

# EMPOWER UC

INSPIRING AND EQUIPPING FAMILIES,  
INDIVIDUALS, AND COMMUNITIES TO PROSPER.



PROSPERITY FOR ALL





## CONTACT US

### EMPOWER UPPER CUMBERLAND

580 S. Jefferson Ave.  
Cookeville, TN 38501

833.367.9782  
[connect@empoweruc.com](mailto:connect@empoweruc.com)  
[www.empoweruppercumberland.org](http://www.empoweruppercumberland.org)

### SOCIALS

#### FACEBOOK & INSTAGRAM

*Empower Upper  
Cumberland*

#### YOUTUBE

*Connect UC*

# WELCOME

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We want to take a moment to express our sincere appreciation for the role you have played in Empower UC; whether you attended meetings, interacted with our posts on social media, or simply shared our mission with your company, church, or friends. Every interaction that you have had relative to our collaboration has been impactful on the work we are doing with families, individuals, and communities. We cannot do this work without you and appreciate your continued support.



# STATISTICS

This data was collected from the start of pilot implementation in November, 2022 through August 15, 2023



**93%**

Women



**7%**

Male

**Average age - 33 years**

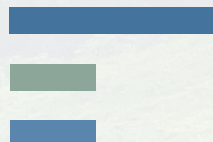


## Race

White, 92%

Black, 4%

Hispanic, 4%



## Employment

**\$14.43**

Average hourly wage

**73%** Employed at enrollment



## Education

**92%**

GED or higher



## Children in the Household

**2.2**

Mean number



## Finances

**84%**

Have a bank account

**9%**

Have less than \$500 in savings

**23%**

Have a savings account



## Health

**88%**

Enrolled in Medicaid



## Housing

**5%**

Evicted in last 12 months



## Food

**47%**

Unable to pay for food in last 12 months

**43%**

Unable to pay rent in last 12 months



# JANUARY

## ENROLLMENT OFFICIALLY OPENS

Empower Upper Cumberland began accepting applications for potential participants.

## READY TO LEARN LAUNCHES IN PUTNAM COUNTY

Ready to Learn was a success with kids in our Putnam County Circles chapter. The program focuses on family engagement and activities through child-led projects.

## HIGHLANDS ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP GRAND OPENING

One of our collaboration partners, the Highlands Economic Partnership (HEP), held a grand opening for their new Training Center. The Center will focus on workforce reentry for Empower UC participants.





# FEBRUARY

## VISITS WITH LAWMAKERS

Empower UC staff met with State Legislators and their staffs about services available through UCDD & UCHRA. We discussed Empower UC enrollment and the ways our program is serving their constituents. UCAssist.org was also introduced as a comprehensive resource for the region.

## CRMC FOUNDATION INITIATES GRANT RESEARCH

CRMC's Charitable Foundation started their research of potential grant sources and organizing an approach for donor solicitations to support Empower UC's sustainability.

## UC WORKFORCE MEETS WITH EMPLOYERS

Representatives from Upper Cumberland Workforce met with 19 employers including 16 new companies in the region.



# MARCH

## FIRST ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

In March, the Empower Advisory Board came together for the first time. Jackson County Mayor, Randy Heady, was appointed as Chairman, and White County Mayor, Denny Wayne Robinson, as Vice-Chairman. The Board supported Empower's efforts by participating in community events, sharing the message about the program's benefits, and getting the word out about Empower. Other members included Kelly Clarkson, Sean Monday, Dr. Robert Owens, Diana Beranowski, and Jasen Knight. Empower Advisory Board Members were nominated by each of Empower's Core Partner organizations.

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Navigator Managers Casey Eschette and Tephany Randolph joined Circles Coordinators Lehra Trobaugh and Balinda Westmoreland at several events throughout the region. They shared the message that enrolling in Empower was crucial for the program's success, and the team was determined to reach as many new audiences as they could.







# CIRCLES USA

The first Circles USA chapter in Tennessee was founded in Putnam County.  
Since that first cohort, we have launched more chapters in  
the Upper Cumberland, with plans to make a chapter available in eight counties in the region.  
Thanks to all the volunteers who help make Circles happen.







# APRIL

## HIGHER EDUCATION OUTREACH KICKS OFF

Empower Navigators set up at TCATs and Community Colleges to talk to parents currently enrolled in classes, as well as graduating students about how Empower could help them and their families.

