

Uncommon Good

FALL 2025

EDUCATION | HEALTH | ENVIRONMENT

A Message from Executive Director Randy Lopez



Dear Uncommon Good Community,

Thank you for supporting the work of Uncommon Good. For 25 years, the Uncommon Good community joined hands with our founder, Nancy Mintie, and provided thousands of students, parents, and community members with educational support, increased access to health care, and nutritious food. Together, you have shown what is possible when compassion meets action.

I am honored to continue this legacy with you.

Today, many of the families we serve face heightened challenges, from economic instability to limited access to resources. Immigration raids and deportations have left many parents without work and families afraid to leave their homes. These disruptions make it harder for students to focus on school as they are torn between pursuing their educational opportunities and seeking safety and support within their communities and families. We are bolstering our emergency fund to help families meet basic needs (rent, food, utilities) and to support college students' decision to stay in school (filling in crucial gaps with school supplies and transportation funding). If you have the means to contribute, 100% of an emergency fund donation will go directly to students and families.

Together, we can accomplish much and continue to live our mission: breaking the intergenerational cycle of poverty through education and health.

Warm regards,

Randy Lopez

Executive Director

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The Uncommon Good Bulletin: New Format, New Look, Same Mission

You may notice a new look! Starting with this edition, our newsletter is becoming a bulletin featuring engaging updates issued 2-3 times a year. Each bulletin will highlight the impact you make possible as we share stories, data, and ways to get involved. At the end of the year, we will share an **Annual Impact Report**, celebrating a comprehensive summary of what we have accomplished together.



Uncommon Good staff.

MISSION STATEMENT

Uncommon Good's mission is to break the intergenerational cycle of poverty through innovative programs in education, health, and urban farming.

We accomplish our goals by:

Helping low-income students succeed in school and go to college.

Supporting our students' families with educational, wellness, and mental health programs.

Maintaining a robust urban farming program and food pantry to eliminate hunger and malnutrition among our students' families and others suffering from food insecurity.

Providing educational loan repayment assistance to young doctors to enable them to practice in under-resourced community clinics.

Community Alliance for Urban Sustainable Agriculture (CAUSA)



Farm Director Johanna Teissere and Farmer Nicolas Reza.

In May, we welcomed Robert Macias as Uncommon Good's new Pantry Operations Coordinator. With a background in customer service and data systems, Robert has already made a big impact, both with our clients and behind the scenes.

Calm and steady even during the pantry's busiest times, Robert ensures families are served with dignity and care. His creativity and logistical skills also stand out.

Within weeks of hire, he introduced new ways to streamline pantry operations, including a "care package" that:

- Equitably distributes food
- Speeds up service for families
- Reduces strain on equipment and staff
- Improves tracking of food distribution

Robert credits Johanna Teissere, our Farm Director, for guiding him and encouraging innovation as he learns the rhythms of CAUSA's farm-to-pantry model. Together, they have also implemented a new schedule: closing Mondays so the farm team has time to harvest, sort, and prepare produce for distribution.

"This is proving to be an opportunity to give back and serve the community," said Robert. He also added,

"There would be no CAUSA without the community. I hope even more people will get involved ... urban agriculture is necessary to our future."

We are fortunate to have Robert on the team. Please join us in welcoming him on your next visit to Uncommon Good.

Feeding Local Families: Love for Humanity in Action



On a hot August morning, a truckload of rice, beans, pasta, and fresh produce rolled up to Uncommon Good’s food pantry. Behind the generous delivery was Love For Humanity (LFH), a nonprofit in Chino, CA, that has partnered with us since 2015.

Their bimonthly deliveries bring essentials that families depend on – each delivery typically contains:

- 45 lbs of ramen
- 100 lbs of penne pasta
- 60 lbs of carrots
- 250 lbs of rice
- 375 lbs of assorted beans
- 200 lbs of potatoes
- 200 lbs of onions

In total, more than 1,200 lbs of pantry staples help feed neighbors each month.



UG farmers Nicolas Reza and Erik Santizo, Sr.

LFH’s mission is to alleviate “hardships and difficult times by helping people in need with food, toiletries, clothing, education, and job networking, among others.” Their reach is expansive as they partner with family preservation agencies, foster care agencies, religious charities, and other nonprofit organizations – locally, nationally, and globally.

