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news@home

A PUBLICATION OF INDIANA UNITED METHODIST CHILDREN'S HOME, INC.

Annual Conference 2019

One of the highlights of attending the Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church is to see so many ministers and lay members from all over the state. During the conference, staff from the Home met with churches, ministers, donors and lay members from several districts. According to Rich Lapinski, Executive Director/CEO of Indiana United Methodist Children's Home, "The Annual Conference is a place where we can express appreciation to our churches and donors for their prayers and support."

Christy Huston, Executive Director of the Indiana United Methodist Children's Home Foundation, also attended the conference. "As a first time attendee, it warms my heart to hear stories about why and how our donors support the Home. We are truly blessed."



Christy Huston and Rich Lapinski

Two New Teaching Family Homes Dedicated

Guests and dignitaries from across the state attended the ribbon cutting and building dedication service for two new Teaching Family homes. The homes officially opened in April and each serve 10 youth, ranging in ages from 14-19. The new homes were blessed by Bishop Michael Coyner and focus on teaching independent living skills.



Participants in the ribbon cutting pictured from left to right are: Lexi Britt, Boone County Chamber of Commerce; Joy Pollock, Building Dedication Chairperson; Bill Todd, IUMCH Board member; Edna May, IUMCH Board member; Chirag Patel, Brandt Construction; Dan Fleming, IUMCH Board member and Lebanon City Council member; Rich Lapinski, IUMCH Executive Director; Jim Engledow, IUMCH Board President; The Honorable Matt Gentry, Mayor of Lebanon; Nancy Harshbarger, IUMCH Board Secretary; Keith Smith, IUMCH Foundation Board member; Christy Huston, Executive Director of the IUMCH Foundation and Bishop Michael Coyner, IUMCH Board member and retired Bishop of the Indiana Conference of the United Methodist Church.

Rise and Shine – It's Back to School Time

Teachers at the James E. Davis School welcomed their students to the new academic year which began on August 12. The school is accredited by the Indiana Department of Education and academic credits transfer to any public school in the state.

The school offers students in grades 6-12 a quality education. Students are given course work in math, science, social studies, physical education, art and language arts. The classroom sizes are kept small in order to provide students with individualized attention.

Respect, Responsibility and Productivity are the three behavior core values at the school. "We strive to make meaningful connection with our students and

encourage them to see the relationship between their choices, their consequences and their quality of life," added Principal Jim Stuart.

The school has adopted the Teaching Family model as its primary tool for providing behavior support to students. The model is a fully integrated approach to providing humane, effective individualized treatment and service to students. As one of the students stated, "I was nervous on the first day of school but the teachers were super nice. I liked the fact that there were only five other students in my math class. So, I have a feeling that algebra will be easier for me since I will get more attention from Mrs. Morris, my math teacher."



One of the greatest joys at the school is when our students graduate. We had eight students graduate in May of 2019. It is anticipated four of our recent graduates will attend post-secondary education. To learn more about the school, visit iumch.org.

Finding Solace in the Garden

Finding solace in ordinary tasks like gardening can be very therapeutic when people are grieving.

Many of our youth face the death of a loved one while living at the Home. Recently, Rachel Alstott, Spiritual Life Leader, had a vision to plant a grief garden where youth can go and find peace and comfort after the death of a friend or family member.

The youth have the opportunity to plant a flower or tree in the memory of a loved one. For instance, Mary's grandmother died a few weeks ago and she struggled with grief. Mary's grandmother loved sun flowers so she planted some in her memory. Now, Mary can sit in the garden and find comfort and peace.

The garden will continue to grow. In fact, the Auxiliary voted to use some of their funds to help support the garden. More flowers will be purchased, along with a privacy fence and some additional seating. The youth also help maintain the garden by watering the plants and spreading dirt and mulch.



Rachel Alstott, Spiritual Life Leader, spends some time reflecting in the grief garden.

A Word from Christy Huston

Executive Director of the Indiana United Methodist Children's Home Foundation

Staff here at the Children's Home are busy planning for the first day of school to help our youth achieve independence as adults. Back-to-school planning time reminds us to ask ourselves if we have done the planning needed for our own estates.