## FAMILY FUN NIGHT FOR PUTNAM COUNTY CIRCLES

Putnam County Circles held its first Family Fun Night. Our Navigators did a great job coordinating the event where they had a pizza party, popcorn, cake walk, and other fun games.



# MAY

## EMPOWER PARTICIPANT BECOMES A HOMEOWNER

A dream came true for Krystal and her three children when they qualified for a USDA Rural Development home loan. Krystal recently closed on her new home in Putnam County; pictured with her is Kelly Davis, her realtor, and Heather Thomas, Krystal's Circles Ally.

## SPREADING THE WORD IN CANNON COUNTY

An Empower participant, who is a manager at Piggly Wiggly in Woodbury, joined Cannon County Navigator Cortlind McCutcheon, at the "Good Ole Days" to help pass out brochures and spread the word about Empower UC!







# JUNE



## **PUTNAM COUNTY CIRCLES EXPANDS**

Putnam County Circles expanded to a second cohort with six families in attendance. The meetings are held on Thursday evenings at the same time as the original group. They enjoy a meal, as well as "new and good" together. Afterward, they split up to complete coursework, while the kids work on their own curriculum.

## **WCTE WRAPS UP READY TO LEARN IN CUMBERLAND COUNTY**

WCTE-PBS completed the first Ready to Learn program in Cumberland County with four families regularly attending classes using PBS Kids characters and content..



## **HIGHLANDS TRAINING CENTER LAUNCHES**

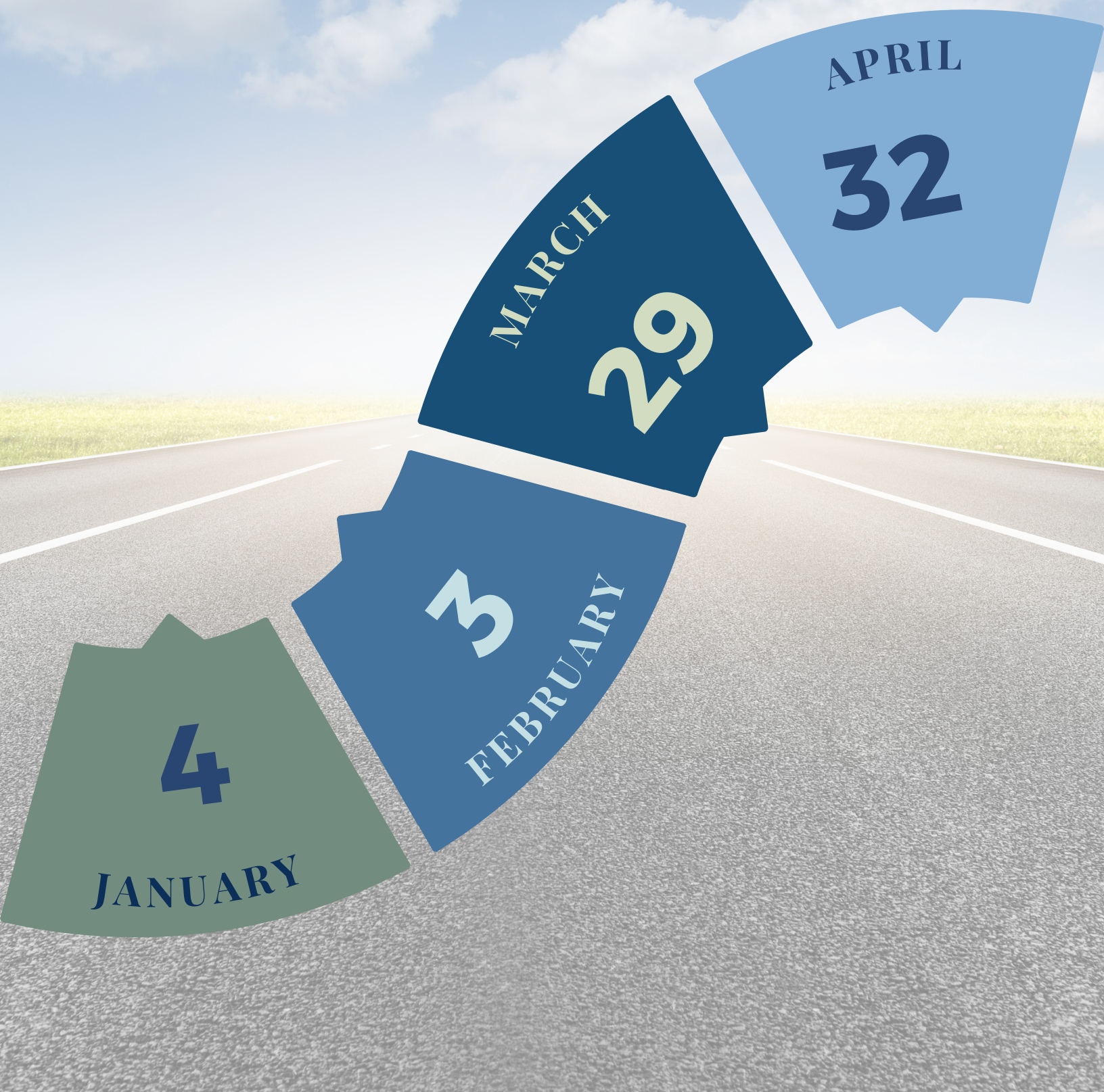
Highlands Training Center launched its program with two participants. HTC's goal is to provide the working skills necessary to gain employment and the life skills to create a sustainable future for themselves and their families. Training included guest speakers from Raymond James Financial Services, Vol State Community College, and other organizations.





