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WINTER 2019 news@home

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

IUMCH CEO Named President of the Teaching Family Association



Rich Lapinski welcomed attendees to the Teaching Family Conference held in Cincinnati last month.

Rich Lapinski, IUMCH Executive Director/CEO, was appointed President of the Board of the Teaching Family Association during their 42nd Annual Conference in Cincinnati, Ohio. Rich will work closely with the staff and Board as they set program goals for the next two years. Lapinski will also help plan the Annual Conferences.

The Teaching Family Association was organized in 1975 and represents more than 40 agencies that support common elements of the model of care which focuses on the humane treatment of children and youth. The Teaching Family Model serves a wide range of vulnerable families, physically, emotionally and sexually abused children, delinquent youth, autistic children and adults with disabilities.

Rich has a multitude of experience in the Teaching Family Model. He and his wife, Stephanie, were Family Teachers at Father Flannigan's Boy's Town in Omaha, Nebraska. Rich later became the Executive Director of the Presbyterian Children's Home in Amarillo, Texas and served there for several years. In 2010, Rich was named Executive Director/CEO of Indiana United Methodist Children's Home. Since 2012, six Teaching Family group homes have been built on the 17-acre campus.

"I am extremely humbled to serve as Board President of the Teaching Family Association. I am proud to represent this organization and know how valuable they are to agencies working with children and families in need," stated Rich.

Teaching Family Association Names 2019 Distinguished Practitioner of the Year

Meet Linnea Krasutsky. She is part of the Teaching Family team at Indiana United Methodist Children's Home and was recently named Distinguished Practitioner of the Year during the Annual Teaching Family Association Conference in Cincinnati, Ohio. The international award is given to a Family Teacher for outstanding service to youth.

Linnea is a unique Children's Home employee. Currently, she is instrumental in facilitating the independent living program curriculum. And, Linnea knows first-hand about the struggles our youth face. After all, she was a resident of the Home in 2006 at the age of 14. "Never in my wildest dreams did I think I would actually work at the Home someday. You just never know the path you may take," stated Linnea.

Linnea had a contentious relationship with her mother and was eventually placed at the Home through the Indiana Department of Child Services. It took her a while to adjust to life in the Wesley Home but soon learned to accept the structure and routine. "My fondest memory of living at the Home was going to the canteen on Saturday night. The canteen was a recreational area where we could play games, listen to music and eat snacks. I can still smell the popcorn popping. We had a citizenship program back then and I

eventually earned the highest level which meant I had more privileges," she added.

After Linnea successfully completed the Home's treatment program, she was placed in foster care and lived with a caring family. "It seemed like the Children's Home was very strategic in finding me the perfect foster family that would embrace my interests. For instance, I loved horses and they found me a foster family that lived on a farm. Later, she was adopted by her foster parents and graduated from high school.

A few years after graduation, Linnea began working for Mental Health of Indiana and saw the benefits of providing social services for people in need. A particular staff member was impressed with her knowledge and tenacity. Eventually, she learned about a job at the Children's Home as an Assistant Family Teacher and went through the interview process. "I didn't think they would hire me since I was a former resident and had some rough times there but they had confidence in me and I was hired to work primarily on the night shift. Linnea was later promoted to Independent Living Assistant/Family Teacher working with older teens as they begin to transition to adult hood. She teaches a variety of independent living skills including budgeting and interviewing skills.

Outside the Children's Home, Linnea



Linnea received her award from TFA Executive Director, Michele Buguslofski, during the Teaching Family Association Annual Conference in October.

is a loving mother to three young children. "I use some of what I've learned in the Teaching Family model to parent my own children. I can certainly tell that it makes a positive difference in their day-to-day lives."

According to Stacy Youngblood, Residential Supervisor for the Independent Living Homes, "Linnea professionally seeks and implements feedback from Family Teachers and her consultant to grow even stronger in her craft. She effectively uses the motivation system to inspire youth to achieve more, while continuing to make relationships a priority by talking, listening, teaching and having fun. We are so blessed to have her on our staff."



A Word from Christy Huston

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

As we approach this season of giving, I'm reminded of a Christmas Lesson learned last year from Jenna, one of the girls at our Home:

There is no greater gift than experiencing God's love and finding hope for the future.

That is our mission at the Indiana United Methodist Children's Home here in Lebanon, Indiana.

Christmas isn't about toys, it's about God's love, hope and family. Sadly, Christmas time can be stressful for families in crisis. Indiana has the second highest child abuse rate in the nation, and your generosity helps us provide a safe and loving place to call home for children in need.

The Friday before Christmas last year, while waiting for the start of our winter commencement ceremony at our on-grounds school, I met Jenna. She had arrived at our Home the night prior. Our staff received a late-night call from a juvenile judge desperate to find a safe place for the girl. Our Home took her in with loving arms on that cold night.

