



Home News

Fall, 2009

a publication of

Indiana United Methodist Children's Home, Inc.
Serving Children and Families for Over 90 Years

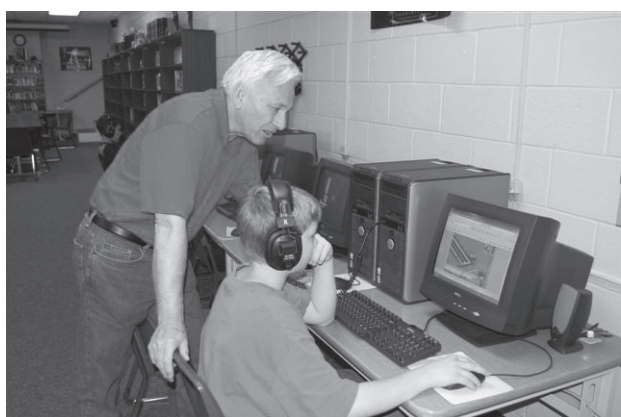
James E. Davis School Receives Full Accreditation



The Indiana United Methodist Children's Home James E. Davis School has received full performance based accreditation status once again from the Indiana Department of Education and the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. The accreditation is for a three year period. The on-grounds school serves youth from across the state and academic credits earned at the James E. Davis School transfer to any public school in Indiana. The school operates an educational program for students in grades 1

through 12. Students may receive a high school diploma from the school or a General Equivalency Diploma (GED). A nine week summer school program is also offered.

The full accreditation status is a reflection on improved ISTEP scores from past years. According to Jim Stuart, principal at the on grounds school, "Many of our students struggle in school and especially have trouble with standardized testing. Through a curriculum that strictly addresses the state standards and diagnostic testing, teachers are able to hone in on specific areas of weaknesses. Thanks to the additional instruction by our teachers, there was a tremendous improvement in individual scores which are tracked each year."



Students at the James E. Davis on-grounds school benefit from being in smaller classroom sizes. This allows the students to work at their own pace. They also receive more individualized attention and guidance from their teachers.



The James E. Davis on-grounds school once again received full Performance Based Accreditation from the Indiana Department of Education. Credits earned by students transfer to any public school in the state.

Another successful program during the academic school year has been Day Treatment. This past year, the Children's Home served 12 students needing specific educational needs. These students were able to leave each day and spend evenings and weekends with their parents or guardians. Added Stuart, "The success of this program has been so great that counties outside of Boone are looking at our program as a possibility for students in need of an intensive educational intervention."

A Word from the Students.....

"I like the on-grounds school because there are only five other students in my classroom. At home, there were about 30 other kids in my class. My teachers at the Children's Home spend a lot of time working with me and I don't feel rushed." – Teresa, age 15

"One of my favorite things about the on-grounds school is the attention I get from all the staff. I also like how they teach. They seem to be really patient with us if we don't understand our math or reading assignments." – Jake, age 16

"I like our principal, Mr. Stuart. He always tells me to try my best and never give up." – Sean, age 11

Indiana United Methodist Children's Home is a residential treatment facility for emotionally troubled youth and serves an average of 125 boys and girls and their families each year from across the state. The Home has been serving youth and their families for 94 years.

Indiana United Methodist Children's Home, Inc.

Serving Children and Families for Over 90 years

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Fall Booth Festival 2009

Building Healthy Bodies...One Child at a Time

Indiana United Methodist Children's Home continues to provide a safe haven for abused and neglected children from around the state. You may know of a child in your own church or community that may need help in the future. That's why we hope you will encourage your congregation to participate in Fall Booth Festival 2009.

Fall Booth Festival is a fund raising project which links United Methodist congregations and groups with the youth of Indiana United Methodist Children's Home. Today, adult and youth groups from around the state help to raise funds for the Home's food budget through fund raising projects and events in the name of Fall Booth Festival. In the past, churches have sponsored fund raising events like a car wash or bake sale with proceeds going toward Fall Booth Festival.