# ENROLLMENTS

Interested families apply for Empower UC by going to [www.empoweruppercumberland.org](http://www.empoweruppercumberland.org) or by calling 833.367.9782



APRIL

32

MARCH

29

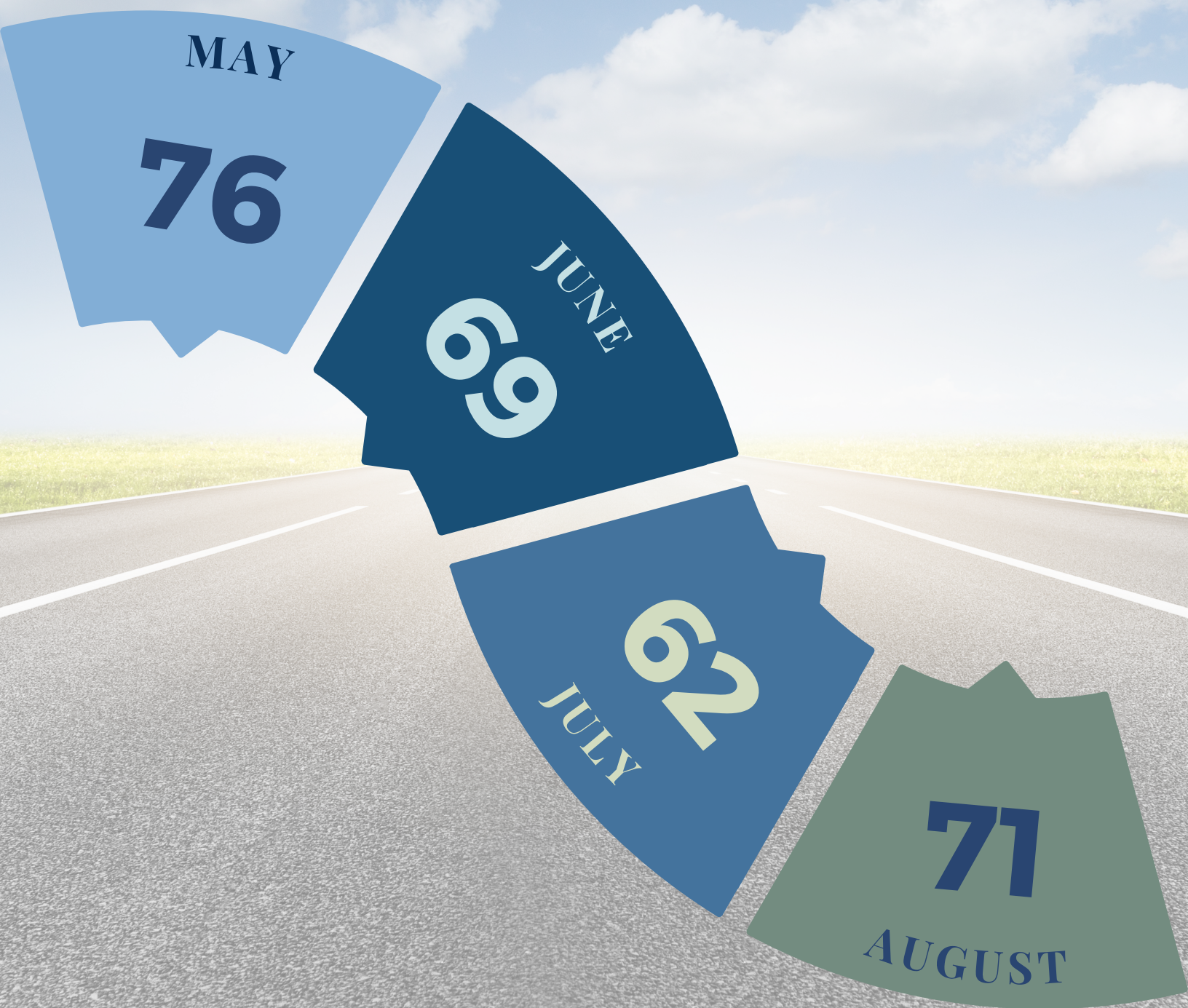
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FEBRUARY