*Jenna described how she walked into our home and thought what she experienced was too good to be true – the girls were baking cookies, listening to Christmas music and wearing matching Christmas PJs. **It was Jenna's Best Christmas Ever. She experienced God's love and our Home's safe place to sleep that night gave her hope for the future.***

I hope you find joy in knowing that your support gives hope to Jenna and all the youth on our growing campus. We added two new homes this year thanks to the loyal support of our churches and donors. Together we are breaking the cycle of abusive family relationships and teaching a happy and independent way forward.

Won't you put hope under the tree this Christmas season? Your Christmas gift will ensure our Indiana United Methodist Children's Home continues providing compassionate care to enrich the lives of youth like Jenna. We also accept gifts of stock and securities, IRA rollovers and donor-advised-fund distributions.

Jenna's Christmas Lesson is: There is no greater gift than experiencing God's love and finding hope for the future. What a wonderful gift!

Merry Christmas to you and your family from our family at the Children's Home and the Home's supporting Foundation! May you find God's blessings during this season of love and sharing.

Blessings abound,

Christy Huston
IUMCH Foundation Executive Director
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#Giving Tuesday | December 3, 2019

Every \$1 given will be matched by \$2.
Let's all give to send our youth to
Christmas at the Zoo.
Goal is \$2,530



#Giving Tuesday is a global day of celebration dedicated to helping others through the gift of a donation. This endeavor was founded in 2012 by the 92nd Street Y in New York City in partnership with the United Nations Foundation. Traditionally, the event is always the Tuesday after Thanksgiving and is intended to create an international day of giving through social media.

This year, the date is **December 3, 2019.**

We hope you will prayerfully consider making a gift on Tuesday, December 3 to Indiana United Methodist Children's Home. Our goal is to raise **\$2,530** for the youth to visit Christmas at the Zoo in December. Your gift will be kindly matched by Morris Thomas, President of the Indiana United Methodist Children's Home Foundation Board and Jim Engledow, President of the Home's Board of Trustees.

To help us reach our goal of visiting the Indianapolis Zoo during Christmas break, go to iumch.org and click on the DONATE NOW button.

Thank you for caring and sharing! Let's make this the BEST CHRISTMAS EVER!

A Legacy for Trinity UMC

Indiana United Methodist Children's Home (IUMCH) was honored to welcome members of the congregation and guests from Trinity UMC, Crawfordsville to the Home's campus for a first-of-its-kind tree dedication ceremony on October 23rd. The church was established in 1894 and was discontinued in July.

"The Trinity Church leadership saw an opportunity for their 125-year legacy to live-on forevermore," said Christy Huston, Executive Director of the IUMCH Foundation. "We are grateful that they generously shared gifts with the Children's Home Foundation as a tribute to their years of service to God's love and mission to children in need. These generous funds leave a legacy of support to ensure a strong future for the children we serve."

To honor the congregation, the Home and the Indiana United Methodist Children's Home Foundation wanted to do something to create a lasting legacy for the congregation. A Red Jewel Crabapple tree was planted in the Home's grief garden in honor of their ministry.

Tom Campbell, long-time member of the church said, "Discontinuing the church was a very difficult

and sad occasion since many of us grew up there and witnessed an abundance of wonderful stewardship. Even though we ended our relationship with the building, we will continue our devoted relationship with God. The tree planting was so meaningful to us as it helps us heal and we know our legacy will continue at Indiana United Methodist Children's Home, a mission we have supported for many years."



In memory of Trinity UMC, a beautiful Red Jewel Crabapple tree was planted in the grief garden located behind the Home's chapel. Rev. Marsha Hutchinson, IUMCH Trustee, lead a meaningful dedication service. Guests in attendance included: Sandy and Russell Ruby, Kitty Alyea, Sue C. Johnson, Tom Campbell and Norma Wilkinson.

Reverend Marsha Hutchinson, an IUMCH Trustee, provided a meaningful dedication service which was attended by all youth. In her closing words, she said, "May this tree dig deep roots and grow wide branches to bear witness to your abundant love made known through our Trinity United Methodist brothers and sisters in Christ."

Preserving Our History

Putnamville United Methodist Church is one of the oldest churches in Indiana and their members value history and historical preservation. Over the years, the United Methodist Women have taken an interest in the Home's history and our founder Miss Angie Godwin. In fact, Susan Stewart, an active member of the church, went on a mission to find where Miss Godwin was buried.

Mission accomplished! Susan visited a cemetery in Greencastle, Indiana and found the Godwin family plot. Miss Godwin was buried near her mother, father and sister. She passed away in 1948 but her legacy continues today. A girl's group home is named after Miss Godwin as well as a giving circle in her honor.

With God you Win!

Both the Home and Putnamville UMW were elated to find out more about the life of Miss Godwin through the DePauw University historical archives. According to Susan Bennett, Director of Public Relations, "Miss Godwin would have been a great member of United Methodist Women. After all, her name says it all...With God you Win!"



Miss Angie Godwin is surrounded by some of the orphans in the 1920's.



