

U F M

Community Learning Center



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Fall catalog cover photo.



Spring catalog cover photo.



Summer catalog cover photo.

Annual Report



Fiscal Year 2025
Year Ending June 30, 2025

UFM at a glance

UFM Vision: Connecting People and Ideas for Unlimited Learning

UFM Mission: UFM Community Learning Center is a creative educational program serving Kansas State University, the Manhattan area, and the state of Kansas. Based on the philosophy that everyone can learn and everyone can teach, UFM provides opportunities for lifelong learning and personal development. UFM serves as a forum for the exchange of ideas and as a catalyst for new programs and services that enhance the quality of life for all.

UFM Values:

- Community and Collaboration
- Patron Satisfaction and Support
- Purposeful Relationships
- Integrity and Enjoyment
- Creativity and Inspiration



Programs offered by UFM include the Education Program of credit and community enrichment classes, the Lou Douglas Lecture Series, Manhattan Community Garden, Teen Mentoring Program, Veteran Wellness, Lifetime Learning, and Project EXCELL. Sponsored Projects include the Manhattan Area Risk Prevention Coalition and the YouthBuild Program.

-  In FY25, UFM programs served 13,508 people.
-  UFM offers programs for people of all ages, interests, and abilities.
-  UFM collaborates with many area businesses and organizations to serve the community.
-  UFM completed its 57th year of putting the community in education.

FY24-25 was a transitional time building upon legacy and innovation as our K-State UFM staff said “goodbye” to their colleagues in the Office of the Provost and Senior Vice President and moved to K-State Extension as of July 1, 2025 under the direction of Dr. Gregg Hadley.

It was also announced in June that effective July 1, 2025, Kansas State University would elevate the Cooperative Extension Service, formally housed in the College of Agriculture, to the Office of the Executive Vice President for External Engagement and Chief of Staff, under the leadership of Dr. Marshall Stewart. As a result, Extension professionals will be able to more effectively serve our fellow Kansans and strengthen our land-grant mission like never before.



UFM PUTS THE
COMMUNITY
IN EDUCATION

As a reminder - we got news from university administration in December 2023 that Global Campus would be restructuring under the Provost’s Office. In collaboration with our board, we began an educational process to shed light on UFM and what we do while looking for a new home at Kansas State University. In early January 2024 with presentations on UFM, our land-grant mission, and our alignment with the university strategic plan of One K-State, the Board Chair and Executive Director began meeting with Dr. Stewart to explore how UFM’s mission and vision could support the President’s Next Gen Land-Grant vision. A transition team was formed with UFM Board members, staff, and K-State administrators. It was determined that the best landing place for UFM to continue to serve the community and strategically address resources and programming needs was to partner with and integrate into K-State Extension.

Since 2024, the focus has been centered around exploring a phased approach to expand community enrichment and personal development across the state of Kansas serving as a community learning “hub” for K-State Extension professionals and community members. The goal is for UFM to support Extension professionals in being able to focus more on what they do best by equipping local units to engage community members in building out community enrichment and personal development courses at a grassroots level. UFM’s vision of creating community learning spaces where everyone can teach and everyone can learn is purposed to expand over the next year to support new Extension audiences to fulfill the land-grant promise.

As of July 1st, we have done many things to support these historic transition – our K-State staff are officially Extension professionals, credit recreational programming is successfully housed in the Provost’s Office, and we are eagerly awaiting a Memorandum of Understanding to be finalized and signed between UFM and K-State Extension so we can enter into a new historic partnership.

Together, we have accomplished so much, and we continue to serve so many. We are proud to be UFM and to serve the land-grant mission within the university and across the state of Kansas.



Education Program

UFM's education program is the largest activity in the organization. UFM's philosophy that everyone can teach and everyone can learn provides opportunities for all community members to share their ideas and skills with others. To participate, the only prerequisite is curiosity. In UFM's 57 years, there have been over 7,659 instructors who ranged in age from 6 to 98. In FY25, UFM offered 1,088 community enrichment classes taught by 159 instructors to 1,303 students locally (unduplicated).

English as a Second Language classes have continued to be taught weekly to meet a need for local non-English speakers to learn practical ways to communicate with schools, medical providers, businesses and others in the community. This partnership is between UFM and K-State English Learning Program along with local community ESL volunteers.

UFM coordinates recreation, dance and fitness credit courses through the Office of the Provost and the Senior Vice President. UFM works with four campus departments to offer credit courses. In FY25, 1,108 students received credit for 274 courses offered.



UFM offers many opportunities for K-State students and others looking for practical experience. In FY25, 3,834 college students gave time to teach a class, work with UFM projects such as Teen Mentoring, or participate in a UFM-sponsored program or activity.

UFM continued to offer Lifetime Learning classes and events for anyone, but with a focus on interests of people age 50 and older. We offered 16 classes with a total attendance of 163.