4

JANUARY





**TOTAL PARTICIPANTS: 346**





# JULY

## **TVA DONATES BACK TO SCHOOL ITEMS FOR PARTICIPANTS**

We expressed our sincere appreciation to TVA for their generous donation of backpacks and school supplies. The backpacks were assembled by Empower Upper Cumberland, TVA staff, and local power company representatives. Empower Navigators then distributed these backpacks to our families in all 14 counties.



## **UCDD FUNDING CHILDCARE FACILITIES FOR EXPANSIONS**

Cumberland Childcare received a grant to purchase a residential home to expand an in-home child care facility to a childcare agency. This will allow 40 additional childcare slots and 10 positions in Cumberland County.

Wonderbees also received a grant to purchase an office building to expand the current childcare facility in order to take an additional 16-20 children and create three to seven jobs in Overton County.



## **READY TO LEARN KICKS OFF IN WHITE COUNTY**

WCTE-PBS held its first Ready to Learn session in White County with two families and a total of six kids in the program that focuses on connectedness and problem-solving skills.





# AUGUST

## CIRCLES CHAPTERS ARE BUZZING WITH ACTIVITY

The Circles Chapter in Cumberland County started on August 23rd with a group of 12 families who enjoyed spending time together. A big shoutout went to UCDD's Rosa Smith for leading the charge in creating a wonderful childcare program for Cumberland County.

## EMPOWERING THE UC

Our Empower team members are always active in the community, participating in fun events like back-to school gatherings, radio interviews, conferences, and many more.



## READY TO LEARN ROLLS ON

WCTE-PBS wrapped up Ready to Learn in White County and created a new cohort in Warren County.

Putnam County Circle Leaders also successfully completed the Ready to Learn program, using free resources such as books, toys, and flashcards.







# VOLUNTEER

## CIRCLES VOLUNTEER

**Hospitality** - Welcome Circle families, organize, set-up, and clean-up meals at weekly meetings

**Youth Program** - Present the built-in curriculum to youth and assist with activities

## CIRCLES ALLY

- A person who volunteers to assist a Circle Leader in achieving his or her goals to leave poverty
- Peer-to-peer support for Circle Leaders
- Attend bimonthly Circle Leader meetings

Empower UC, Community Engagement Coordinators

**Kim England** DeKalb, White, Cannon

**Lehra Trobaugh** Macon, Smith, Jackson, Clay

**Shaquawana Wester** Putnam, Overton, Pickett

**Balinda Westmoreland** Cumberland, Warren, Fentress, Van Buren

Scan to access our  
volunteer application





# THANK YOU!



MARK FARLEY  
MFARLEY@UCDD.ORG



MEGAN SPURGEON  
MSPURGEON@UCHRA.COM



RYAN BARNHART  
RBARNHART@HIGHLANDSOFTN.COM



AVERY HUTCHINS  
AHUTCHINS@WCTE.ORG



MICHAEL AIKENS  
MAIKENS@TNTECH.EDU



BECKY HULL  
BHULL@UCWORKFORCE.ORG



JOHN BELL  
JBELL@CRMCHHEALTH.ORG



MEGAN CHOATE  
MCHOATE@UCDD.ORG