

IUMCH Alumnus Ben Lilly Establishes Independent Living Fund

Once you meet Ben Lilly, you know he is a man on a mission. When he was a teen, Ben lived at the Home from 1993 to 2000 and he has quite a story to share.

"June 2, 2000 was the day I graduated from high school. It was the best and worst day of my life. I was excited to graduate, but extremely sad to leave a place I called home which was the Indiana United Methodist Children's Home," stated Ben.

When Ben turned 18, he was considered an adult and was no longer able to stay at the Home. He moved back to his hometown in southern Indiana to begin a new life. With few goals and very little support, Ben struggled to land on his feet. Even working two jobs was not enough to provide the stability he needed. He was homeless in less than a year.

Ben had an epiphany recently as he reflected on his life. "The idea of paying it forward and giving back struck me as something I had to do. I want to bridge the gap for children like myself," he stated.

Ben met with Christy Huston, Executive Director of Indiana United Methodist Children's Home Foundation, and she helped guide him to establish the "Ben Lilly Independent Living Fund", which is an endowed fund to help youth as they are successfully discharged from the Home's care. The earnings from the Independent Living Fund will be granted to youth leaving the care of the Home who have successfully completed the curriculum. The overall goal is that all youth enrolled in the Independent Living Learning Program will develop an attainable career plan and an independent living plan before they are discharged from the Home.

Today, Ben has a successful career in sales and is the father of three children. He enjoys worshipping at Ohio Falls United Methodist Church in Clarksville where Pastor Colleen Byrne and the entire congregation have welcomed and supported Ben with open arms. Ben added, "The proudest accomplishment of my life was accepting Christ back into my life."

Ben is also excited about his upcoming book. He will let us know when copies are available. In the meantime, you can learn more about his life by listening to the



IUMCH Alumnus Ben Lilly understands the importance of philanthropy. "I just want to give back," he added. Ben's personal pledge to the fund is inspiring others to give.

Home's latest podcast episode. Simply go to iumch.org/benlilly.

Ben hopes that his story will inspire you to contribute to his Independent Living Fund. To make a credit card gift to the Ben Lilly Independent Living Fund, go to iumch.org/benlilly. You may also write a check to Indiana United Methodist Children's Home Foundation and mail it to 9333 N. Meridian Street, Suite 222, Indianapolis, IN 46260. Please write on the memo line – Ben's Fund.

Chyna and her

aunt attended the

graduation. "My aunt

and Family Teachers

provided the support

I needed to pursue a

better life for myself,"

she added.



Members of the Foundation scholarship committee congratulated the recipients. Surrounding the students from left to right are: Kay Franscoviak, Lafayette; Edna May, Indianapolis and Daryl and Lois Hoffman, Brownsburg.



Eighteen youth received high school or TASC diplomas.

One of the Best Days of the Year

May 21st was a day of great celebration at Indiana United Methodist Children's Home. Staff and guests honored 18 youth for receiving their high school or TASC (high school equivalency diploma) and awarded postsecondary scholarships to six students.

"We continue to honor more and more students for their academic achievements. The scholarship opportunities made possible by our generous donors have added excitement and momentum for our students to graduate," stated Principal Jim Stuart.

Several graduates gave inspiring speeches. Chyna, a former resident at the Home, was awarded a scholarship. She is currently a student at IUPUI and is studying

nursing and Spanish. Her dream is to take student exchange classes in Chile. She gave a speech during the graduation and inspired students to never give up. "My Family Teachers and my aunt made a world of difference since I hardly had any family support. I feel like my Family Teachers had my back even after I left the Home and went to high school in Indianapolis. Now, I'm living on my own, working at a restaurant and making mostly A's in my classes." She ended by telling the students, "Never let anyone tell you that you can't accomplish your dreams. It's in your hands but it helps to have supportive people behind you – like the people at the Children's Home."

Edna May, IUMCH trustee and chairperson of the Foundation scholarship committee, announced the names of the scholarship recipients. Rich Lapinski, Executive Director of IUMCH

stated, "It was inspiring for me to look around the gym where the graduation was held and to see all of the students and their proud families gathered together for a celebration. I also witnessed the excitement of the students, staff and scholarship committee members who were present. On days like these, it is evident that we are giving youth hope for a better future."