LFH’s Impact Beyond Uncommon Good

- School backpacks for 630 children across 24 schools
- Disaster relief for earthquakes and hurricanes – both internationally and state side
- College scholarships for at-risk students
- Food pantry and food bank support across Southern California
- Medical equipment and supplies for the Philippines General Hospital
- Christmas gift packs for families in need

Through their steadfast support of Uncommon Good, LFH helps us provide consistent support to families who rely on our pantry each month. We thank LFH for providing widely sought staples to our food pantry. Every bit of LFH food donated is evenly distributed to all who walk through our doors seeking help.

We are grateful to LFH, one of the many community partners who support us.

Pounds of fresh produce & pantry goods JAN - JUN 2025

UG Grown Produce	Fruit Gleaned	Pantry Donations	Produce Donations
7,677	12,488	8,900	7,819

CAUSA is Breaking Records in 2025

In the first six months of the year, CAUSA has distributed 36,886 pounds (more than 18 tons) of fresh, nutritious food to our community. Thanks to a new data collection system, we can now track impact more closely and share results with our supporters and funders:

- 216 unique families so far this year
- On average each month: 120 children and 272 adults receive food support

This means every harvest and distribution is reaching the families who need it most, and we can show you exactly how your support makes a difference.

Connect to College (C2C)

Celebrating Graduation: Karen's Journey



C2C student Karen Muñoz will be on her way to Stanford next year.

Recently, we celebrated the accomplishments of our Connect to College Class of 2025. Among these students was Karen Muñoz, who will be attending Stanford University this fall on a full-ride Questbridge scholarship. Karen shared powerful words at the celebration. We are proud of her accomplishments, and we want to share her gracious words with you.

"During my time in Connect to College, you have changed the course of my life and put an end to a cycle of generational struggle that my family has endured. I will not need to farm land or raise my own children as a child like my abuelo and abuela did or learn an entirely new language and culture like my own parents did. I can succeed. I can improve my life, their lives, and the future generations yet to come.

Uncommon Good showed me how to embrace my Mexican American identity and to stay true to my roots

and the story of my family. Uncommon Good showed me that I should take pride in coming from an immigrant family. They taught me to embrace what makes me, me.

Because of you, my family and I don't need to spend the next four years of my life wondering how we will pay for college. Because of you, I know I am ready and confident to find the resources that will help me when I need them. Your workshops, field trips, networking, and private conversations made me feel well supported and safe because I know I have another family who wants me to prosper and change the world in my own special way."

Karen's journey is one of resilience, identity, and hope and a shining example of how donor support fuels educational opportunity.

Our Class of 2025

Uncommon Good's 29 graduating seniors have much to celebrate! Collectively, they earned \$1.27 million in grants and scholarships to continue their education.

Where they are headed:

- 17 to University of California campuses
- 6 to California State Universities
- 5 to private colleges
- 1 to community college

Notable scholarship highlights include:

- 1 Posse Foundation Scholarship (full-ride to Kalamazoo College)
- 2 Questbridge Scholarships (full-rides to Brown University and Stanford University)
- 1 Edison Scholarship (\$50,000 per year at Harvey Mudd College)

Because of your support, these students are breaking barriers, pursuing dreams, and writing a new future with their families.



Reading and writing summer camp 2025.



2025 graduation celebration.

Medicine for the Economically Disadvantaged (MED)

Helping a Physician Stay True to Her Mission

Dr. Dianne Quintana, a family medicine physician at Western University Patient Care Health Center, is a participant in Uncommon Good's Medicine for the Economically Disadvantaged (MED) program.

Thank you, Dr. Quintana, for taking the time to share your experiences.



Dr. Quintana and patients.

"The support from Uncommon Good has allowed me to continue my commitment to serving and advocating for underserved communities.

About two years ago, I was scheduled to see a new patient recently discharged from the hospital. He was referred to our clinic for follow-up after experiencing a severe upper gastrointestinal bleed, and multiple complications – including acute, possibly chronic, kidney disease.

I remember our first encounter vividly. A 50-year-old, Spanish-speaking gentleman greeted me warmly. He was kind, open, and eager to talk.

He confessed he hadn't seen a doctor since childhood and had always felt healthy – until recently. He described a sudden decline: weakness, fatigue, abdominal pain, nausea, and vomiting. During his hospital stay, he had been confronted with the severity of his health issues and his body's struggle to recover.

He told me he was ready to do whatever was necessary to improve his health. He was humble and honest. He admitted he couldn't read but promised to follow instructions. He brought all his medications to each

visit and agreed to follow up with specialists as needed. As I reviewed his hospital discharge summary, I realized the complexity of his case. I worried that his kidney function was more likely to deteriorate than improve.

