

## Secret Santa Returns to UCHRA Residential Homes

By

Randy Wilder, Community Outreach and Resource Development Manager

For the third year in a row, a large number of Christmas gifts were anonymously donated to the Upper Cumberland Human Resource Agency (UCHRA) for the youth staying in the three residential centers, Chance for Girls, Indian Mound for Boys and Youth Impact Center for Boys.

People seem to put their wants and needs on hold during the holiday season by practicing the importance of giving. This year was no exception to the gift giving spirit. Each child was presented an Under Armour duffel bag filled with clothing and other essentials.

UCHRA's nationally accredited residential centers are a place for at risk youth to live in a safe, highly structured environment. Through around-the-clock care, counseling and academic instruction these youth work to return to their communities with high self esteem and a new demeanor. As these centers strive to rebuild trust and self-confidence, they have been able to see young men and women emerge with an excitement for life and an understanding that they can make worthwhile contributions to the community.

"It is through such anonymous donations that we are able to give children a chance to have a Merry Christmas. Many children come into our centers with very little personal belongings. These gifts add to the true meaning of Christmas. We are glad to be able to give them something that they can carry with them when they leave us not withstanding all they have learned while being at our homes," stated Brian Swearngen, UCHRA Residential Services Director.

For more information on UCHRA's residential centers or ways to make donations, please contact the UCHRA Central Office in Cookeville, TN at (931) 528-1127 or visit us at [www.uchra.com/residential](http://www.uchra.com/residential).

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Cutline: Standing behind a generous stack of anonymously donated Christmas gifts for UCHRA's three residential centers is: (l to r) Brian Swearngen, Residential Services Director; Teresa Hutchings, Residential Services Assistant Director, and Jamie Hickey Carter, Chance Residential Case Manager.