Members of Putnamville United Methodist Women found the gravestone of Miss Angie Godwin, a Methodist Episcopal Deaconess and founder of Indiana United Methodist Children's Home.

Ivy Tech Staff Visit Campus

As part of the Home's Independent Living Program, students are encouraged to pursue a career where their talents can be recognized. Currently, we have students enrolled at Lincoln Tech, Ivy Tech and IUPUI.

Last month, staff from Ivy Tech-Indianapolis, provided an outstanding program on the benefits of enrolling in a community college. Not only is the tuition affordable but

they offer a vast array of majors including nursing, informational technology and criminal justice. According to Stacy Youngblood, Independent Living Supervisor, "Over the past few years, our students have gravitated to community colleges. Ivy Tech has more than 40 locations throughout Indiana and it has grown to become the largest singly-accredited statewide community college in the entire country. It's a great opportunity for our students."



Thank you, Ivy Tech, for providing an informative program on the benefits of attending a community college.

A Champion for Children

Spend one day with Norma Singley and you'll see why she is loved and admired by all who know her. A typical day for Norma includes tending to her soybean farm and garden full of tulips, stopping by Trinity UMC in Lafayette for a meeting or to serve a meal, going to one of her meetings at Altrusa or the Lafayette Art Guild and then sitting down for a meal with some of her closest friends. Are you worn out yet?

September was another busy month for Norma. She celebrated her birthday in the church parlor at Trinity UMC and was surprised to see friends from near and far in attendance. During her party, staff from the Children's Home presented Norma with the Godwin Children's Champion Award for her devoted leadership and service as a volunteer at the Home. She was also honored for serving as President of the Auxiliary for five years and for serving on the 100th Anniversary Gala Committee in 2015. Over the years, Norma has inspired numerous others to join the Auxiliary.

The Godwin award is named in honor of Miss Angie Godwin, a Methodist Episcopal Deaconess, who was the founder of the Home which began in 1915.

"For the first time in a long time, I'm simply speechless," stated Norma as she addressed the large crowd. Norma was the third person to receive the Godwin Children's Champion Award. In 2011, Cathleen Graham, President of the Indiana Association of Residential Childcare Agencies received the award, followed in 2012 by Justice Steven David of the Indiana Supreme Court.

For more than two decades, Norma has been an outstanding advocate for the Children's Home. Just last week, she donated her car to the Home. "I was aware that the Home had a car donation program and knew that it would be an easy process. Plus, I know how my donations help the children that we are so blessed to serve."

Well done thy good and faithful servant.



The Children's Home staff presented Norma with a beautiful wooden memory box which featured a photo of the original orphanage. Pictured left to right are: Renata Dias, Susan Bennett, Nancy Hughes, Norma Singley, Kay Franscoviak, Susan Hughes and Judy Forgey.



Groups from all over Indiana tour the Home. We enjoyed meeting members from University United Methodist Women (Indianapolis) last month. They also gave a generous monetary donation. Come and see us! You will always feel at HOME!

Our Home is Your Home

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 home. 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.

Indiana United Methodist Children's Home Christmas List

Christmas is just around the corner. Many churches and organizations ask how they can help during the holidays. Gift cards are the best option for us right now since we have older youth and they like to go shopping and pick out things they want. We do have a list of items that you or your group could select from. Please do not wrap the gifts – we use gift bags primarily. Thanks for ALL you do!



- Arts and Crafts Kits
- Axe or Old Spice Hygiene for boys
- Batteries (AA and AAA)
- Bath and Body Works lotions and special toiletries
- Bath Towels and Wash Clothes
- Bed Spreads and sheets (twin)
- Earbuds
- Electric Razors for boys
- Gift Cards to Gas Stations, Visa, MasterCard, Amazon
- Gift Cards to Papa Johns, McDonalds, Burger King, Subway, etc. (please write the gift amount on the card if possible - \$5 and \$10 increments are great)
- Gift Cards to Walmart, Kroger, Costco, Old Navy, Amazon, Half Price Books, Hobby Lobby, Bed Bath and Beyond)
- Hair Dryers
- Kitchen Utensils for Teaching Family Homes and students leaving for independent living
- Movie Theatre Gift Cards (Goodrich Theaters are in Lebanon or AMC in Indianapolis)
- MP3 Players (no video, no wireless)
- Postage Stamps
- Recreational Equipment (basketballs, footballs, outdoor games, soccer balls)
- Sketch Pads
- Stationery
- Writing Journals

Just as a reminder, our youth are between the ages of 14-19. We will be glad to pick up the donations if you are located in the Indianapolis area. We would like to have the gifts by December 14th. Contact Susan Bennett, Director of Public Relations, if you have questions or need to schedule a pick up or drop off. (phone 765-482-5900 or email – susanb@iumch.org)



We have many Christmas traditions at the Children's Home. For many years, the Buck Creek United Methodist Church has donated thousands of socks for Christmas.



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.