

UCO  MISSION REPORT

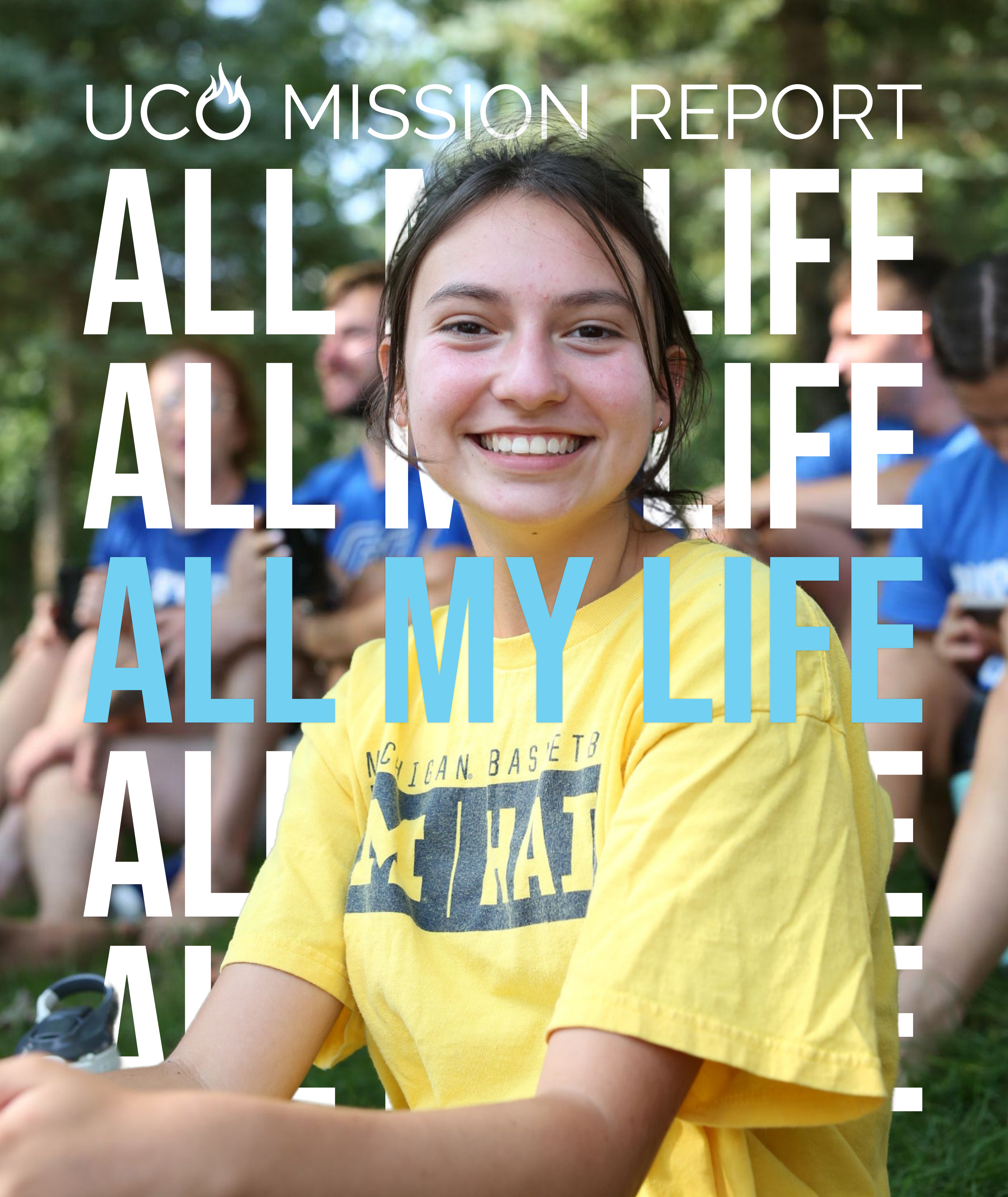
ALL MY LIFE

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Campus Mission Academy



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## From the **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

This year has been marked by God's continued faithfulness to us! Our plant has continued to get established at the University of Kentucky, and the Lord has been bringing many students into a deeper knowledge of His love and His plan for their lives.

