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SPRING 2020

# news@home

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

## In Memoriam



*Bishop  
Michael J. Coyner*

away on Dec. 28th.

"Bishop Mike" as he was known to many in Indiana, led the Indiana Conference for three four-year terms, retiring in 2016. He oversaw the formation of the Indiana Annual Conference in 2010.

According to Rich Lapinski, IUMCH Executive Director, "We could always count on Bishop Mike. As a Trustee, he never said no to anything we asked him to assist with." Bishop Coyner had a passion for helping the next generation including the youth at the Home. Susan Bennett, Director of Public Relations, shared a memory from a few years ago when he was the first person to donate a vehicle to the Home. "After he dropped the car off, he told us to keep any loose change that was under the driver's seat."



*Martha Ann  
Smock*

Martha Smock served as a Trustee for three decades and was one of the first women to serve. She retired from the Board a few years ago but was still engaged with the Home. She was a life-time member of First UMC in Columbus and started a tradition in her church called "White Christmas." She would gather gifts from the congregation and deliver them each year to the Home. Her tradition continues to this day.

During her life, Martha enjoyed working in her father's business for several years and then became owner and operator of Southern Machine Company for more than 50 years. She was a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution and the Bartholomew County Historical Society.

As Martha summed up her time as a Trustee, she once stated, "It is with great joy and gratitude that I give of my time and resources to the Children's Home. I give joyfully because giving is an extension of my faith. I give gratefully because of their compassionate ministry."

**"Well done thy good and faithful servants."**

## Thankful for Our United Methodist Churches

The Home continues to be humbled by the support of United Methodist congregations throughout the Indiana Conference. Through thoughtful prayer, monetary support and in-kind donations, the Home is able to make a positive difference in the lives of Indiana's most vulnerable children. According to Rich Lapinski, IUMCH Executive Director, "We have been able to meet the growing needs of abused and neglected children thanks to our many supporters. The needs will continue to increase as Indiana has the second highest number of child abuse cases in the nation."

Over the years, many churches, large and small, have supported IUMCH through mission dollars and volunteer time. Take for example these three churches – First UMC, Noblesville, First UMC, Columbus and Attica UMC.

Noblesville First has supported the Home for several decades through their mission funding. In addition, the congregation provides Christmas gifts for each child and the United Methodist Women provide bountiful Easter baskets each year.

Columbus First has supported the Home for many years through their various missional offerings and they collect Christmas gifts and school supplies for the Home.

Attica UMC is a small congregation located in the northern part of Indiana. For three decades, Attica has provided many hours of volunteer time. Sarah Mattern, an active member of the church and beloved teacher in Attica, recruits volunteers in her church and community to provide a special party in December where youth participate in a variety of recreational activities. "We are always happy to support this activity. Our congregation understands the importance of working with youth who need a little more hope for the future. We have been impressed with the behavior, gratitude and hospitality displayed by the youth and staff during our volunteer time. Our church is very passionate about helping the youth, especially during Christmas when it might be sad for some of the children to be away from their families. If we can add a little joy to their holiday, then we feel blessed in so many ways," added Sarah.

In upcoming issues of News@Home, more churches will be highlighted who continue to support the Home. So...stay tuned and maybe your church will be next!



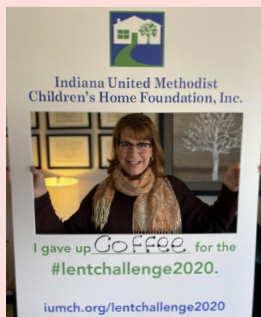
*First UMC, Columbus*



*Attica UMC*

*First UMC in Noblesville donated Christmas gifts in December. Cathie Mills, far right, delivers the gifts annually.*





## A Word from Christy Huston

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

*Just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. – Romans 6.4*

## Your Gifts Give Hope a Home this Easter Season!

Easter is a time of renewal, new life and unconditional love. When a boy or girl in crisis arrives on our campus, we provide opportunity for a new life, unconditional love and healing.

That's our mission here at our Children's Home in Lebanon.

With your support our two new Independent Living homes are giving a safe place for teen boys and girls who are just a few years or months from living on their own. For these youth, our Home is likely their last childhood placement...and they appreciate that it is their chance for a new life. Our Independent Living curriculum is designed specifically for the unique needs of our older youth with programming to prepare them for self-sufficient adulthood, like personal finance, career planning, educational support and wellness.