I started him on new medications and referred him to nephrology. Nephrology echoed my concerns. The patient remained true to his word. Over the following two years, his condition steadily improved. Then, just a few months ago, I was stunned. His kidney function had completely normalized. He thanked me and expressed how much he trusted and appreciated the care he had received.

This experience has been one of the most powerful reminders of why I became a physician: to walk alongside patients through challenges, to witness transformation, and to be part of their journey toward healing."

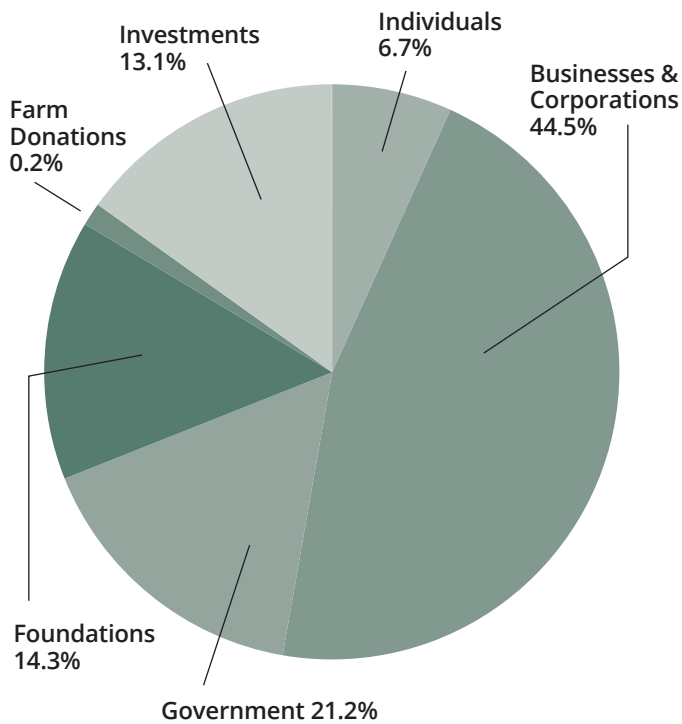
MED and the Health Career Pipeline

The 111 medical professionals currently enrolled in Uncommon Good's MED program are extending compassionate care to underserved patients across the region, multiplying impact far beyond our walls.

At the same time, MED is inspiring the next generation of health leaders. This summer, students attended Young Doctors Camp, including a customized tour of the Ontario-Kaiser Permanente facilities. They met physicians, nurses, and specialists across a variety of roles and discovered the many pathways available in the health care industry.

Together, MED professionals and students are shaping a healthier future for our community.

Where does Uncommon Good's Funding Come From and How Is it Spent?



Each year, Uncommon Good's organizational budget ranges between \$8 million and \$11 million, depending on the amount of pass-through funds we receive for medical professionals in our MED program.

Our operating costs remain steady at approximately \$2.5 million annually, the majority of which funds staffing. Why? Because the heart of Uncommon Good is one-to-one support.

- Tutoring and mentoring students
- Providing academic and financial aid counseling to students and families
- Guiding families through health and nutrition challenges
- Helping college students navigate resources
- Recruiting and supporting medical professionals in the MED program

Every dollar invested in staff translates into customized support that changes lives. High-quality interactions lead to transformative outcomes for students, families, and community members.

98%

of UG students will complete high school eligible for a 4-year university

90%

of UG alumni will complete their college degrees (and do so with little to no debt)

6,000

pounds of produce & pantry goods will be distributed on average each month

392

individuals each month will benefit from quality, fresh food that nourishes their bodies

111

medical professionals will benefit from educational loan repayment assistance annually

200,000+

patients will be served by these doctors in community clinics

Engage with Us

There are many ways to be part of the Uncommon Good family.

Be a Community Ambassador: Tell others about Uncommon Good and our outstanding students, families, and medical professionals. Get the word out about the UNCOMMONLY GOOD results our programs achieve.

Become a Tutor or Mentor: Support a student's academic journey and help them navigate the path to and through college.

Visit uncommongood.org to apply.

Invest in Our Mission: Your donations help us meet our greatest needs. Current priorities include additional work space, upgraded food storage for CAUSA, and, of course, operating costs that keep our programs running strong. Donate now: uncommongood.org



Stay Connected: Send us your email so we can keep you updated. We are moving toward electronic communication to save resources. (We promise not to clutter your inbox.)

Share Your Feedback! We love hearing from you: info@uncommongood.org

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A 501(c)3 organization.