Did you know that including the Children's Home in your financial planning today can help you make a loving impact on the lives of children in crisis for years to come?

Do you want to help, but feel these common concerns?

- Uncertainty about your own retirement security?
- Uncertainty about future healthcare expenses?
- Uncertainty about paying for college or caring for dependent needs?

Join us in exploring how your estate planning now allows you to:

- Care for your own needs and the needs of loved ones;
- Minimize fees & taxes;
- Support your favorite mission and ministry; and
- Build your legacy through a lasting statement about what you value.

Guest speaker Manet Shettle, CPA, President of the United Methodist Foundation of Indiana, will lead the Children's Home's first **Legacy Planning Seminar** on Oct. 21 from noon – 2 pm at the Children's Home campus at 515 West Camp Street, Lebanon.

She will share information about estate planning, wills, trusts, endowments and your next steps in your planning to meet your long-term goals. Complimentary lunch will be provided. To register or find out more, go to www.iumch.org or call the Children's Home Foundation at: 317/775-0606. Space is limited for this free event. After the free Legacy Planning Seminar participants will be invited to an optional tour of the Home. "As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace." -1 Peter 4:10

I hope you can join us. If not, please reach out to me to share your dreams about your legacy of supporting children. Together we can explore how you can help make a real difference in the life of a vulnerable child. Through your generous gifts, our children will feel safe and loved.

Blessings abound,

Christy Huston
IUMCH Foundation Executive Director
christyhuston@iumchf.org | 317/775-0606

Investing in the Life of a Child

Karen and Jim Ottjes, Warren, Indiana, are committed volunteers and donors at Indiana United Methodist Children's Home (IUMCH). They believe wholeheartedly in the Home's mission – to enrich the quality of life for children and families through Christian values.

Karen became familiar with the Home when she served as minister of Thorntown United Methodist Church. In fact, Karen and Jim served on the IUMCH Founder's Day committee and on the 100th Anniversary committee. According to Karen, "As Jim and I served on these committees and spent more time with the youth and staff, we were very impressed and wanted to do more to support the Home's mission."

Karen and Jim recently shared with the Foundation that they included the Home in both of their wills, so they are recognized as members of the John Wesley Society. They also give yearly through an IRA distribution.

Karen added, "Giving to the Home was an easy decision. We believe the Teaching Family model is successfully preparing youth for healthy adult life. It provides more than just counseling therapy and academic education. Their program helps youth learn how a healthy family functions by sharing together in meal preparation, household chores, and much more. The Teaching Family model prepares them for a better life."

The Ottjes enjoy life in northern Indiana. Jim, now retired, owned a successful heating and cooling business in Bluffton and Karen serves at minister of Uniondale United Methodist Church. When reflecting on the Home and why they give, Karen and Jim both believe that one of America's greatest needs is to raise youth to become productive members of society. Karen added, "It makes us feel good that we are a part of helping these youth become responsible citizens. We feel good about the fact that we are changing the trajectory of their lives."

To learn more about legacy giving and the John Wesley recognition opportunity, contact Christy Huston, Executive Director of Indiana United Methodist Children's Home Foundation at 317-775-0606 or send email inquiries to christyhuston@iumchf.org



Karen and Jim are photographed in front of one of the historic stained glass windows that was removed from Thorntown United Methodist Church. The building was demolished and the church later merged with another congregation. The stained glass was carefully removed and later installed in the tabernacle at Franklin Camp Ministry.

"Go Therefore and Make Disciples of All Nations"

Rachel Alstott is the Home's new Spiritual Life Leader and she is making a positive impact on the youth. "I spend many hours talking to them one-on-one and help guide them through some difficult times. One of my greatest pleasures is leading the youth to baptism," Rachel stated.

During the summer, four youth were baptized in Gress Chapel on the Home's campus and several more are to be baptized in September. Reverend Marsha Hutchinson, a member of the Home's Board of Trustees, typically performs the baptisms.