In December Corey and Joe successfully transitioned from our Independent Living program to a life on their own. They discharged from our loving care, knowing what it means to have healthy and respectful relationships, and what it means to feel safe and belong to a community and family. They learned valuable skills: how to interact with authority, meet expectations of society, and maintain and grow in higher education, career and employment. They also left with the entire Children's Home community supporting them and being available if they ever find themselves in a bind.

And they left knowing God's love.

To provide even more youth like Corey and Joe their best chance for a new life, we are creating a new Independent Learning Lab. Every dollar you donate this Easter Season will be matched by \$2 to help us reach our #LentChallenge2020 goal of \$75,000.

With your help, we will transform a current recreation space to a modern Independent Learning Lab that inspires group learning, independent study and Hope for the Future.

Blessings abound,

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

PS: I'm giving up coffee for Lent and donating what I would have spent on coffee to the #LentChallenge2020. We are nearing our goal! Our Easter gifts will be matched to triple our impact and help our youth in crisis prepare for a new life of independence. Mail your gift today or go online <https://iumch.org/lentchallenge2020/>

## Join Us April 25, 2020 for the Annual Auxiliary Program



*IUMCH values all Auxiliary folks from around the state. Recently, Shiloh UMC – United Methodist Women were honored for their support of the Home and Auxiliary.*

Mark your calendars for **Saturday, April 25th at 10:00 a.m.** This is the date for the Annual Auxiliary program and open house held at Gress Chapel (615 West Essex) located on the Lebanon campus. During the program, you will hear about our successful Teaching Family Model and we will announce the Auxiliary Student of the Year. Special music will also be provided to lift your soul! Following lunch with our youth, tours will be available of the campus which includes a visit to one of our Teaching Family homes, the school and our chapel. For your planning

purposes, the entire event is usually over by 2:00 p.m.

Since a delicious lunch will be catered, reservations must be received by April 14th. A free will offering (suggested \$10) will be collected for the meal. For reservations, you may call 765-482-5900 and ask for Susan Bennett or send e-mail to [susanb@iumch.org](mailto:susanb@iumch.org)

Anyone can come! It's a great outreach trip for your mission teams, United Methodist Women or your next door neighbor! **ALL ARE WELCOME!**

### Auxiliary Program and Luncheon

Saturday, April 25, 2020 | Gress Chapel, Lebanon Campus  
9:30 coffee and donuts served | Program starts at 10:00

**Reservations needed by April 14, 2020**

## Could A Gift From Your IRA Be Your Best Option in 2020...Nancy and Jerry Harshbarger Think So



*Nancy and Jerry Harshbarger are active members of St. Matthew UMC in Frankfort, Indiana. Nancy believes that "you can't help but feel blessed when you support the children at the Home."*

As retired Assistant Vice President and Trust Officer at Farmers Bank in Frankfort, Indiana, Nancy Harshbarger knows a thing or two about good financial strategy. As an officer on the Home's Board of Trustees, she also knows firsthand how well the staff take care of Indiana's abused and neglected children. That's why she and husband Jerry decided to provide a gift to the Indiana United Methodist Children's Home Foundation through their IRA distribution.

According to Nancy, "Because the tax laws make it so difficult to itemize deductions, we make our contribution directly from a traditional IRA. By doing this, the distribution is not taxable to us. It's a win-win for us as well as for Indiana United Methodist Children's Home Foundation. Jerry and I pray that our donation will make a small difference in providing for the long-term future of the Home."

The SECURE Act of 2019 raised the start of required minimum distribution to age 72. However, donors can still make a charitable distribution from an IRA beginning at age 70 ½ and pay no tax on the distribution. Donors who turned age 70 ½ in 2019 or before are still required to take distributions in 2020 and beyond. Visit [IUMCH.IRARollover.info](https://iumch.org/IRARollover.info) to estimate your 2020 required minimum.

For questions about IRA distributions, please contact Christy Huston, Executive Director of the Indiana United Methodist Children's Home Foundation, 317-775-0606 or email inquiries to [christyhuston@iumchf.org](mailto:christyhuston@iumchf.org)



# Serving Others Through Spiritual Development

"Doing something nice for another person makes me feel good." These are sentiments from a youth who volunteers at Wheeler Mission in Indianapolis through the Spiritual Development Program at Indiana United Methodist Children's Home. According to Rachel Alstott, Spiritual Life Leader, "One of the goals is to teach our youth to be good stewards and productive members of society. Volunteering is a new concept for most of them. They haven't been made aware of various opportunities to serve. Once they have the opportunity to help others, you can see them flourish."