Good Parenting Comes Easy to Dwayne Voth



Dwayne and Jacob enjoy baking and cooking together.

Meet Jacob. Meet Dwayne Voth. Jacob lives in one of the independent living homes and Dwayne is an Assistant Family Teacher. Through God's grace, Jacob was placed at the Home nearly two years ago. That's when Dwayne stepped in. Jacob was longing for a father figure and role model in his life.

According to Dwayne, "When I came to the Home 16 years ago, it saddened me that many of our youth never knew what it was like to have a caring father. So, one of my greatest joys is being a role model and father figure to the boys. Jacob and I have gotten to know each other very well. Jacob had very little positive male influence in his life and I wanted to offer him some new life experiences – the kind of things that fathers and sons actually do."

One of the most rewarding moments

that Dwayne had with Jacob was just last month. "I helped him pick out a tux for the upcoming school prom. We had a fatherly discussion on dating and how to be respectful to women. Jacob is one shining example of the many boys I've seen flourish while receiving care at the Children's Home," added Dwayne.

On many occasions, you will find Dwayne and Jacob baking cinnamon rolls or sitting out by the fire pit that they built together. If Jacob is in his room, you will often times see him drawing or sewing. He even has a Singer sewing machine in his room.

Jacob's future is very bright. In May, he graduated from high school. Most recently, Rich Lapinski, the Home's Executive Director, has been encouraging Jacob to join the Navy. In summing up his experience at the Home, Jacob stated, "No matter how many years pass, I will never forget how Dwayne cared about me and treated me like his own son."

Did you know you can make a tribute or memorial gift in recognition of your own parents or a loved one? Simply go to iumch.org, click on Make an Impact and then go to the Honor Thy Mother and Father tab.

Together, as good citizens and role models for children, we are breaking the cycle of abuse and teaching a productive way forward.



Many great conversations take place between Dwayne and Jacob around the fire pit they built together on the Children's Home campus.

A Magnitude of Gratitude

Indiana United Methodist Children's Home has a proud past, present and an exciting future. Hundreds of United Methodist Churches in the Indiana Conferences have supported the Home for decades. Take for example Broadway United Methodist Church in Indianapolis and First United Methodist Church in New Castle.



Reverend Holly Hardsaw and Jeff Shelton, Board Chairperson, accept a certificate of appreciation from Susan Bennett, the Home's Director of Public Relations. First United Methodist Church in New Castle has a long history of supporting the children at the Home.

Broadway UMC continues to support the Home and has for more than five decades. According to Phyllis Newton, an active member of the congregation, "I remember when the Auxiliary at the Home began many years ago and several of our United Methodist Women joined the group. That kept us connected with the Home and we continue to send our mission dollars there. We believe whole heartedly in what the Home does and know that when we give, we are restoring a young soul and giving them hope for a better life."



United Methodist Women from Broadway UMC accept an appreciation certificate from Indiana United Methodist Children's Home. From left to right are: Deloris Foster, Joanne Soloman and Phyllis Newton.

First United Methodist Church is also a long-time supporter of the Home, dating back to the 1960s. The congregation continues to support the Home and believes in its important mission. Upon receiving a framed appreciation certificate for the congregation's 50-plus years of support, Reverend Holly Hardsaw stated, "I've served other churches in the Indiana Conference and all of them have supported the Home in some way. As a pastor, it is important for me to encourage others to support ministries in our own backyard and the Children's Home in Lebanon is so near and dear to all of us."

IUMCH Teaches Life Skills

The Independent Living Learning Lab opened in February and youth are learning life skills that will benefit them in the future. Staff members Kylee Bunnell and Pamela Williams facilitate the program and both are passionate about helping youth acquire skills to help them lead a productive life.

According to Pamela, "We've been teaching classes in budgeting and personal finance and we've been focusing on careers and interviewing. We also utilize some skilled volunteers through an organization called Pink Leaf out of Muncie. These volunteers come from all walks of life and bring a vast array of knowledge and skills with them."

Kylee added, "In the lab, we also cover areas like how to get a driver's license and what kind of insurance the youth may need. We also want them to know about affordable housing and how to set up a household. Many of our youth have been in multiple foster homes or children's homes and have no idea what it takes to live independently. We want to make sure they are equipped with as much knowledge as possible. And, we want to instill hope for the future."