Before the youth are baptized, Rachel conducts a class on the significance of the ritual. She covers the history of baptism, the significance of the water, the meaning of baptism and how it is celebrated. She also emphasizes the importance of Matthew 28:19 which is typically read during the service.

According to Jenna, "I will never forget how I felt when Rev. Hutchinson put the water on my head. I was glad my parents came and I think the whole campus was there, too. It was one of the best days I've had in a long time."

We are grateful to Rev. Hutchinson for conducting the baptisms and for being a committed advocate for our spiritual life program.



Reverend Marsha Hutchinson and Rachel Alstott both agree that baptisms at the Home are meaningful and inspirational.



Pamela and Lawrence Williams are Family Teachers in one of the new Independent Living homes.

A Higher Calling

Lawrence and Pamela Williams are Family Teachers in Home 5. They have vast experience in the Teaching Family model. Most recently, they served as Family Teachers at Father Flannigan's Boy's Town in Omaha, Nebraska.

The Williams are responsible for the care and well-being of 10 teenage boys ranging in age from 17 to 19. Family Teachers provide daily care, supervision and teach youth important social skills and functional alternatives to behaviors that caused them to be placed out of their own home. They also teach independent living skills and help with academic skills so youth can perform better in school and prepare for a career.

"It's a higher calling for us. We love these boys as if they were our own children. The Teaching Family model is the key to their success. The boys are thriving in school and are successful in their work environments. We see their progress first-hand and are honored to be a part of it," said Lawrence.

Prayers of Hope

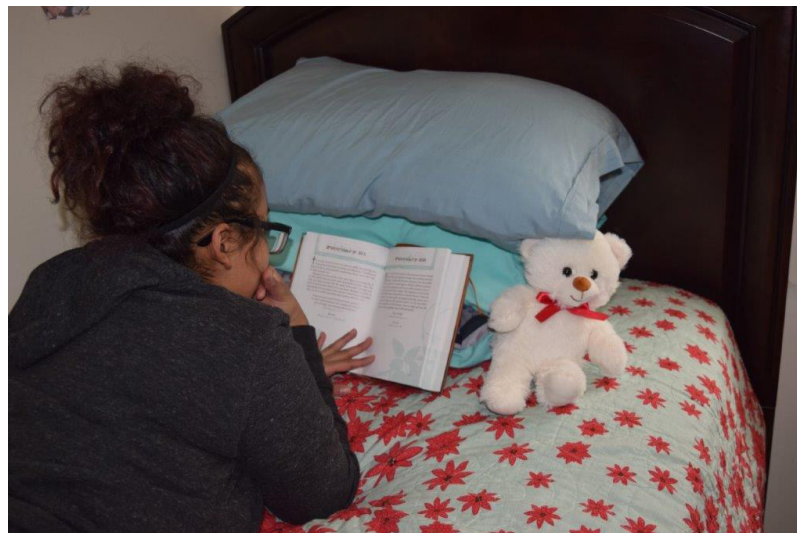
Billy Graham once said "Prayer is simply a two-way conversation between you and God." That's exactly what we tell the youth at Indiana United Methodist Children's Home.

Prayers are powerful! That's why we are asking you to pray for our youth through our Prayers of Hope initiative. The youth at the Home have many prayer requests and need the love and support from our staff and from friends of the Home.

Here's how our Prayers of Hope works... go to the Home's website at iumch.org and click on the Make an Impact tab. Simply provide your e-mail and on the third Thursday of the month, you will receive five to six prayers from our youth. You may also contact Susan Bennett for a signup sheet which allows for multiple people to receive the prayers.

On behalf of our children, thank you for lifting them up in your prayers. These can be difficult times!

**For privacy reasons, we are not allowed to use their actual names in the prayers.*





Groups from all over Indiana tour the Home. We enjoyed meeting members from Putnamville United Methodist Women last month. As one of the members said, "Touring the Children's Home and meeting some of the youth will have a lasting impression on us. Our church is proud to support Indiana United Methodist Children's Home."

Let's Talk and Tour

Spring, summer and fall are all great times to tour Indiana United Methodist Children's Home. Touring the Home is an inspirational outreach trip for any of your church groups including United Methodist Women's Circles, mission outreach committees and youth groups.

