillips, Michele Oberholtzer & Staff
- 7:45-8:00 p.m. Closing Remarks  
50-50 Raffle Drawing, Collect Board Ballots

**Please pick up your Silent Auction items in the back before you leave!**

\*Thank you to all who made a donation to the silent auction and to all staff and volunteers who help organize. A particular thank you to Sharon Lemieux for again this year coordinating the Silent Auction and to Sarah Mitchell and Olivia for compiling this program book.

\*\*We would like to thank Faith Restoration Church, 11941 Harper, Detroit for their donation of the deserts.

Be sure to pick up some helpful literature, purchase a raffle ticket or two, bid on silent auction items, meet new people, and talk with some old friends.

# UHC Accomplishments FY 2017

August 1, 2016 to July 31, 2017

## #Households Served\*

Landlord-Tenant eviction cases represented in court .....	950
Landlord-Tenant problems assisted with that did not involve court .....	850
Tenant Organizing assistance provided .....	1900
Homeless persons assisted with housing placement .....	1,603
Homes purchased (Mortgage & Tax Foreclosure buybacks and auction) ....	129
Mortgage Foreclosure Prevention cases closed .....	136
Tax Foreclosure Prevention assistance.....	5,415
Tax Foreclosure outreach mailings .....	44,914
Tax Foreclosure workshops held.....	50
Tax Foreclosure workshop attendance.....	4,731
Financial Assistance to tenants and homeless.....	638*
Financial Assistance to tenants and homeless (funds).....	\$415,869.00
Amount of funds loaned.....	\$ 193,932.00
<b>Total households served .....</b>	<b>26,351</b>

The above numbers do not include our current fiscal year’s work with our tax foreclosure program in which 47 homes were purchased for the occupants to in the WCT Tax Auction and 80 homes in the First Right of Refusal project bringing the total since October 2010 to over 1,800 homes purchased for homeowners or the occupants of tax foreclosed homes.

\*Some households received more than one service.

## How You Can Help...

A **tax deductible donation** of any amount is always appreciated. Donations can be for operational support or specifically designed for a particular project. For more information on making a donation, or to discuss how your donation could be used, please contact us at supportus@uchcdetroit.org or visit www.uchcdetroit.org.

Also, please keep UHC in mind during the upcoming holidays. Our annual **family gift bags and food baskets** will go out to many client families again this year. We need donations to fill those baskets with items like non-perishable foods or grocery store certificates. We will also need volunteers to help wrap presents.

## == And there was plenty for all ==

We all know that guy. He's part of the reason for who we elected in 2016. I keep being reminded of him when I talk about helping those that need a hand. He's the guy who thinks he never needs a hand so no one else should get one either. We make policies to appease him and still we fail. I want a world that will make policies to please Barbara.

Barbara wasn't a client. I didn't have "clients" then. It was about 40 years ago and I had been blessed to be asked to handle, as a volunteer, community outreach activities for St. Timothy UMC in northwest Detroit. It was nearing Christmas and I was in charge of helping those in need in the neighborhood. Barbara was in Inkster. Some didn't think that was the neighborhood, but when you are called you answer.

Barbara was a wisp of a woman, barely 5 feet tall with no front teeth and thinning hair. She would have easily passed for mid-60's in age. She was about 30. She had two young school aged boys in her subsidized housing apartment. She had been nearly beaten to death several times by a huge man who terrorized her for years. She had fled. He was arrested and now in prison for a long time. Her greatest Christmas gift was her life. Her freedom. She needed nothing more. She asked for nothing more. She was a referral.

When we spoke she was thankful to get "any" help for the boys. She had nothing to give them. I don't remember what was wrapped and delivered to them. They were two young boys. A couple of cars, maybe an "action" figure, a Nerf football, a pack of no-brand UNO cards, some dollar store gloves, and some coloring books and crayons would have been pretty typical. I remember only one item in the food basket. It probably had some packs of oat meal, hot cocoa (with the little marshmallows), potatoes, a can of vegetables, some oranges and (the one thing I remember), a 12 once fully cooked square ham. It was enough ham for 1 meal for the 3 and maybe a little for a small sandwich the next day.

Barbara didn't have a car and when I delivered the gifts on Christmas Eve day I remember thinking I wish we had done more. She and the boys had endured so much, had asked for nothing and were getting little more than that. There was nothing left to give. The food was all gone, the toys were depleted, the wrapping paper used up. I had, as I would so many times in the future, in many ways, opted for thinner stew to feed more as opposed to simply saying "no." Still, it felt like this family deserved more. When she opened the door, you would have thought a J.L. Hudson's truck had pulled up. Barbara was happy and excited and very thankful. I left thinking I really knew we should have done more.

A day or two after Christmas, Barbara called me. She thanked me again and said that she and the boys had a wonderful Christmas, the best in years. 40 years later her story doesn't still stay with me because of any of the above. It was what was next. After all she and they had gone through she had a right to have her a day to herself. But, she didn't do that. She said her boys had two friends next door and they had no toys or gifts. So, the boys invited them over and "shared their gifts." And, Barbara invited their mom over and they all had dinner. Barbara described a feast that somehow came from a bag with enough for 3 people. And, "the ham, Mr. Ted, the ham was wonderful, and there was plenty of it for all of us, and I even had enough to make myself a sandwich later." It was amazing and genuine.

I know "that guy" is out there that I keep hearing about complaining. It is his right. So far it is still a free world. I would like us to remember in that same world there are people like Barbara who even when they are down and out find the room to say, "there's enough for everyone."

Peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ted Phillips". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Ted Phillips  
Executive Director

# A Sincere Thank You To Our Funders!

THE SKILLMAN  FOUNDATION  
Kids matter here



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And heartfelt thanks to our donors for their continued support!



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UCHC is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. Contributions to UCHC are tax deductible with the exception of the value of any dinners or memberships purchased.