Veteran Wellness

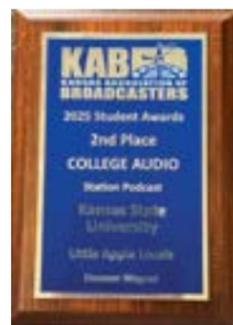
UFM Community Learning Center partnered with VA Eastern Kansas Whole Health in Spring 2025 to offer a Veteran Wellness Program with conversations and negotiations beginning in April of 2024. Designed to remove financial barriers that often prevent veterans from joining local enrichment opportunities, the program provides scholarships to help participants access non-alcohol or tobacco related community enrichment classes. While many veteran programs focus on degree-seeking education, this initiative emphasizes connection, wellness, and community engagement. In its first semester alone, the program offered five classes with another class offered in the summer before the end of the fiscal year. In these six classes there were 30 veteran enrollments, which highlights its immediate impact on both veterans' lives and the broader community by fostering inclusion, growth, and well-being.



UFM Community Outreach - Beyond the Classroom

Little Apple Locals

The *Little Apple Locals* podcast is a vibrant, community-focused show based in Manhattan, Kansas, created through a unique partnership between Wildcat 91.9, the student-run radio station sponsored by the A.Q. Miller School of Media and Communication at Kansas State University, and UFM Community Learning Center. Founded and hosted by Dawson Wagner and Jake Huber, the podcast's mission is to inform, connect, and inspire the Manhattan community by spotlighting local businesses, events, and the diverse educational opportunities offered by UFM Community Learning Center. During FY25, *Little Apple Locals* aired 38 episodes and entertained over 750 listeners, gaining over 71 followers. In 2025, *Little Apple Locals* placed 2nd place for College Audio - Station Podcast presented by the Kansas Association of Broadcasters.



Lou Douglas Lectures



The Lou Douglas FY25 event "Interfaith Community Peacebuilding – Shared stories. Shared service. Shared action." consisted of over half a dozen community leaders from different faith communities in Manhattan. The Lou Douglas Lecture was presented as a panel discussion centered around how to build unity, diversity, and peace across lines of faith. The panelists discussed multiple faith and peacebuilding topics to find ways to build stronger communities through the lens of faith. The lecture during the month of October was followed by an interfaith community event at the Douglass Activity Center in early November.

Community Garden

The Manhattan Community Garden is the oldest community garden in Kansas, offering gardening space to residents for 51 years. This food security program allows people throughout the community to share the gardening experience, supplement food budgets, relieve stress, and foster new friendships. A volunteer advisory board governs the garden operations.



The Community Garden has two locations: 9th and Riley Lane leased from the City of Manhattan, and 1435 Collins Lane leased from Riley County. 166 families gardened in FY25. K-State students, faculty and staff, retired persons, and others from Manhattan utilized the 280 plots at the Gardens.

UFM Teen Mentoring Program

Fall 2024 marked the 28th year of offering education, recreation, and emotional support to teens in our community. This program is funded by the City of Manhattan Special Alcohol Fund.

Middle school and high school students interact with college student mentors. The goals of the program are to provide prevention education, improve social skills, and offer recreation opportunities. Groups met on Tuesdays and Thursdays after school at UFM and during the summer. Last year 36 teens and 12 K-State student mentors participated in structured discussions and fun activities as part of this program.



Sponsored Projects

Project EXCELL

Since 2010 Project EXCELL (Extended College Education for Lifelong Learning) has provided educational enrichment to adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Project EXCELL provides a K-State setting that allows EXCELL students to feel a part of the university community. 59 students participated this year which equals 236 education contacts over four sessions. Over 36 K-State students from the Department of Drama Therapy, other university departments, and the community served as classroom aides and instructors.



YouthBuild Department of Labor Grant

In the Spring of 2023, Manhattan Housing Authority and UFM Community Learning Center (sub awardee) were awarded a \$1.5 million grant for their YouthBuild application. It was the only award made in Kansas. The grant supports pre-apprenticeships that educate and train young people from ages 16 to 24 for jobs in high-demand industries including construction. YouthBuild staff focus student learning on building or rehabilitating affordable housing in their communities for low-income or unhoused families. The 3-year grant cycle to serve 65+ youth started June 1, 2023.

Since then, we have welcomed 10 youth cohorts since October 2023. Our major programmatic partnerships include Flint Hills Habitat for Humanity, Flint Hills Renewable Energy and Efficiency Cooperative, Inc (FHREEC), and Manhattan Area Technical College (MATC). We also utilize the Douglass Center for a lot of our youth recreational activities.



Manhattan Area Risk Prevention Coalition (MARPC)

works through a federal Drug Free Communities grant. The purpose of this project is to create an active community coalition to address substance use and abuse issues and to address prevention strategies that reduce substance use among youth. MARPC has partnered with USD 383 and the Drug and Alcohol counselors to work closely with the students on drug and alcohol education. We also work with Fort Riley on educating the youth and have partnered with other organizations in the community. We continue to focus on radio and cable ads to get the word out. We encourage parents to start at home with education about drinking and drugs, and continue partnering with liquor outlets in the community to build awareness.