The Home is conveniently located in the center of the state – just two miles off of I-65 and a very short distance from the Indianapolis metro area. The tour includes visiting one of our innovative Teaching Family homes, our state-of-the-art school and our beautiful chapel. One of the highlights of the tour is meeting some of our youth in the Teaching Family homes. We are proud of their progress and think you will be inspired by their spirit and tenacity.

We also have staff available to come to your church or organization. Just give us a call...we love sharing our story with you.

To schedule a tour or speaker, contact Susan Bennett, Director of Public Relations at 765-482-5900 or send e-mail inquiries to susanb@iumch.org. Visit iumch.org for more information about the Children's Home.

Put Your Faith Into Action

Winston Churchill once said, "We make a living by what we get but we make a life by what we give."

Many of our friends ask how they may volunteer at Indiana United Methodist Children's Home. There are several ways you can help. We hope you will prayerfully consider some of these options.

Join the Auxiliary – Spread the word about the Home in your church and community and invite others to join. We need members in every Indiana County. We have 35 counties to go!

Bring your special talent to the Lebanon campus – We need tutors, mentors, piano teachers and people who like to help with art projects.

Sponsor a game or activity night – Small groups (5 to 6 people) can come and host a bingo game in one of our Teaching Family homes. Refreshments or a meal would be a great addition.

Prayers of Home – Receive a monthly prayer list to help lift up our youth at the Children's Home. Simply provide your e-mail address to help lift up the needs of our youth.

Holiday Happenings – Spread cheer and goodwill! Provide Halloween treats, Thanksgiving turkeys or Christmas gifts. Small group parties are also welcomed.

Serve on a Committee – We have various task groups/committees such as the Auxiliary Executive Committee and the scholarship committee. Volunteers help plan special events as well.

Perform and Inspire – Your musical or theatrical groups are welcome to provide a program during one of our worship services or convocations. Our youth enjoy hearing inspirational stories, too.

Organize a Donation or Gift Card Drive – Get your church VBS or group to gather needed items off of our wish list which is highlighted on the Home's website – iumch.org. Gift cards are used as incentives for positive behavior and for special occasions like birthdays or when a youth has a specific need.



Thank you to all of our volunteers for making a difference at Indiana United Methodist Children's Home.



**Indiana United Methodist
Children's Home**
Hope Has A Home

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Rich Lapinski, Executive Director/CEO
Susan D. Bennett, Editor

Our Mission Statement

To enrich the quality of life for children and families through Christian values

Our Vision

To be a place where youth are safe and cared for; where youth are given the opportunity to become healthy and self-sufficient adults; where families are reunited; and where every person is treated with love and respect.

Core Values

1. Compassion: Serving those in need with a caring spirit, regardless of their faith or culture.
2. Commitment: Making a lifelong commitment to generosity, integrity, leadership, and social justice.
3. Excellence: Striving to continually improve services to children and families vested in our care.
4. Connection: Fostering relationships with United Methodist Churches, clergy and our generous donors.

To learn more about the Home's volunteer opportunities, or to share your ideas, please contact Susan Bennett at susanb@iumch.org or call the Home.

**Tribute gifts honor those who value the important work of the
Indiana United Methodist Children's Home, and the youth we serve.
Together we are breaking the cycle of abusive family relationships
and teaching a happy and independent way forward.**

*We gratefully acknowledge the following tribute gifts
received through our spring "Honor Thy Mother and Father" appeal.*

In honor of Jane Nichols
Caroline M. and Kenneth A. Nelson

In honor of Norma Jean Singley
Caroline M. and Kenneth A. Nelson

In honor of Robert C. Stebbe
Tracy A. and Mark T. Stebbe

In memory of my parents
Always loving and supportive!
Carol E. Kuhn

In memory of Shirley Anderson
Robert Anderson

In memory of my husband, Chic
Married 70 years when God called you
home. Wonderful years and now so
lonely - we'll be together some day
soon.
Louise E. Apple