Following the successful new chapter plant, our leadership team took the last year to ask the Lord to give us His direction for our next area of focus. It has been a faith-building and unifying time! I want to share with you the vision the Lord gave us for the next 10 years:

First, He has exhorted us to remain true to our call and mission amid an ever changing cultural and campus landscape. This led us to refocus our mission statement: **Building communities that form college students to live as lifelong disciples who impact the world for Jesus Christ.** This is not a new idea for us, but it roots us in who God has called UCO to be and what He's called us to do.

Second, we believe He wants us to grow to 9 thriving chapters. This means helping existing chapters thrive on their current campuses, and then planting outreaches at 3 more campuses!

Finally, we are to raise up leaders who will strengthen our current chapters and pioneer new ones. Our world needs men and women who will live for something bigger than themselves, willing to serve and lay down their lives for God's people. I pray the Lord will raise up more leaders for UCO and the churches and communities to which He calls them after graduation.

This is the vision God has given us for the next 10 years. I am grateful the Lord spoke so clearly to us. I'm also very sure we need His help to accomplish the work He has given us to do. So we entrust UCO and our future into His hands. We also pray for a posture of readiness and attentiveness to His Holy Spirit, that we may continue to serve in humility and courage.

This year's Mission Report highlights our outreach at Huntington University in Indiana. The Lord opened an invitation to us through one of our alumni, a professor at the University. As a Christian school, it's an unusual campus for our mission. However, God has clearly called us there and is doing a powerful work of discipleship among the students. It's an inspiring story and one that I hope will build your faith as it has mine.

In closing, I want to thank you for your partnership in our mission this year! Amidst the darkness, confusion, and loneliness that are so prevalent on our campuses, the Light of the World, Jesus Christ, is entering into the hearts and lives of so many. We are inspired by the generous and mission-oriented lives so many of you live as mothers and fathers, business owners, pastors, and priests. We pray the Lord will call many more to give a wholehearted "YES" to Him! **May He give us grace to live all of our lives for the rest of our lives for Him.**

Thank you for your prayers, friendship and support. Yours in Christ,

**ANDREW DAVIGNON**



*"Through the kindness I received from UCO, I began to see how the Lord's love for me was unconditional and completely separate from anything I could ever earn."*

Coming into college, it was by God's plan alone that I discovered UCO. I considered looking for a church in my third week of freshman year, and I saw a flyer in my dorm offering a ride to a local church. I grew up Christian and wanted to continue going to church on Sundays, but I wasn't looking for much more than a weekly service at the time. When the next Sunday rolled around, I was picked up by a UCO staffer and first introduced to the ministry.

I started college determined to make a career for myself as a professional cellist. I spent my high school years pouring into this, and my days consisted of disciplined hours of practicing. My commitment to the cello had become unhealthy. I was looking for an identity and fulfillment in how I played, and I had no grace for myself when I couldn't reach the unrealistic standards I had set. I was apprehensive about joining something like UCO at first. Joining UCO would mean I would have to sacrifice time I had been putting into practicing my instrument. The environment of the music school had led me to feeling guilty if I hadn't made cello my highest priority.

At my first UCO event, I was struck by how welcoming the students and staffers I were. **I felt so cared for personally, and I discovered a kind of love that didn't hinge on what I could provide in turn.** Through the kindness I received from UCO, I began to see how the Lord's love for me was unconditional and completely separate from anything I could ever earn. My relationship with the cello began to heal gradually as I offered myself grace and put more time into the friendships in my life.

Being a part of mission community my sophomore and junior year of college taught me what it meant to live as a Christian on a daily basis. My faith had been important to me growing up, but it was something I was brought into because of my family. I had not yet experienced having a personal relationship with the Lord and being in a community like my UCO chapter. **The Lord put a calling on my heart to seek out Christian friendships and to walk with Him more closely.**

Going into my junior year, I started to feel that the Lord was calling me to re-examine my desires again. I was still loving the cello, but I realized that many aspects of the career didn't align with what I wanted moving forward. God offered me grace and guidance through this, and my family and friends in UCO helped me through determining what the next steps for me might be.

It is difficult to describe all the ways that UCO has grown my faith and poured into me. I reflect often about how the Lord's plan placed me into UCO when it was not something I had been seeking out on my own. UCO provided me the community support I needed, especially being far away from my family in Louisiana. The friendships and mentoring have taught me so much about what it looks like to live for the Lord.

