

# Making Our Mark

A Connection to Friends, Families, and Supporters of United Inner City Services  
Home of St. Mark Child and Family Development Center

Fall 2017

*Good as gold!*

## UICS celebrates 50 years of building bridges, inspiring minds, impacting futures

**F**ifty years is a milestone – not merely an occasion to reflect and celebrate – but a golden opportunity to build a bridge for the future.

On September 6, 2017, United Inner City Services (UICS) did just that by welcoming nearly 200 guests to a 50th anniversary luncheon. Longtime friends of UICS and St. Mark Center, Sarah and Jon Baum, chaired the event generously sponsored by The Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation.

***"It was our good fortune to work with the UICS team in creating an anniversary event to showcase this exceptional preschool."***

*- Sarah Baum, 50th Anniversary Co-Chair*

"This was a day of celebration," said Executive Director Deidre Anderson, "but mostly it was a day of gratitude." With founding UICS executive Rev. Samuel Mann by her side, Anderson paid tribute to the many individuals whose leadership, vision, and generosity have made St. Mark Center a model for early childhood learning.

Among the honorees was Mark Jorgenson, chair of the 2012 capacity campaign which not only improved and expanded the facility, but strengthened the organizational and financial capacity of our flagship early learning center. Jorgenson's commitment is as special now as back in 2012: today his grandchildren are students at the beautiful, arts-infused Center.

Serving as Honorary Committee for the 50th Anniversary event were members of the 2012 campaign team which included Lee Ellen Curry, the Hon. Peggy Dunn, Randall Ferguson, David Fowler, Dave Frantze, Ollie Gates, Beth and Pat McCown, John Mulvihill, David Oliver, Bob Regnier, Madeline Romious, John Sherman, and John Walker.



Mark Jorgenson, Chair of the 2012 Capacity Campaign, with Rev. Sam Mann, founding executive of UICS, and current Executive Director Deidre Anderson.



Board Members from United Inner City Services (from left) Amy Coopman, Troy Nash, Ruby Russell, Theodis Watson, Deidre Anderson, Tom Eatman, Lee Ellen Curry, Mary Jorgenson, Ruth Stricklin Pullins, and Todd Navrat.

As expressed by U.S. Rep. Emanuel Cleaver in a special video produced by VML, St. Mark Center has long been a catalyst for early learning and advocacy along the city's 12th Street corridor. True to its mission, UICS and St. Mark Center now looks to its next 50 years with hopeful anticipation: building bridges, inspiring minds, and impacting futures.

# ON THE MARK



## Dear Friends,

(Hugs).

The ones we share with our families last long after we let go. And the same is true for a family's engagement in their child's education.

At a recent fellowship with the renowned Flamboyant Foundation, my beliefs were re-affirmed in what research has long proven: students do better in school and in life when families are engaged as partners in their education.

At St. Mark Center, this engagement is a wonderful coming together of families and educators. It accelerates learning, inspires trust, builds relationships, and transforms lives. We encourage 5 key roles (below) for families to play in their child's life, and provide opportunities for both families and teachers to feel informed and supported.

Making Our Mark in early learning means connecting with families so they feel welcome at our school, and empowered to continue at home what's presented in the classroom. It's a reciprocal approach – just like a hug – that lasts long after we let go.

In gratitude,

Deidre



5 Roles of Families to Support Student Success

## Ways to Help



St. Mark Center welcomes these in-kind donations.

- Toothpaste, toothbrushes (child-size)
- Composition notebooks, art supplies
- Preschool science books
- Bibs
- Gently used or new clothing - 12M to youth small
- New underwear – 3T, 4T, 5T
- Baking supplies (small whisk, pans, pot holders, mixing bowls)
- Shaving cream and Band-Aids (non latex)
- A kitchen-style island with casters for cooking projects
- Electric skillet and griddle

If you would like to help, contact [Pat.Smithson@UICSKC.org](mailto:Pat.Smithson@UICSKC.org) or call 816-994-5400.

Thank you!

## OUR VISION

UICS/St. Mark Center envisions an empowered community where children and families flourish.

## OUR MISSION

Building bridges. Inspiring minds. Impacting futures.

## CONNECT

United Inner City Services  
Home of St. Mark Child and Family Development Center  
2008 E. 12th Street  
Kansas City, MO 64127  
Phone: 816.994.5400  
[UICSKC.org](http://UICSKC.org)  
[facebook.com/UICSKC](https://facebook.com/UICSKC)

Your Support Makes a Difference!  
Donate online at [uicskc.org/invest](http://uicskc.org/invest)



# Helping Hands at St. Mark Center

We welcome individuals and groups to volunteer at St. Mark Center.