In memory of Joanne Brauns
William F. Brauns

In memory of Linda D. Bye
James W. Bye

In memory of Alex Carty
Susan S. Mollenkopf

In memory of Russell Dart
Marilyn S. Dart

In memory of Judy Dearth
Evelyn R. Taylor

**In memory of my mother,
Hope Guy**
Margaret B. and J.G. Potts

In memory of Sue Harris
William Harris

**In memory of
Ronald and Mary Hauswald**
Carol A. and W. Kyle Wietholter

In memory of Christopher Hockney
Mary Steele

**In memory of Lloyd and
Virginia Hosfield of Thorntown**
Sheryl and Roy Hosfield
Howard's Lawn & Garden

**In memory of our Downs Syndrome
son, Richard Lee Howard**
A very special gift from our Lord and
Savior. He left us on June 8, 2013, to go
back to his eternal home.
Phyllis R. and William A. Howard, Jr.

**In memory of my mother,
Kathleen Hudleson**
Martha Denny

In memory of Pat and Dick Huston
Christy S. and James F. Huston

**In memory of my parents,
Wilbur and Veva Hutchens**
They gave unconditional love and
security to me, to my sister, and to my
brothers throughout our childhood.
I am honored to give this gift in their
memory.
Sue C. Morgan

In memory of Mr. Kenneth Low
He was a wonderful teacher!
Martha and Reverend James R.
Copeland

In memory of Jim Maholm
My husband loved working with
children; loved meeting them. He always
had Lifesavers in his pocket and gave
them to children he met.
Deborah C. Maholm

In memory of John and Inez McGuire
IUMCH house parents for many years.
Judy Marshall and Reverend Jay
Marshall

In memory of Max M. Metzger
Passed away Nov. 9, 2016. He was
a loving husband and father and
grandfather.
Jo Ann Metzger

**In memory of my mother,
Mrs. Mildred Miller**
Passed away in 2001. She loved and
treated everyone with respect. A most
wonderful mother!
Anne D. Masterson

In memory of Clayton Earl Pavey
Winefred L. Pavey

In memory of Obert and Loretta Piety
Nancy and Clifford Beesley

**In memory of my mother,
Elizabeth R. Pollak**
She was generous and always put others
ahead of herself.
Sandra Seward

In memory of Helen Frances Shelby
I miss her greatly after 70 years of
marriage.
Robert B. Shelby

**In memory of my parents,
Paul and Helen Sparks**
They were hard workers in our church.
Shirley and David Heller

In memory of Merrill and Lois Swarens
Reverend Jerry A. Swarens

***"Honor your father and mother so that you
may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you."***

~ Exodus 20:12

We gratefully acknowledge the following tribute gifts, received between January 1 and August 12, 2019.

**In celebration of
Kent Hocker's birthday**
Sue C. Hocker

In honor of Lyn Berkebile
Jodi and Mike Snell

In honor of Andy Mehlhop
Salem UMC
- United Methodist Women

In honor of Kathy Mehlhop
Salem UMC
- United Methodist Women

In honor of Bob Overman
Salem UMC
- United Methodist Women

In honor of Martha Randel
Salem UMC
- United Methodist Women

In honor of Bill Sigman
Reverend Marsha Hutchinson
and Gregg Hutchinson

**In honor of Norma Jean
Singley**
Reverend Tracey O. Leslie
and Reverend Britt J. Leslie

In honor of Mo Thomas
Linda and Kurt Mahrtdt, Jr.

**In honor of Mary and Melvin
Winters' 50th Anniversary**
Frances E. and James D. Price

In memory of our parents
Jane and J.D. Burgess

**In memory of William
Armstrong**
John Heseman

In memory of John Aylsworth
Joyce A. Taylor
and Mary Kay Aylsworth

**In memory of Herbert
and Mary Ella Barber**
Jeffrey A. Barber
and Carl E. Smith

In memory of Donna Bartlett
Judith C. and John T. Lynch

In memory of Fred Boyd
Wesley Chapel UMC
- Contemporary Christians
Class
Wesley Chapel UMC
- Rebekah Circle

**In memory of
Mona Jean Brown**
Karen and Everett Cove
Phyllis J. Dorn and Family
Sandi Gordon
Carolyn Hyland
Gail L. MacKay
Jerry Willis

