



515 W. Camp Street  
Lebanon, IN 46052  
765-482-5900  
www.iumch.org



SPRING 2019

news



home

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

## Preparing Youth for Independent Living

Indiana United Methodist Children's Home recognizes the need for older youth to have a greater level of independent living skills. With this in mind, the Home is pleased to announce the opening of two new Teaching Family homes featuring one for girls and one for boys. Each home will accommodate 10 youth between the ages of 14-19, bringing the Home's population to a maximum of 52 youth.

According to Rich Lapinski, Executive Director and CEO, "Our new homes will provide more of an opportunity for youth to have independence outside of the home, while still working with their Family Teachers to learn positive behavioral skills, academic skills, and independent living skills."

All Teaching Family homes are open-campus group homes where youth live in family style, non-institutional environments with married couples called Family Teachers. The couples have specialized training in the Teaching Family Model. Each child receives a private bedroom with a 1:5 staff-to-youth ratio. When the Family Teachers are off duty, highly trained Assistant Family Teachers work with the youth.

The Children's Home serves youth with behavioral, emotional, and/or minor substance abuse issues. Many of these youth are at risk of psychiatric institutionalization and often have completed inpatient or residential treatment that may need transitional services before independent living or family reunification.

The Home offers services based on the youth's individual needs and may include: individual counseling, family counseling, social skills training, psychiatric/psychological services, education on or off campus, post-secondary education assistance, community-based employment, spiritual development, recreational opportunities and exposure to cultural experiences.

To tour one of our new homes, contact Susan Bennett, Director of Public Relations, 765-482-5900 or send e-mail to [susanb@iumch.org](mailto:susanb@iumch.org).



*The Teaching Family Homes are welcoming and provide a safe environment for our youth.*



*Our Family Teachers and staff are highly trained in the Teaching Family Model. Pictured from left to right are: Pamela and Lawrence Williams, Family Teachers; Dwayne Voth, Assistant Family Teacher; Stacy Youngblood, Residential Supervisor; Vivian Burdine, Trainer/Evaluator and Bud Milner, Director of Residential Services.*

### A Word from Christy Huston

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

Dear Friends,

The Children's Home Foundation is a humbling place. Your outpouring of love and generous support is allowing our Home to meet a growing need to help youth in crisis.

Proverbs 18:16 tells us, "A gift opens doors." Because of your past gifts, new doors are indeed being opened here in Lebanon.

Two new Teaching Family homes are opening on our campus this spring. Now 20 more neglected and abused youth will receive the care and direction that's only possible because of your support.

In my work at the Foundation, it has been my privilege to work with donors like you in meeting your philanthropic goals to help our children in their spiritual development, educational advancement and trauma informed care as they work to become happy and independent adults.

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 can begin to feel safe and loved.

Blessings abound,

Christy Huston  
IUMCH Foundation Executive Director  
[christyhuston@iumchf.org](mailto:christyhuston@iumchf.org) | 317/775-0606

### In Memoriam – Dr. James E. Davis

*March 10, 1931 – March 16, 2019*



It is with profound sadness that we share news of the passing of Dr. James E. Davis, former longtime Executive Director of Indiana United Methodist Children's Home. We remember Dr.

Davis for his dedication to help children seek fulfillment during their time at our Children's Home.

Dr. Davis served in several social service and ministerial positions in his early career. In 1964, he was hired as Executive Director at Indiana United Methodist Children's Home in Lebanon and served in this role for 31 years. Under his leadership, the Home became nationally recognized as an outstanding agency in its mission of service to children and families. Dr. Davis' legacy will continue on as the Home's school is named in his honor. **"Well done thy good and faithful servant."**

Dr. Davis' obituary can be found at [www.strawmyerdrury.com](http://www.strawmyerdrury.com)



*Lois and Daryl Hoffman live out their lives to serve others. Most recently, Daryl taught a pottery making class at the on-grounds school. Although Lois says Daryl is the artist, she was there to assist. Lois is a retired teacher so she knows her way around the classroom.*

## In John Wesley's Tradition

Lois and Daryl Hoffman love Indiana United Methodist Children's Home. They are guided by the words of John Wesley.... **"Do all the good you can in all the ways you can."**

Over the years, the Hoffmans have been involved in the activities at the Children's Home, including membership in the Auxiliary and volunteering at the James E. Davis School. Most recently Daryl taught a pottery class which was very popular with our students.

They also believe education is very important in a young person's life. "We wanted to do something special for the Home so we made a donation through our IRA required minimum distribution. With the help of the Indiana United Methodist Children's Home Foundation, we set up a scholarship fund to help current and former students. We feel this is a great investment in their future," said Lois.

The Hoffmans are members of Calvary United Methodist Church in Brownsburg. Lois added, "The church always has opportunities to serve others. We have enjoyed and grown in our faith by taking part in mission work. We have visited with the youth and staff at the Children's Home and always feel uplifted after our visits. We realize many of the youth will need further assistance and guidance when they leave the Home. They will be making critical decisions during this time in their life. We want to help them as they continue their journey in life. This is why we give."