*"One of the goals is to teach our youth to be good stewards and productive members of society."*



Tom Heaton provided a meaningful message during one of the recent worship services. The Home is thankful to have so many pastors and churches who want to help the youth. Rachel also encourages youth to participate in the worship services. They provide devotions, scripture readings and some even help with sound and visuals.

Youth also enjoy worship services held in Gress Chapel where they have the opportunity for spiritual growth. Although Rachel provides most of the weekly messages, she has gathered some outstanding speakers for Tuesday evening services. Most recently, Tom Heaton, Director of Mission and Justice of the United Methodist Church of Indiana, provided an inspirational sermon on some of life's most important lessons. In addition, Tony Alstott, minister of Wesley Chapel in Floyds Knobs, Indiana often comes and serves communion and provides meaningful messages.

During the last few months, youth have been inspired by messages from additional special guests. Most recently, they heard from an 18-year-old missionary, a recovering addict, a survivor of physical abuse and a couple talking about ways to keep a marriage strong.

Upcoming worship topics will include a celebration of Women's History month. Rachel will be covering women in the Bible and at the end of March, several youth will be baptized in Gress Chapel.

Worship services are held on Tuesday evenings beginning at 7:00 p.m. and youth groups meet on Sunday afternoons. "It is such an honor to help our youth find their path toward spiritual renewal. It's amazing to watch how much they grow and even better, to have hope for a better future. This is how God works," added Rachel.

# Record Number of Graduates in December

*"This is the best day of my life. I am the first person in my family to graduate from high school."*

Thirteen students proudly wore their caps and gowns as they received high school diplomas at the James E. Davis on-grounds school. It was such a celebration that Rich Van Wyk, Education Reporter for WTHR-Channel 13, covered the ceremony. In an interview with Rich, one of the graduates stated, "This is the best day of my life. I am the first person in my family to graduate from high school. I plan on going on to college and become a therapist."

Several of the graduates have plans to attend Ivy Tech in the future. Career interests include criminal justice, culinary arts, social work and nursing. According to Jim Stuart, principal at the on-grounds school, "We recently hired a counselor at the school and she will focus on career development for our students. She will also help them fill out scholarship applications and will provide insight into building strong resumes."



Excitement was in the air as 13 graduates prepared to walk down the aisle to receive their high school diplomas.



Scott Carlisle, Dean of Students, greeted WTHR Education Reporter, Rich Van Wyk, before the ceremony.





## Pilot Podcast to Premiere



In an effort to reach more people from near and far, the Home will be launching a podcast called, "Hope Has a Home" thanks to a Missions and Justice Grant from the Indiana Conference. Listeners will learn more about the Home and the Teaching Family Model. Families will also receive tips on better parenting skills from some of our experts. The program will be inspirational and informative.

The podcast will be available in April and can be downloaded by going to the Home's website at [iumch.org](http://iumch.org).

We hope you will tune in and let us know your thoughts!

## Schedule a Tour in 2020!



*Groups from all over Indiana tour the Home. We enjoyed meeting members from Edgewood Avenue UMC in Indianapolis. The congregation supports the Home through their mission outreach. We appreciate all of our United Methodist Churches!*

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, 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 home. We are proud of their progress and think you will be inspired by their spirit and hospitality.

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](mailto:susanb@iumch.org). Visit [iumch.org](http://iumch.org) for more information about the 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*  
*Director of Public Relations*

## 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.*

## Indiana United Methodist Children's Home Needs List

- Batteries (AA and AAA)
- Bath and Body Works lotions and special toiletries
- Bath towels and washcloths
- Bed spreads and sheets (twin), pillows
- Bath soap (liquid preferred)
- Deodorant (Secret, Axe, Old Spice, etc.)
- Earbuds
- Electric razors for boys
- Feminine hygiene products
- Hair dryers
- Kitchen utensils for Teaching Family Homes and students leaving for independent living
- Postage stamps
- Recreational equipment (basketballs, footballs, outdoor games, soccer balls)
- Shampoo (Pantene and Cantu products preferred)
- Sketch pads
- Stationery
- Toothbrushes and toothpaste
- Writing journals

*\*Just as a reminder, our youth are between the ages of 14-19. Monetary donations are also needed and greatly appreciated. If you have any questions, please contact Susan Bennett at 765-482-5900. Thank you for caring!*