**ANNA HOLMES**  
*University of Michigan*

*“I realize that the effects of my time spent with the UCO community aren’t just something that will last during my time in college but will last my whole life.”*

Growing up I lived what I'd consider to be a “loose Christian life.” I attended a public school and my family only really went to church when it was convenient for us. I surely believed in God, but my relationship with Him was limited and left a lot to be desired.

I decided in high school that I wanted a fresh start. For this reason, I went from Cleveland, Ohio to the University of Kentucky, where I arrived not knowing a single person or having a single friend with me. During freshman welcome week, the Christian organizations on campus really caught my attention, as I wanted to make friends but also longed to get closer to God. I met one of the missionaries, Steven, in the dining hall during the first week and instantly felt that I was wanted and valued by UCO.

Soon I was attending UCO Bible studies consistently, building relationships with the other students, and most importantly, growing immensely in my relationship with God. **My faith was getting deeper and deeper, I was going to church regularly, praying powerfully, and I truly felt the presence of the Lord in my life.**

The end of 2022 ended with a massive challenge for my faith. I was hit with the death of a very close family member, and suddenly my emotional and spiritual health was completely out of tune. I was reverting to old ways of giving little effort to my faith, and dwelling heavily on why God would present me with such incredible hardship if He really loved me so deeply.

As time progressed, I slowly built my way back. Coming back to UCO events after winter break really helped me continue in the right direction.

But despite all this help, I still wasn't feeling completely right for over a year after the death of my family member.

I really desired to find peace in the situation but just couldn't get there. Thankfully UCO presented me with the perfect opportunity to find exactly what I needed.

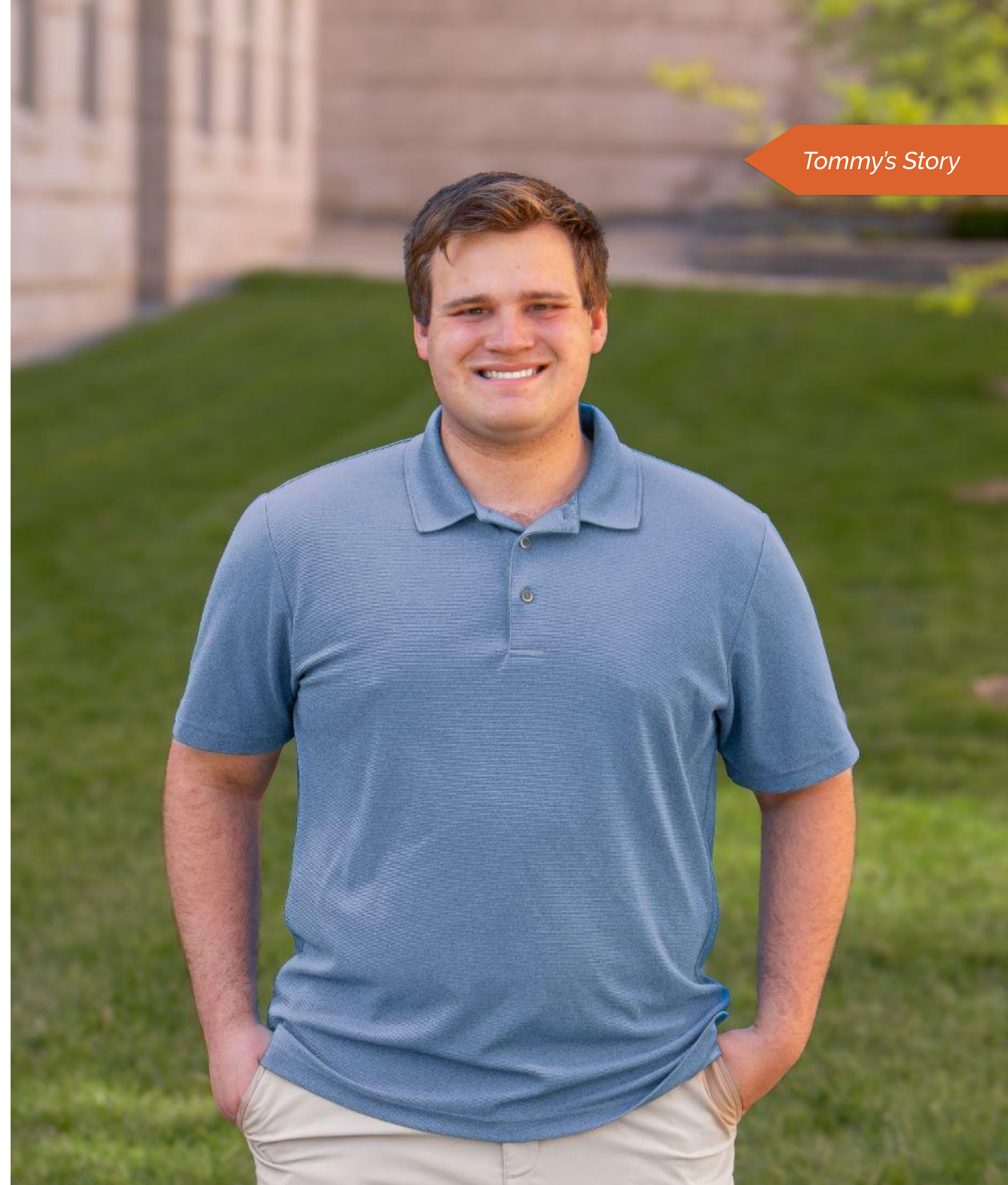
In the fall of 2023 Steven contacted me about the UCO Fan into Flame Retreat coming up in the following January. I was skeptical to accept the invitation at first, as I had never been on a retreat like this, but I signed up anyway. This ended up being one of the best decisions I've ever made for my spiritual, mental, and emotional health.