Many people wonder where the term "festival" comes from. The name "Booth Festival"



Youth and adult groups from all over the state are encouraged to participate in Fall Booth Festival. In August, a group of very caring youth from New Bethel United Methodist Church, North Vernon, came to visit the Home's campus. Accompanied by Pastor Connie Barr and youth leaders from the church, the boys and girls donated \$102 toward Fall Booth Festival 2009.

is biblically based. The "Feast of Booths" was one of the three great annual festivals of the Israelites, celebrated with great joy after the harvest. In 1924, district churches would collect canned goods and then construct a booth describing their Fall Booth Festival work. Today, Indiana United Methodist Children's Home receives mostly cash gifts from Fall Booth Festival fund raisers and uses gifts

to purchase wholesale food items. The food purchased meets the dietary needs set forth by the Indiana State Board of Health.

This year, the Home anticipates providing \$2 million in charitable care to children and families in need. Funds from Fall Booth Festival are part of the Home's charitable care. In 2008, churches raised more than \$40,000 for Fall Booth Festival. We hope you will encourage your church to participate in Fall Booth Festival 2009.

Facts and Figures about Fall Booth Festival

- *The Home's charitable care funding planned for 2009 totals more than \$2 million*
- *The Home's food budget for 2009 totals \$125,000*
- *It is anticipated Indiana United Methodist Children's Home will serve more than 125 youth and their families during 2009*



IUMCH is Going Green



"Going Green" is an expression attributed to preserving the earth's resources. During the past year, the Home has taken steps to become more environmentally friendly throughout the campus. One of the most significant changes has been to replace all incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescent light bulbs once they burn out. The bulbs typically use 70% less energy and last 8 to 10 times longer than the standard bulb.

As appliances in the living units need to be replaced, the Home intends on purchasing ENERGY STAR rated refrigerators, washers and dryers. ENERGY STAR is a joint program of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Energy helping consumers save money and protect the environment through energy efficient products. Last year, Americans saved \$19 billion on their utility bills with the help of ENERGY STAR.

The Home is introducing a "Keep the Campus Green Fund." All designated funds will go toward making the campus energy efficient. Here are ways you can help:

- Make a monetary donation to the "Keep the Campus Green Fund"
- Donate an ENERGY STAR rated appliance
- Donate a gift card to an appliance or hardware store
- Donate a supply of compact fluorescent light bulbs



Home Happenings...

Highlights of some of the news and activities taking place at Indiana United Methodist Children's Home in Lebanon.

Vespers Service Features "Puppets of God's Highway" Ministry

Twice per month, youth attend Wednesday evening Vespers Services at Gress Memorial Chapel. On occasion, groups from around the state will provide musical programs during the service. In July, a youth group from the Church of God in Mitchell, Indiana, brought their puppet ministry to the Children's Home. The group is called "Puppets of God's Highway" and they perform statewide. During their visit to IUMCH, the Mitchell youth provided a lively musical program featuring their puppets. Several of the puppets were handmade by members of the Church of God congregation. Following the performance, the puppet group presented Mr. Duane Horstman, Christian Education leader, with four handmade puppets.



Youth from Mitchell, Indiana spent many hours preparing for their puppet show at Indiana United Methodist Children's Home.

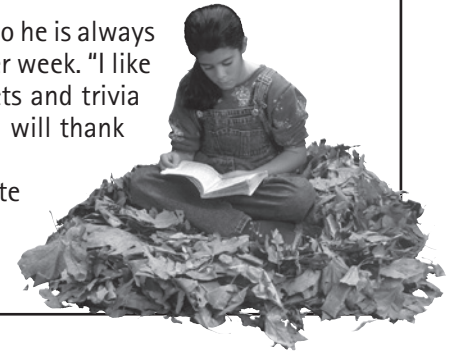
From "Treasure Island" to "Moby Dick"

One of the classrooms at the James E. Davis On-grounds School has a banner on display featuring the following quote by Richard Steele, "Reading is to the mind what exercise is to the body." This philosophy rings true at Indiana United Methodist Children's Home.