As the Hoffmans live by the words of John Wesley, they reflect on how it makes them feel to give to the Home. Daryl added, "It is easy to say it gives us a good feeling to help others. However, it is so much more. The real question is how would we feel if we did not help the youth. We want to be able to build on the foundation that the Children's Home has provided. It's that simple."



## Best Christmas Ever

Each holiday is special at IUMCH but our staff makes every effort to make Christmas extra meaningful. The Indiana United Methodist Children's Home Foundation set up a campaign called "Giving Tuesday" to help raise funds for our youth to go to Christmas at the Zoo in Indianapolis. Not only was the financial goal surpassed, but the Foundation provided a matching grant. With monies left over, each Home received additional funding for activities during the Christmas break. The youth went to some holiday movies, made trips to museums and were treated to some special dinners at local restaurants.

As one Family Teacher stated, "We had a magical evening at the Indianapolis Zoo! It was so fun to watch all the youth light up almost as bright as the Christmas lights. We encountered some funny animals that made for great entertainment. Everyone had a blast petting a shark, watching tigers up close and being splashed by the dolphins. The lights were gorgeous, too. What a wonderful Christmas blessing for these youth. They will never forget Christmas at the Children's Home thanks to the generosity of people who care about their happiness and well-being."

In addition to fun activities during Christmas break, the youth used some of the Best Christmas Ever funds to "pay it forward." To give back during the holiday season, some of the girls made blessing bags to pass out to the homeless. The girls came up with the needs and organized them into categories including food, hygiene and warmth. They also included handwritten inspirational notes and a roll of quarters in each bag. Some of the other youth volunteered at a local nursing home and also prepared gift packages for the military.

Thanks to our friends and donors, it was truly the Best Christmas Ever!



*This drawing by one of the girls was inspired by her evening at Christmas at the Zoo. As she stated, "I love drawing animals and I had a chance to see so many at the zoo. I spent most of my time with the tigers since they are so beautiful."*

## 52 Years of Service and Still Going Strong

Indiana United Methodist Children's Home is fortunate to have an active Auxiliary. Today, individuals from across the state make up the Auxiliary. Auxiliary members also help interpret the Home's mission to churches in their local area.

We hope you will prayerfully consider joining the Auxiliary at one of these levels:

- Angel - \$1,000 Lifetime
- Apostle - \$500 Yearly
- Servant - \$250 Yearly
- Disciple - \$100 Yearly
- Ambassador - \$50 Yearly
- Advocate - \$25 Yearly
- Partner - \$10 Yearly
- Friend - \$5 Yearly

With the addition of different levels of giving, the Auxiliary has been able to raise more funding for projects. Auxiliary gifts typically help fund the following projects that directly benefit the boys and girls: flu inoculations, orthodontia needs, transportation for home visits, educational supplies, recreational equipment, trips to Kings Island, state park passes, concert tickets, gift cards and furnishings for the Teaching Family homes. Joining the Auxiliary at any level is easy

to do. Simply send a note to Indiana United Methodist Children's Home along with your gift. Please make sure to include your name, address and phone number on the correspondence. For your convenience, you may use the enclosed envelope.



*Through their membership dues, the Auxiliary provided funds for a beautiful, handmade dining room table in one of the new Teaching Family homes.*





*We are proud of our graduates. As one of our graduates stated, "Graduating from high school was not on my radar last year. But here I am, holding my diploma and ready for whatever comes my way."*

## Honoring Our December Graduates

Each year, the Home has two graduations at the James E. Davis School, one in May and one in December. Last year, nine youth graduated from the school and are heading toward a new and exciting life. During the graduation, all junior high and high school students receive some type of recognition based on either academics, behavior or achievement. "It's one of our best days at the Children's Home. To see our students proudly receive their high school diploma makes everything we do so meaningful and worthwhile," added Principal Jim Stuart.



*The school staff makes graduation a memorable event for all. Some of the ringmasters included Rachel Sullivan, Jim Stuart, Scott Carlisle, Kelli McQueen and Samantha Parsons.*

The graduation ceremonies are memorable complete with a theme. Last year, the theme was from "The Wizard of Oz" featuring a yellow brick road for the graduates to walk down during the "Pomp and Circumstance" march. Most recently, the teachers came up with a very clever circus theme based on the popular movie "The Greatest Showman." One of the students sang a beautiful song from the movie called "This is Me" which brought down the house!

The James E. Davis School is accredited by the Indiana Department of Education. Youth earn school credits which transfer to any public school in Indiana.

## Schedule Your 2019 Tour

Indiana United Methodist Children's Home has been located in Lebanon, Indiana since 1924. Spring, summer and fall are always good times to tour the Home's 17-acres campus. We hope your plans this year include a visit to the Children's Home. During the visit, groups will tour one of our Teaching Family homes, the on-grounds school and the chapel.