I came into the retreat praying to find peace in my grief. During the retreat we were able to pray and worship in incredibly powerful ways. **I was able to present my needs to God in new ways, and there is no doubt that He answered.** God brought a sense of peace and stability to my life, allowing me to realize the importance of the precious moments and growth throughout such a challenging time.

I realize that the effects of my time spent on the Fan into Flame Retreat and with the UCO community aren't just something that will last during my time in college but will last my whole life. I look forward to many more opportunities to grow through UCO and improve in my relationship with the Lord.

**TOMMY MANSFIELD**  
*University of Kentucky*

Tommy's Story





# THE SPIRIT MOVING @ HUNTINGTON UNIVERSITY

In 2016, the Lord called UCO to plant a chapter in Huntington, Indiana. Despite being a Christian campus, a spiritual life survey showed us only 25% of students actually attended church and prayed regularly and 50% of the student population were nominal believers! We knew the Lord wanted us to act. Throughout both encouraging and challenging seasons, He has remained faithful to our dedicated staff and students at Huntington University and has used them to be a true light on campus. Here's a glimpse of their story!

**2016**

Professor and UCO alumnus start a prayer group on campus  
One part-time staff worker  
Five students actively commit

**2018**

Students gain clear vision for UCO at Campus Mission Academy  
First full-time staffer starts at HU  
First off-campus men's household begins

**2020**

First full-time staff team of four  
First HU alumnus joins staff  
Spiritual darkness begins on campus with start of COVID-19 pandemic

**2022**

Spiritual revival begins on campus and in UCO  
Formation Community triples in size

**2024**

HU's fourth alumnus joins as a full-time missionary  
Combined Fan into Flame with Ann Arbor gives many HU students vision for the broader UCO culture  
Strongest Formation Community yet

**2017**

UCO students help lead the outreach's worship nights  
Ten students actively commit to UCO

**2019**

Gain second full-time staffer  
25 students actively attend UCO  
50 students attend Fan Into Flame Retreat

**2021**

A large group of students drop their formation commitments  
Men's household ceases  
Staff begin praying weekly with campus pastor

**2023**

Households begin in the dorms for men and women  
30 students participate in the Formation Community  
Students take ownership by leading the initiative to reach incoming freshmen



# OUR MISSION

In 2001, Jim Collins' popular business book "Good to Great" was published and it quickly became a bestseller. One of the ideas Collins talks about in the book is the "hedgehog principle". The idea is that the hedgehog is not great at many things but excels in one area, namely, rolling into a ball and protecting itself from predators. Collins recommends that organizations should know what area they excel at and focus on it above all others.