Grassroots Award

The Grassroots Community Education Award is an annual recognition given by UFM Community Learning Center to someone who has made an outstanding contribution to grassroots community education and learning. This year celebrates the 46th time UFM has presented this award. The recipient in 2024 was Colleen Hampton.

Colleen Hampton serves as a Member-at-Large on the Riley County Master Gardener Board of Directors. She led the organization as President in 2020 and has been an active member since 1994. With more than 15 years of experience teaching gardening classes at UFM, Colleen brings a wealth of knowledge and a deep passion for all aspects of gardening. She is also an active member of the Manhattan Community Gardens.



UFM Staff

- Adriana Berkowitz, ESL Teacher Intern
- Olena Csizs, Operations Coordinator
- Jackie Hernandez Cuevas, Special Project Coordinator
- Robert DuTeau, YouthBuild Trade Skills Coordinator
- Jake Huber, Community Education Program Coordinator
- Mindy Huber, Project EXCELL Coordinator
- Exauce Ilunga, YouthBuild Program Assistant
- Jed Killen, YouthBuild Trade Skills Coordinator
- Dr. Lorenza Lockett, YouthBuild Director
- Samantha Lovitt, Marketing and KSU Student Services Administrator
- Kassandra Moreno, Bilingual Student Assistant
- Pamela Green Nealey, YouthBuild Associate Director/ UFM YouthBuild Youth Programs Coordinator
- Damarys Nieto-Martinez, Bilingual Student Assistant
- Adrianna Pratt, YouthBuild Case Manager
- Jimmy Ramirez, Bilingual Student Assistant
- Melissa Rickel-Morrill, Manhattan Area Risk Prevention Coalition
- Maria Rodriguez-Maldonado, Bilingual Student Assistant
- Dr. Aliah Mestrovich Seay, Executive Director
- Xydira Stephens, YouthBuild Case Manager
- Linda Inlow Teener, Integrated Finance & Human Resources Coordinator
- Erin Ford Traudt, KSU Credit & Lifetime Learning Coordinator

BOARD MEMBERS

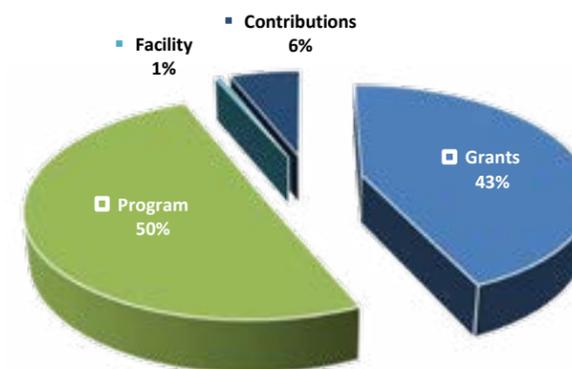
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- Jurdene Coleman, Vice Chair
- Kali Steelsmith, Secretary
- Alfonso Leyva, Treasurer
- Aliah Mestrovich Seay, President & CEO

- Ayumi Amama
- Carol Barta
- Mac Benavides
- Paulicia Hungerford
- Chase Jordan
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- LaBarbara James Wigfall
- Corey Williamson
- Jennifer Wilson
- Ryan Wilson

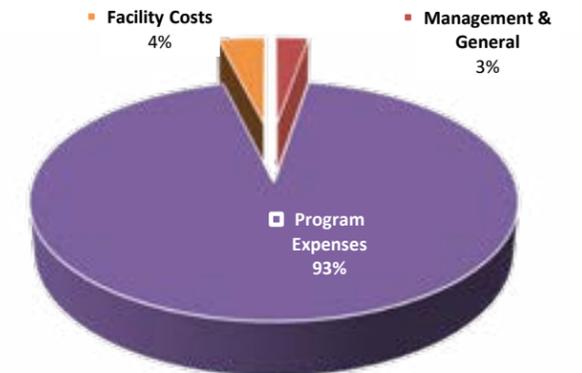


Income/Expenses FY25

UFM Funding Sources FY25



UFM Expenses FY25



UFM is self-supporting and depends on class fees, donations, and program grants to operate. Class fees make up the largest part of UFM's revenue, 50% in FY25. These funds cover instructor costs, class materials, facility rental, advertising, printing, and other costs associated with coordinating class activities.

In FY25, UFM received \$468,206 in grant funds to support several projects including YouthBuild, Teen Mentoring, Lou Douglas Lectures, Project EXCELL, English as a Second Language (ESL), and MARPC Drug Free Communities.

Donations are used for youth and adult scholarships, facility needs, and infrastructure expenses. All donations to UFM are tax deductible. For more information about donating to UFM, call 785-539-8763 or email aliah@tryufm.org.





Thank you to our donors!

Your generosity helps UFM put the community in education.