To schedule a tour, please contact Susan Bennett, Director of Public Relations at 765-482-5900 or send e-mail requests to [susanb@iumch.org](mailto:susanb@iumch.org)



*Members of First United Methodist Church in Frankton frequently tour the Home. One of the members said, "It doesn't matter how many times I visit the Home, I always learn something new. I go away feeling proud that our church supports such a worthy organization within our denomination."*

## Lent Challenge 2019 – Dreams of Hopes

During the Lenten Season, the Indiana United Methodist Children's Home Foundation asked friends of the Home to participate in Lent Challenge 2019. People were asked to give something up for Lent and the proceeds would be donated to help fund new bedroom furniture for the two new Teaching Family homes. Dignitaries, celebrities, clergy, staff and board members from across the state participated in the challenge.

We caught up with WTHR morning anchor, Julia Moffitt and she decided to give up chocolate. Julia is from Lebanon and served as our outstanding Mistress of Ceremonies at the 100th Anniversary Gala in 2015.

To keep track of the campaign total, check us out on Facebook and Twitter.

## A Lesson in Good Sportsmanship

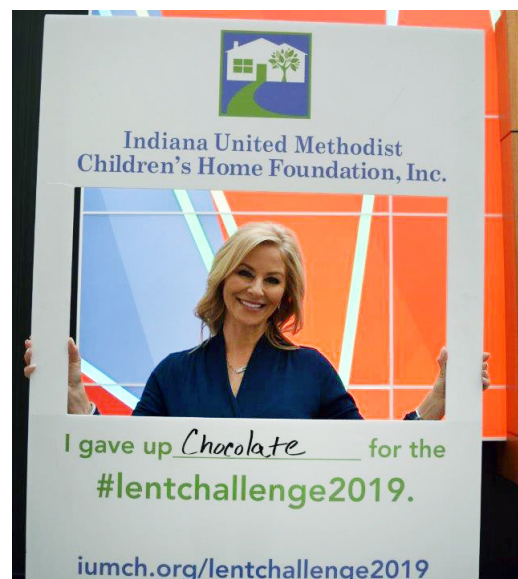
Jordan Mount is a college student at IUPUI in Indianapolis, and he enjoys giving back to his community. Jordan volunteered at the Home and taught a basketball class to students at the James E. Davis School.

"Mount" is a well-known last name in Lebanon and around the basketball circuit. Jordan's grandfather is Rick Mount who played for Purdue University and later went on to play professional basketball with the ABA which included the Indiana Pacers.

Following the class, Jordan offered a devotional message and some advice on good sportsmanship. He told the students, "I hope you learned three things from me today. It's all about enjoying the game, building teamwork and showing respect to all."



*Jordan Mount not only shared his expertise in basketball, but also shared some good advice on "doing your best and never giving up." Pictured from left to right are: Bud Milner, Director of Residential Services, Jordan Mount and Larna Spearman, retired IUMCH board member and officer.*





## Lending a Helping Hand

The following items are needed for youth ages 14-19:

- African American hair products – Cantu and Cream of Nature hair products
- Arts and Crafts Kits (sketch pads, colorful pens, coloring books for adults, paint brushes)
- Bath and Body Works soaps, lotions, etc
- Batteries: AA, AAA, C, D, and 9 Volt
- Dictionaries
- Gift cards in \$10 increment (ex. McDonalds, Burger King, Papa John's, Applebee's, Olive Garden, etc.)
- Gift cards to Walmart, Walgreens in \$10 increments also Amazon, Hobby Lobby and Half Price Books
- MP3 players (no video capabilities)
- Postage stamps
- Posters: inspirational, sports teams, motivational, music, movies
- Puzzles - 500 piece preferred (NFL, ball stadiums, etc.)
- Sports Equipment: leather footballs, basketballs, volleyballs, yoga mats, skateboards
- Storage tubs
- Toiletries (feminine hygiene products, deodorant, makeup, toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap) Suggested brands: Secret/Axe Deodorant, Jergens Lotion, Pantene Shampoo and Conditioner
- Writing journals and stationery

In addition, our Teaching Family homes are always in need of colorful twin size sheets, comforters, bath towels and wash cloths, pillows/cases, blankets, hairdryers and electric razors for men.

## Sustaining Long-Term Excellence For Indiana's Youth

Indiana United Methodist Children's Home has served thousands of children and families since 1915. We have done this well by focusing on our mission to enrich the quality of life for children and families through Christian values. While there have been many changes in the United Methodist Church over the years, including now, our work will continue to endure. We will ensure sustainable long-term excellence in caring for Indiana's abused and neglected children. Indiana United Methodist Children's Home will continue to treat each child with a multitude of love and respect.

To learn more about what we do, please visit [www.iumch.org](http://www.iumch.org)



**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.**