To learn about upcoming opportunities, please contact [Bradley.Hahn@UICSKC.org](mailto:Bradley.Hahn@UICSKC.org) or call 816.994.5400.



**Marvelous Makeover:** Members of the Xi Tau Omega chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha have a special dedication to St. Mark Center. On this spring day, the group cleaned, planted, and spruced-up many areas of the school and grounds. The sorority's mission encourages scholastic excellence with a special focus on supporting girls and women.



**BlueScope Beautification:** Every school should be so lucky to have friends like ours at BlueScope Steel. Employees spent their United Way Day of Caring at St. Mark Center constructing new stairs for our stage, cleaning classrooms, and beautifying the playground and landscaping.



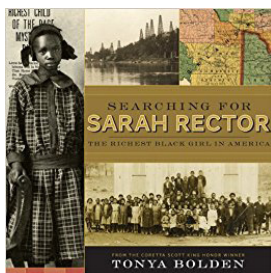
Jenna Webb (left) and Hailey Webb (right), daughters of BlueScope employee Chris Webb, were among the enthusiastic volunteers freshening our classrooms and common areas.

## The Celebration Continues:

## Join us for our 50th Anniversary Reception and Fall Festival

UICS will commemorate its half-century of service on Thursday, October 26, with a reception from 5-7 pm at the Bruce R. Watkins Cultural Heritage Center.

The event features acclaimed author Tonya Bolden who will discuss her book, *Searching for Sarah Rector: Richest Black Girl in America*. Acquiring her fortune in the early 1900's at age 11, Sarah Rector's family resided in the historic mansion that still stands on property adjacent to UICS.



Founding executive Rev. Samuel Mann will also be honored with a special video tribute.

On Saturday, October 28, the annual UICS Fall Festival is from noon to 4 pm on the grounds of St. Mark Center. Children, families, and community are welcome to this fun-filled block-party with games, arts, and live entertainment including AileyCamp The Group, Mesner Puppet Theater, and H3TV. Enjoy food, activities, and community resources at this free event presented by UICS and Kansas City Parks and Recreation.





## Family Arts Festival

# Puppets, Pop-Ups, and Pretzels, oh, my!

The summer's St. Mark Family Arts Festival was an experience in wonder and imagination. Students and families enjoyed the My Garden Outreach Pop-up book exhibit by The Rabbit Hole, Stone Lion Puppet Theater, food, and fun.



Yusayrah Soragha proudly displays a butterfly created in a make-and-take activity presented by Stone Lion Puppet Theater.



Marvontae' Moore is all about the pretzels!



Aubri'lee Good tiptoed with wonder through the Rabbit Hole pop-up. The display is a source of artistic, literary, and sociocultural discovery for all ages.

## Celebrating 50 years of UICS!



**50th Anniversary Special Guests:** (seated from left) Karen Anderson, Rev. Sam Mann, Dr. Beverlye Brown, Wendy Guillies; (standing from left) Troy Nash, Deidre Anderson, Jan Kreamer, Sarah Baum, Jon Baum, and Murray Woodard.



Members of the 2012 Capacity Campaign Committee served as Honorary Committee for the anniversary event. Attending were (from left) John Mulvihill, Pat McCown, the Hon. Peggy Dunn, Mark Jorgenson and David Oliver.



Nearly 200 guests raised a sparkling cider toast in celebration of UICS at the September 6 luncheon.

# Meet Pat Smithson

*Director of Development*

UICS and St. Mark Center are happy to welcome Pat Smithson as Director of Development. As part of the executive leadership team, Pat will lead the organization's fundraising, communications, and volunteer efforts. She brings a wealth of experience in cultivating relationships vital to organizational sustainability.



Pat Smithson

"It is an honor to serve an organization with such an amazing legacy in Kansas City," said Pat. "I'm excited to connect with both our long-time friends as well as introduce new individuals and companies to UICS and St. Mark Center."

To reach Pat or to learn more about giving or volunteer opportunities, please email [Pat.Smithson@UICSKC.org](mailto:Pat.Smithson@UICSKC.org) or call 816.994.5400.