Youth at the Children's Home enjoy opportunities to read a variety of books either in the school library, their classrooms or in their cottages. Thanks to Colfax Public Library, the youth have many good books to choose from. Brenda Kinslow, Children's Librarian at Colfax, packs her car up with boxes of gently used library books and delivers them frequently to the Children's Home. According to Mrs. Kinslow, "My goal as a librarian is to get children excited about reading. The Colfax Library is glad to know the books are being passed on to other children. Our hope is to provide a variety of books to children with different reading levels and interests."

James is one of the most voracious readers at Indiana United Methodist Children's Home so he is always happy to see when Mrs. Kinslow has delivered the books. James typically reads two books per week. "I like books that are true stories including biographies. Recently, I've been reading books on facts and trivia from around the world. Some day, maybe I will be a contestant on Jeopardy. If I ever am, I will thank the Children's Home and the Colfax Library for my knowledge."

The Colfax Public Library is another example of how organizations from across the state reach out in a positive way to help the boys and girls at Indiana United Methodist Children's Home.



From Big Ten Football to WNBA Basketball



It's amazing what can take place on a weekend at Indiana United Methodist Children's Home. A group of youth at the Children's Home were treated to a weekend of first class sporting events. On September 5th, a group from IUMCH headed up to West Lafayette and attended a Big Ten football game. They watched an exciting college game between the Purdue Boilermakers and the Toledo Rockets. This was the first Big Ten football experience for many of the IUMCH residents.

On September 6th, the boys and girls headed a short distance to the Conseco Fieldhouse in Indianapolis to watch a WNBA game between the Indiana Fever and Washington Mystics. It just happened to be fan appreciation night which included some special entertainment.

According to Marc Oliver, Supervisor of Group Life, "We are very appreciative to the Indiana Fever for donating tickets throughout the year to the Children's Home. Not only are the Fever games fun to watch but they also have entertainment for children throughout the evening. It makes it a lot of fun for the boys and girls to attend these games. Our hope is the youth remember these special outings as they grow into adulthood."

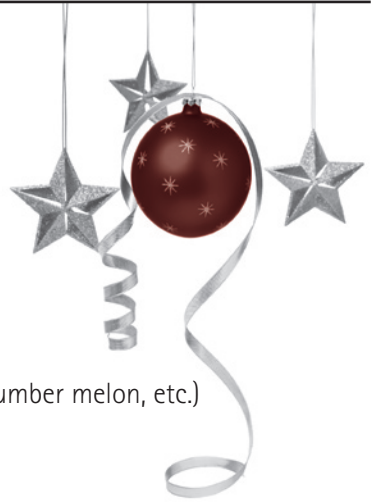




Lending a Helping Hand...

Christmas Wishes

Christmas is a meaningful time of year for the boys and girls in care at Indiana United Methodist Children's Home. Many of the youth remain on campus during the Christmas holidays and yearly, your gifts make the season brighter for them. Here are some general gift ideas. Gifts do not need to be wrapped and it would be helpful to receive your donated Christmas gifts by December 11, 2009.



Pajamas and Robes (Small to 2XL)
Books (Reading levels K-12)
Board games appropriate for ages 6-18
Puzzles
MP3 Players
Tooth Brushes (cartoon theme)
DVDs (G and PG only)
Electric or battery operated shavers
Activity and Coloring Books
Magazine subscriptions for individual cottages
Posters (Motivational, Super heros, animals, cars, cartoons and sports)
Arts and Crafts (paint by number kits, sketching paper, colored pens and markers)

Recreation equipment (Basketballs, footballs, Nerf games, etc)
Play Station 2 games
Dolls and accessories
Liquid body wash and lotions (like cucumber melon, etc.)
Stationery and Stamps
Batteries (AA, AAA)
Lego Kits
Action Figures
Underwear (Small through 2XL)
Wal-mart Gift Cards
Sports souvenirs (As a hint, we have an abundance of Colts and Pacer fans at IUMCH!)

Monetary donations toward Christmas are also needed and greatly appreciated. Please make checks payable to Indiana United Methodist Children's Home, Inc. PO Box 747, Lebanon, IN 46052. Have questions? Contact Susan Bennett, Phone 765-482-5900, e-mail susanb@iumch.org