Pink Leaf volunteers taught youth how to sew and mend their clothing.



Youth also learned basic first aid skills. They practiced CPR on their respiratory dolls.



A car mechanic came one day and taught basic car maintenance skills. They learned about engine parts and how to change a tire.

Let's Rejoice...Ten Youth Baptized

"A splendid celebration...a celebration of love, life and faith." These were the words expressed by a family member of one of our youth who was recently baptized in Gress Chapel. The baptism ceremony was led by Reverend Shannon Stringer, Director of Leadership Development for the Indiana Conference of the United Methodist Church.

Rachel Alstott, Spiritual Life Leader at the Home, lead the youth through several weeks of baptism preparation. "I'm astounded by the number of youth we've baptized recently. When I first meet our youth, they seem upset with God for all the pain they've endured throughout their young lives. Through our Spiritual Life program, we strive to help youth move closer to God on their own terms. This is accomplished through weekly Bible study along with our youth-centered worship services. When youth leave the Home, I can see that the majority have found their spiritual path which I hope will stay with them forever."

One of the youth summed up her baptism by saying, "I've never felt this way before. I am full of all good emotions and I feel like God was with me the whole time."



Shannon Stringer lead an inspirational baptism ceremony.



We've Missed You!

Indiana United Methodist Children's Home has opened up for tours and we would love to see you in 2021. Summer and fall are always good times to tour the Home's 17-acre campus. During the visit, groups will tour one of our Teaching-Family homes, the on-grounds school, the chapel and the Independent Living Learning Lab.

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 You may also arrange a tour of the Home by visiting iumch.org/contact.

United Methodist Women from Putnamville United Methodist Church have toured the Home several times. According to Susan Stewart, member of Putnamville UMW, "We like to keep up with all of the latest news at the Home and when our group visits, we see firsthand how our support makes a positive impact on the youth. We also have a great respect for the history of the Home and how it continues to thrive and meet the needs of Indiana's abused and neglected youth. Touring the Home is always informative and inspirational."





John Wesley is quoted as saying, "Proceed with much prayers, and your way will be made plain."

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 prayer requests from our youth. You may also contact Susan Bennett for a signup sheet which allows for multiple people to receive the prayers.

Praying for others is powerful. Thank you for praying for our youth. Here is a sample prayer:

Dear God: Jared will be leaving for college in August. It will be his first year as a college student and he is excited but nervous. God, please help Jared choose a positive and productive path and grant him contentment with each new phase of his life. We pray that You guide his footsteps as he walks on his own. Guide and guard Jared in all of his choices and decisions as he enters adulthood. In Your Holy Name, Amen

*The actual prayers are gathered during worship services and youth group activities. The real names are not used but God knows exactly who we are praying for.



Indiana United Methodist Children's Home Hope Has A Home

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

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.

The stories you read about our youth are real. Often we change the names and identifying details to protect their privacy.



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



June 2021

Dear Friends,

Olivia and I met for the first time on graduation day last month in the school's gymnasium on the Children's Home campus.

While she was straightening her blue cap and gown before the commencement ceremony, she told me that she never thought it was possible for her to graduate until she came to the Children's Home. She is especially proud to be the first member of her family to finish high school. What an amazing accomplishment for a young lady who was in crisis when she arrived on our Lebanon campus just a few short years ago.

The care at our Children's Home is complex, but the mission is simple. Give our youth hope for the future. Olivia's smile as she received her diploma was beaming with hope. Her life is transformed because of the love and specialized care she received at the Home.

We rely on your philanthropic support to give our youth like Olivia their best chance for a life of independence and happiness. The Children's Home Foundation was created to support our children's mission on an ongoing and consistent basis, not only for today's children but also for future generations.

Donors who support our youth each year with financial gifts of \$1,000 or more are members of our Angie Godwin Society. This annual recognition honors the vision of the Children's Home founder, Miss Godwin. Members include individuals, churches, businesses, and civic groups. Please read their names on the following pages.

These donors have our deepest gratitude. Thanks to their generosity, and yours, we know our children's mission will endure.