What is UCO's hedgehog principle? This is a question a group of our leaders were asking this year. As we prayed and discussed what we came to was not a new revelation or major change of direction but rather a deeper clarity on who we are and what we are meant to do. Put in a sentence:  
**We build communities that form college students to live as lifelong disciples who impact the world for Jesus Christ.**

The heart of our mission is community. In fact, missional community is our mission. When college students connect with UCO, we want them to find a deep community rooted in the love of God — a community that is overflowing with that love to go right back onto campus to reach the lost and welcome them in. May the Lord lead us on all of our campuses to build these missional communities on the firm foundation of Jesus Christ!

# OUR STRATEGY

We want to bring students from various places in their faith journey and form them into mature, lifelong, missionary disciples of Jesus Christ. To do this we engage students through a four-part strategy:



## REACH

Evangelism is most effective in the context of relationships. So that's where we begin! We're on campus every day connecting with and cultivating friendships with students through:

**SOCIAL EVENTS**

**FREE FOOD**

**SPORTS**

**BIBLE STUDIES**



## CALL

The Lord never ceases to extend the invitation of discipleship to each of us, but His call is often missed. So, we remind students of this call and invite them to respond with their whole lives as we share the gospel through:

**PERSONAL TESTIMONY**

**EVANGELISTIC PRAYER MEETINGS**

**HIGH-IMPACT RETREATS**



## FORM

The goal of Christian maturity is not easily achieved alone. So, we invite students to join our Formation Communities, where we train them to be radical missionary disciples through:

**SMALL GROUPS**

**LEADING BIBLE STUDIES**

**DISCIPLESHIP COURSES**

**ONE-ON-ONE MENTORSHIP**

**HOUSEHOLD PROGRAM**



## SEND

We send students out into the world to be missionaries and leaders in their churches, workplaces, and communities. We invite them to help us continue our mission as well, by:

**SERVING WITH UCO**

**JOINING AN ALUMNI COMMUNITY**



# OUR CORE VALUES

*Our mission and strategy are carried out in the context of vibrant campus communities. These communities have strong cultures characterized by:*

## **FULL COMMITMENT TO JESUS CHRIST**

We help one another make a personal and full commitment of our lives to live fully for Jesus Christ.

## **MISSION**

Together, we actively reach the lost on our campuses and call them to respond to the Gospel with their whole lives.

## **DISCIPLESHIP**

We aim for mature discipleship, following the Lord and seeking to give Him "all of our lives, for the rest of our lives."

## **SHARED LIFE TOGETHER**

We believe that the life of discipleship is a shared life: we share our joys, burdens, and the bond of steadfast love.

## **LIFE IN THE HOLY SPIRIT**

We invite college students to live lives full of the Holy Spirit's power, earnestly desiring and using the spiritual gifts to build up the Christian body (1 Corinthians 14:1-5).

## **CHRISTIAN ECUMENISM**

We have members from Protestant, Catholic, Orthodox, and Messianic traditions. Given the breadth of what we hold in common, we seek to share as much of the life of discipleship as possible and encourage one another in our participation in our own churches.

## **CONNECTION TO LOCAL COMMUNITIES**

We build bridges for graduates to connect with communities of missionary disciples in the city in which they live. We aim to be a launching pad to a lifetime of discipleship and mission!



# CAMPUS MISSION ACADEMY

Campus Mission Academy is a 5-day regional conference that equips students to step into their role as missionaries of Jesus Christ on their campus. CMA stirs up our students' desire to see the gospel transform their campuses and to encounter an authentic, life-giving community that supports them through the ups and downs of discipleship.

## ABBY MATTSON

*Michigan State University*

At CMA, I experienced the love of the Lord in a really powerful way. I experienced more of His love for me, but also the depth of His love for others, and His desire to bring us together in community. I was struck by how beautiful it is to live life with and for others. Seeing how much God loves the people around me made me excited to go on mission and bring others into a community of disciples.

## MATT BERTOCCHI

*University of Pittsburgh*

I didn't know what to expect when I went to CMA, but I got more out of the experience than I could have hoped for. I learned so much about my own faith and also how to live it out as a college student, but what's most memorable is the people I got to meet. Getting to witness so many other college students taking their faith seriously and trying to live it out was truly inspiring for me. It helped me realize that my faith is something which is meant not just for myself but it is something that should be shared with others.

## TONY ROCHETTE

*University of Michigan*


CMA was incredible for me! Despite there being so many new faces from various chapters I didn't know, everyone was extremely welcoming to me, and wanted to grow together in faith there. I also experienced some emotional healing which was super helpful for me and I made a bunch of new friends. CMA was an experience I'll never forget!