## Your monthly gift makes a difference!

When you share a monthly gift with St. Mark Center, you help provide an exceptional education for a child in our community - a gift that sustains our good work all year long. Together, we can build a strong foundation for learning and life success. To set up your monthly contribution in any amount, please contact [Pat.Smithson@UICSKC.org](mailto:Pat.Smithson@UICSKC.org) or call 816.994.5400.

## *Trauma-sensitive schools*

# Building resilience at St. Mark Center

At St. Mark Center, we believe that resilience is the body's amazing ability not only to heal, but to thrive beyond adversity.

Because teaching children who may have experienced trauma takes special care and knowledge, our faculty recently engaged in a Trauma Sensitive Schools training led by mental health experts at Truman Medical Centers. The training, generously funded by the Health Care Foundation of Greater Kansas City, is a direct response to the prevalence of trauma in the lives of young children and their families.

"Our teachers learned strategies and tools for promoting mindfulness, emotional intelligence, and creative problem-solving," said Rhonda Nolen, Director of Family and Community Engagement at St. Mark Center.

Developing a resilient school means educating everyone – from teachers and staff, to parents and extended families – on how the brain reacts to trauma and stress.

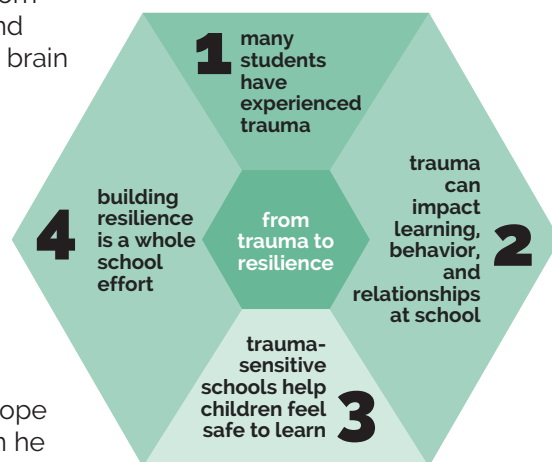
Teacher Matrika Hornsby said the training has already been beneficial to students with attachment and behavior issues. "The training helped me identify that one of my students had likely had some trauma in his life," she said. "We were able to give him tools to cope and manage his emotions when he was having a hard time."

Through ongoing education, training, and awareness, St. Mark Center is incorporating the evidence-based model of engaging families to overcome the effects of trauma and build resilience.



***"Together, our faculty and staff are weaving the fibers of resilience into the very fabric of our school culture."***

*Rhonda Nolen, Director of Family and Community Engagement*







2008 E. 12th Street  
Kansas City, MO 64127

## Save the date!

### 50th Anniversary Reception

**Oct. 26, 2017**

**5-7pm**

*Bruce R. Watkins*

*Cultural Heritage Center*

### Fall Festival

**Oct. 28, 2017**

**Noon-4pm**

*On the grounds*

*of St. Mark Center*

Visit [uicskc.org](http://uicskc.org)

## Community Spotlight: VML

**A**s United Inner City Services marks its 50th anniversary, we begin our next era in brand new style.

Thanks to our friends at VML, our logo, freshened color palette, crisp fonts, and thoughtfully crafted mantra, are just the beginning of an exciting organizational rebranding.

The Kansas City-based agency is a stellar community partner — and one of the world's foremost advertising and branding companies. The new style guidelines will be integrated in a range of marketing, communications, fundraising, and media efforts including a new website, for which VML also provided guidance in copy and design direction, wireframes, and a site map.

"VML's work and dedication is a remarkable and generous gift," said Executive Director Deidre Anderson.

"From our first introductions to the final presentation, we have been awestruck at the careful listening, attention to detail, and dynamic vision the VML team dedicated to our project."

The UICS/St. Mark Center project reflects VML's longstanding dedication to giving back to communities around the globe.

"Our VML team has a profound appreciation for the mission of UICS and St. Mark Center," said VML Executive Creative Director Linda Bumgarner. "We were so pleased to be able to provide our guidance and support — it makes us even more hopeful for the future of these wonderful organizations and the amazing children and families they serve."

UICS salutes VML, a partner whose talents and generosity will positively impact our organization for years to come.



**Team VML:** (from left) Lauren Ziegler, John Mulvihill, Linda Bumgarner, Adam Yarnevich and Amy Willsey



**V is for Valued:** St. Mark Center appreciates the time, effort, and enthusiasm of VML Interns who spent a day cleaning, organizing, and beautifying our campus.