Blessings Abound,

risti

PS: We are proud of Olivia's success, but we know that there is still much work to be done. Did you know that we accept gifts of appreciated stock, IRA rollovers and Charitable Gift Annuities?



www.iumch.org

9333 North Meridian Street, Suite 222, Indianapolis, IN 46260 | 317-775-0606 | info@iumchf.org



Christy Huston Foundation **Executive Director**

Angie Godwin Society

Donors of \$1,000 or more – in one gift or **throughout 2020** are recognized below as *Angie Godwin Society* donors.

Miss Godwin was the founder of the Home 106 years ago. Her vision has endured because of generous donors like you! Thank you!

To learn about being included in 2021 contact the Foundation at (317)-775-0606.

Gifts of \$25,000 and more

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Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the names. Please contact us if there are errors.

Your gift - large or small - helps our children's mission give hope for the future. To find out how you can be a part of the Angie Godwin Society in 2021, contact Christy Huston at 317-775-0606 or make a gift today at www.iumch.org/donate or, you may mail your contribution to Indiana United Methodist Children's Home Foundation, 9333 North Meridian Street, Suite 222, Indianapolis, IN 46260-1823





Tom Fagan, Development Director for the Indiana United Methodist Children's Home Foundation

Welcome Tom Fagan

Tom Fagan recently joined the Indiana United Methodist Children's Home Foundation team as Development Director and is pleased to be working with donors who support the mission and services of the Children's Home.

Tom holds a Master of Public Affairs degree in Nonprofit Management from Indiana University.

He has extensive work experience in the central Indiana nonprofit sector, working primarily at organizations in social service. Tom also served as a missionary for several years in rural Tanzania, East Africa among Sukuma and Masai people, serving in what are known as primary evangelization areas where the Gospel of Jesus Christ is still new for many people.

Please contact Tom at the Foundation office in Indianapolis at 317-775-0606 or tomfagan@iumchf.org for any questions regarding making a donation. Tom looks forward to meeting with donors and also taking them on tours of the Children's Home in Lebanon.

Help a Child...Help the World

Bruce and Pat Jansen know the meaning of bringing people joy. For years, through their family gardening business, they sold hardy Christmas trees, beautiful Easter flowers and summer produce to people living in northwest Indiana. Today, they deliver joy by giving back. Their passion is helping children in need. One of Bruce's favorite quotes is "Help a Child... Help the World."

During a seminar, Bruce learned that giving appreciated stock is a convenient and smart way to donate. **"After hearing the benefits** of donating stock to charities, we figured it was a win-win situation to donate appreciated stock to Indiana United Methodist Children's Home. We receive a tax deduction for the full amount of the gift and pay no capital gains tax on the appreciation. More importantly, we support the mission at the Children's Home."

At one time, Bruce struggled in his own life, so has a heart for helping others. "I have an understanding of how important it is to get the right help. It's important to give people hope in troubled times and that's what I strive to do."

Bruce also believes that he has been blessed in his own life. Bruce added, "I believe we are given things in life and our rewards are supposed to be shared. That's what the Bible tells us to do and that's how I live my life."

Today, Bruce and Pat split their time between Indiana and Florida. They attend United Methodist churches in both states. Their legacy is the deep love they have for children and they find joy in making a difference by paying it forward.



Pat and Bruce Jansen

Gifts of Appreciated Stock – Today's Smart Way to Give

Appreciated stock held for more than one year, can be the ideal choice for individuals who want their charitable gifts to make the biggest impact for the lowest possible cost. The secret ingredient: double tax benefits. Let's take a closer look:

Suppose Ann gives us 100 shares of stock – purchased ten years ago for \$1,000 – with a current fair market value of \$5,000. Today, Ann can deduct the full \$5,000 on this year's income tax return if she itemizes. The \$4,000 capital gain is not taxed, even though the gain is quadruple the purchase price. Avoiding capital gains tax and receiving an income tax deduction makes it possible to give stock at the lowest possible after-tax cost.

Now may be a good time to explore how to make a greater difference with your giving. Gifts of appreciated stock are simple – so easy that we can give you the details over the phone. It would be our privilege to provide you and your advisors with the information you need to choose a gift that ensures you enjoy maximum benefits and personal satisfaction from your generosity.

Call: 317/775-0606 to speak with Christy Huston or to request your free copy of our publication "Gifts of Stock".