**In memory of
Margaret Burton**
Elaine M. Routh

In memory of Julietta Coons
Doreen and Donald Ingram

**In memory of
Reverend Dr. James E. Davis**
Susan D. Bennett
Stephanie Berry and Jason Day
Carol L. Clark
Sue Ann Farrow
Amanda and Terry Fearrin
Kaathleen and Todd French
Cathleen Graham
Patricia J. and Edward C.
Grubb

Sherry S. Hall
Ruth Ann Horstman
Christy and James Huston
Stephanie and Richard Lapinski
Luanne and Steven Lewis
Sandra L. Lewis
Jane and Allen Milburn
Catherine A.
and Anthony L. Robbins
Faye B. and William A. Sigman
Shirley Stamp
Morris E. Thomas, Jr.
Pastor Donna L. Ward
and Kenneth W. Ward
Ville de Marco West

In memory of Sharon Decker
Pine Village United Methodist
Church - Ladies Fellowship

**In memory of
Richard Dickinson**
Anonymous
Lisabeth D.
and Thomas M. Armstrong
Martha S. and William G. Batt
Claire M. Clark
Courtenay Weldon Trust
Julia and Stephen Enkema
Joan R. and Robert H. Everitt
Marni R. Fechtman
Phyllis W. Geeslin
John Heseman
Jane H. Houck
Kathleen Hull
Mary J. Jacobsen
Alka and Rahul Kapur
Robert P. Kassing
Sally S. Lugar

Linda R. and Kurt Mahrtdt, Jr.
Meridian Hills Country Club
Carolyn and John Mutz
Georgianne Neal
Susan P. and Philip A. Nicely
Polly G. and Wayne L. Nicely
Nancy and John Peterson
The Rapp Families:
George and Peggy,
John and Leslie, Tim and
Patty
Marcia E. and Ronald B. Rice
Carolyn M. Schaefer
Pat and John Sieloff
Janie and Pearson Smith
Kate L. Steele
Ann R. Strong
Rosemary V. and L. Gene
Tanner
Morris E. Thomas, Jr.
Thelma G. and Spencer F.
Trudgen, M.D.
Edith G. Vasu
Residents of the
Town of Williams Creek
Barbara Wynne
Sara and Mark Zelonis

**In memory of
Virginia Ann Hamilton**
Stacey Brattain
Martha Graves
Marcia K. and Steve G.
Gustafson
Carla R. and Kenneth A.
Haselby, M.D.
Reta and Keith Kaiser
Beth E. and Phillip J. Kimble
Patricia J. and Patrick J.
Madison
Terry Moore
Salem United Methodist
Church
Judith S. and James E.
Washburn

**In memory of Pat and Dick
Huston**
Christy S. and James F. Huston

**In memory of Patricia Ann
Huston**
Helen and Don Schroeder
Christy S. and James F. Huston

In memory of David Milhouse
Diana S. Black

In memory of T.J. Nelson
Harry W. Voorhis

**In memory of Dorothy E.
Price**
Christine and Kenneth Price

In memory of Millie Reed
Patricia J. and Edward C.
Grubb

**In memory of James
Schroeder**
Anne R. and John G. Pantzer
(deceased)

**In memory of Sharon K.
Schwier**
Debra and Toby Rodney

**In memory of Dana Spark's
55th "Heavenly Birthday"**
Patricia and Kyle Sparks

**In memory of
Reverend John L. Swaim**
Barbara M. Swaim

**In memory of
Howard and Euleta Turner**
Wade S. Turner

**In memory of William
Waymire**
Zona M. Waymire



*Danelle Butler,
Delaine Davis
and D'Andrea
Speer.*

Meet the Davis sisters...Danelle, Delaine and D'Andrea. Their beloved parents, Lew and Alta Davis, were longtime volunteers and donors at the Home. Lew also served on the Home's Board of Trustees for many years. Recently, we dedicated one of the therapy rooms in memory of Lew and Alta. The Davis sisters agreed that naming a room in memory of their parents was the best way to honor them.