# OUR IMPACT

## IN 2022-2023

**1191**   
*Students Reached*

**445**   
*Students Attending Weekly Events*

**149**   
*Students at Retreats*

**109**   
*Students Being Formed*

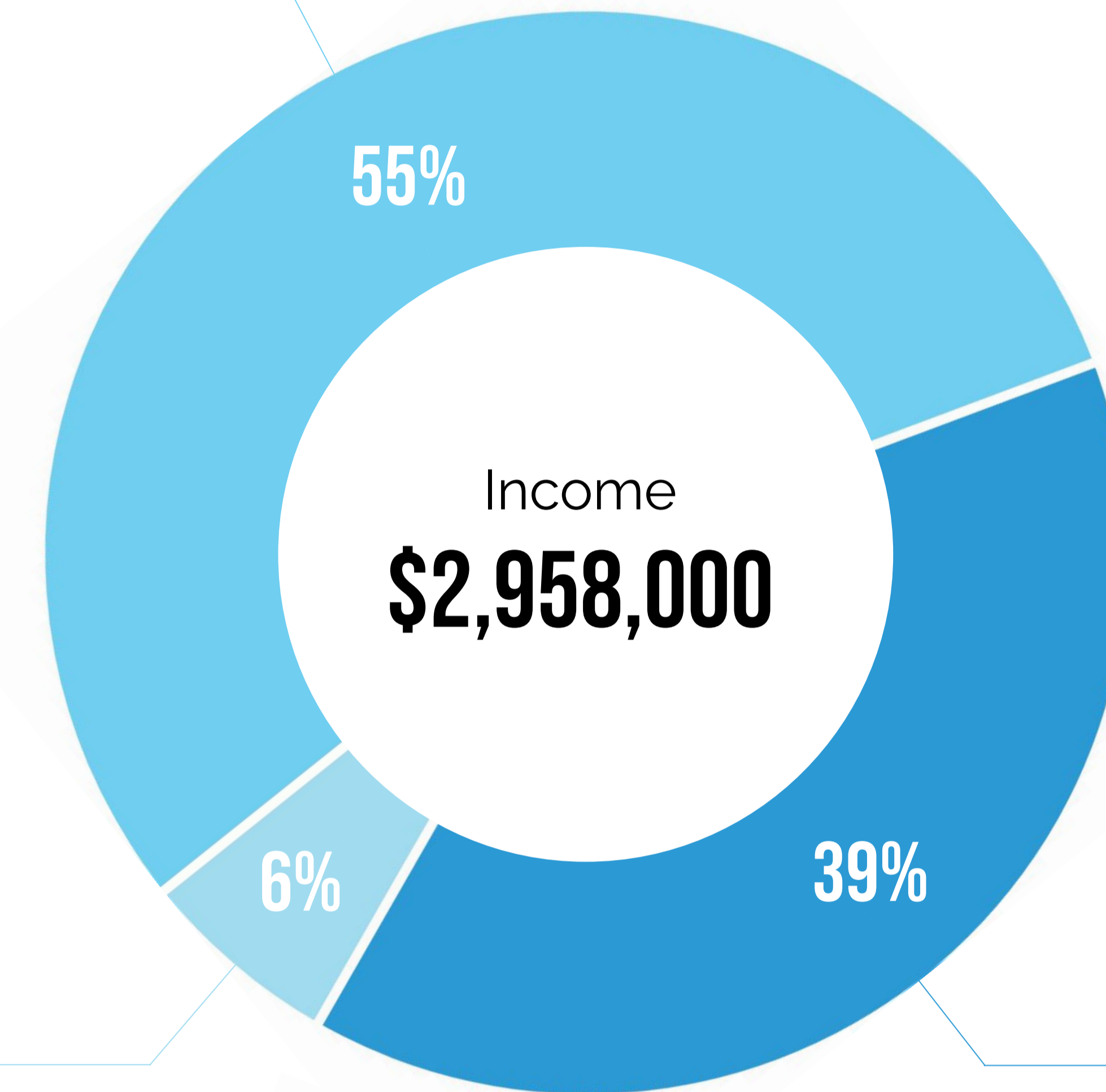
**31**   
*Students in Households*

**54**   
*UCO Missionaries on Campuses*

# FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

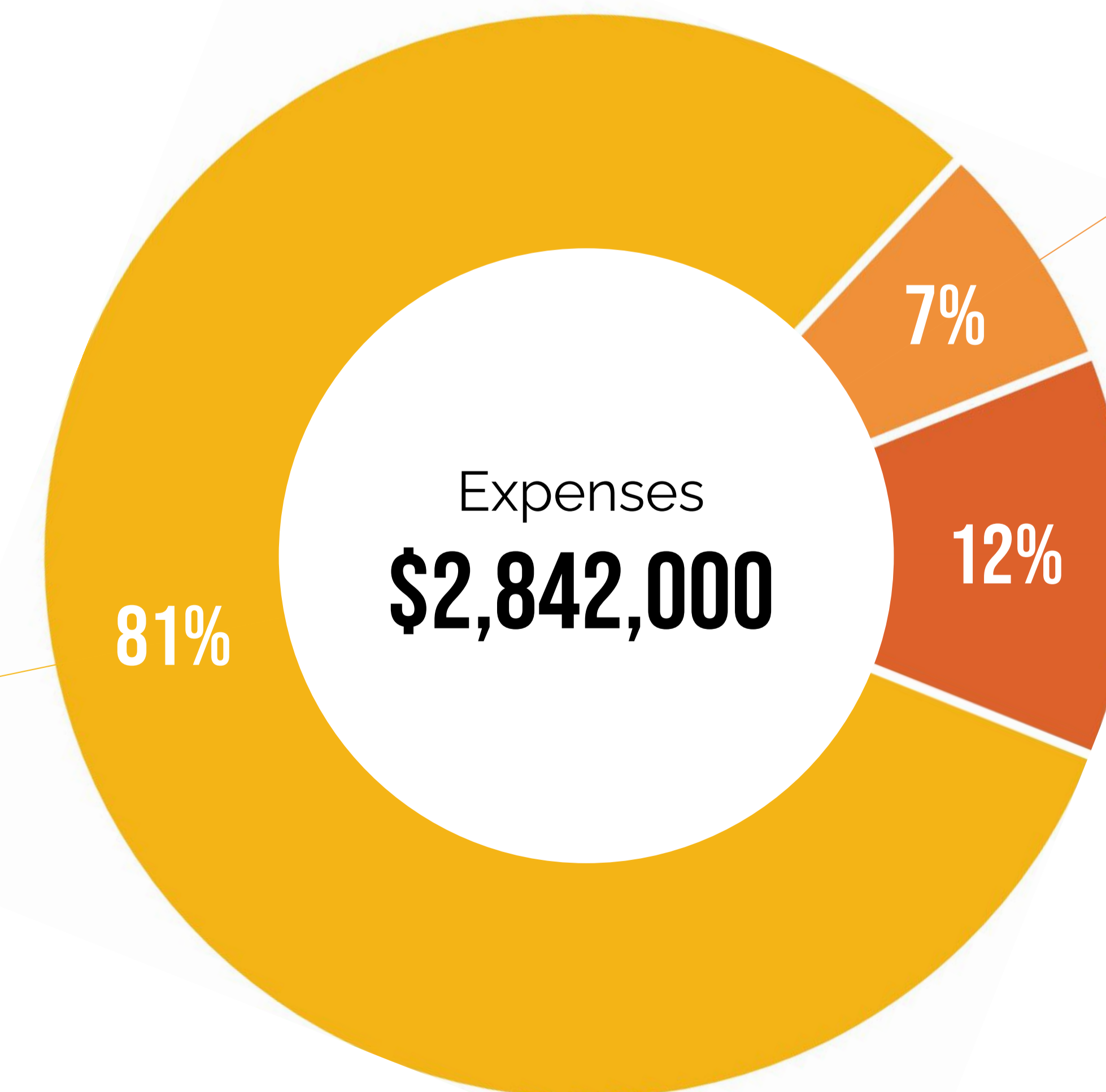
## FOR 2022-2023

Missionary Support  
\$1,624,000



Ministry Program and Event Income  
\$169,000

General Contributions  
\$1,165,000



Ministry Programs  
\$2,289,000

General and Administration  
\$201,000

Development  
\$352,000

# THANK YOU SPONSORS!





University Christian Outreach

**2024 MISSION REPORT**

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