

Tennessee Monthly Update

August

Reducing School Absenteeism

Lack of proper hygiene can affect students' physical health, mental well-being, confidence, self-esteem and focus. This can lead to their being bullied and even absenteeism. With more than half of students in Shelby County Schools being considered economically disadvantaged, living in households with incomes less than 200% of the federal poverty level, this has become a rising issue.

Through a \$90,000 grant from UnitedHealthcare's Empowering Health initiative, the Shelby County Education Foundation and UnitedHealthcare are helping to address this issue by providing full-size hygiene and personal care products to the students at Kate Bond Middle School. On August 16, both organizations dropped off shampoo, deodorant, soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste, dental floss and feminine hygiene products for the students. School nurses, staff and administrators will help identify children in need and distribute the hygiene supplies accordingly.



Hygiene products for students at Shelby County Schools



UnitedHealthcare volunteers with the director of The Little Pantry That Could, Stacy Downey.

Helping Build Healthier Communities

UnitedHealthcare employees volunteered at The Little Pantry That Could on August 16. During this time, they assisted in sorting produce, preparing 168 bags of shelf-stable food, and stocking the shelves for the pantry opening on August 17.

The Little Pantry That Could is a 501(c)(3) organization that serves fresh produce, shelf-stable food, and offers a variety of other assistance such as clothing, shoes, sleeping bags, counseling, resume writing assistance and much more. Serving the Middle Tennessee area, they are not bound by county borders and feed approximately 200-250 families a week, some traveling from 50-100 miles away. They also do a significant amount of Homeless Outreach by setting up camps, serving as advocates and connecting individuals with much-needed services. Their motto is simple, "If you are hungry, we will feed you."



Community Health and Information

UnitedHealthcare—alongside the Memphis Police Department, Public Works, Shelby County Sheriff's Department, Neighborhood Watch and AARP of Tennessee participated in a community health and information meeting sponsored by City of Memphis Councilwoman Gerre Currie. At the event, UnitedHealthcare representatives provided information about our Dual Special Needs Plans and programs, EPSDT screenings, and the importance of preventive primary care visits.

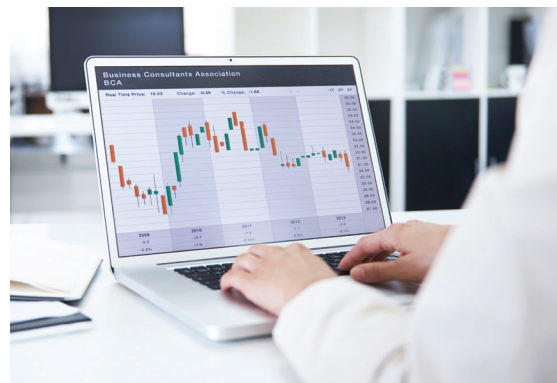
Back-to-School Event Benefiting Nashville's Hispanic Community

UnitedHealthcare provided a \$3,000 grant for the First Annual Hispanic Student Fest event that took place on August 4. At the event, Nashville-area first through sixth grade students were provided with backpacks, wellness information and other back-to-school items to help prepare them for a new school year. A portion of the grant was also allocated to a \$600 scholarship for school activities and supplies, which was awarded to a student at the event.

Ten Emerging Trends in Medicaid

By Catherine Anderson, Senior Vice President,
Policy and Strategy

In the more than 20 years that I have been working in health care, the only thing that has been consistent is change. Political shifts have resulted in new policies. Fiscal crises have impacted budgets at both the federal and state levels. Population changes have caused an increase in the number of individuals accessing Medicaid. And the needs of members have become more complex.



To capture these changes, UnitedHealthcare Community & State creates an emerging trends report each year that highlights the developments and reforms taking place in the Medicaid system. For the first time, we are releasing this report publicly. In this [2019 Emerging Trends in Public Programs White Paper](#), we identify 10 trends that relate to an important change in the way the public health care system operates and how those who interact with the system—providers, consumers and managed care organizations—do so.

Trend 1: Continuum of Coverage and System Integration

Trend 2: Medicaid Expansion and Consumer Engagement

Trend 3: Delivery System Reform

Trend 4: Value-Based Purchasing

Trend 5: Care for Complex Populations

Trend 6: Evolving Opioid Crisis

Trend 7: Pharmaceuticals

Trend 8: Social Determinants of Health

Trend 9: System Convergence

Trend 10: Mergers, Partnerships, and New Entrants

While changes will continue to take place in the Medicaid system, our focus at UnitedHealthcare is on working with our state and federal partners to respond to these challenges and trends and to strengthen and enhance Medicaid's long-term viability as the safety-net public medical assistance program it was originally envisioned to be.

To learn more about these emerging trends, read the [full blog post](#) and white paper at [UHCCS.com](#).

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