

Girls Home Named in Memory of Linda Meyers

Linda Meyers, (1945-2020) was a wonderful friend to Indiana United Methodist Children's Home. She told our Foundation's Executive Director Christy Huston, "I put it in my mind to always support the Children's Home."

And she did!

Linda made annual contributions to support the youth at the Home from the time she was a teenager, until she passed away in 2020. She made a legacy gift from her trust that will support our children's mission in perpetuity.

In memory of her commitment, the Home's Board of Trustees named the girls independent living home that was built in 2019 in Linda's memory. The Meyers Home was dedicated last fall by then Trustee President Rev. Jim Gentry.

Linda first visited the Home as a teen leader in her United Methodist Youth Fellowship (UMYF) group during a tour that culminated in the Fall Booth Festival, (fundraiser for the Home). The visit had a lasting impact. She was a devoted supporter for more than 50 years.

After Linda graduated from Ball State University, she moved to the Washington D.C. area to work in communications for the National Park Service. She worked there her entire career, focusing her time on the brand of the National Parks.

According to Christy Huston, "Linda had a mind for mission throughout her life. She expressed joy in supporting our girls, specifically in their education.

Linda knew firsthand the importance of a strong education for a lifetime of independence and happiness and told us that she felt blessed to be able to help our youth."

Meyers Home houses ten girls who are learning independent living skills. The Independent Living Program focuses on postsecondary education and career prep, positive socialization with peers



One of the girls takes great care as she places a picture of Linda in the Meyers Home.

and adults along with safe decision making. Skills like personal finance and spiritual development are also key components of the curriculum.



Christy Huston, Executive Director of the IUMCH Foundation and Rev. Jim Gentry, former President of the IUMCH Board of Trustees, participated in the Meyers Home dedication. All of the girls from the Meyers Home were in attendance for the special dedication.

Graduates Prepare for a Successful Path Forward



Conaratulations to our 2023 (first at the James E. Davis School!

Five graduates earned high school diplomas during the first trimester of 2023. In a speech to the students, Principal Jim Stuart said, "I've been here for more than 30 years and this is one of the most successful academic years I have seen. The students have made great progress and I am extremely proud of all our students."

One of the graduates addressed the student body and thanked all of his teachers, Principal Stuart and his Family Teachers for not giving up on his progress. He stated, "I dreamed of this day and never thought it trimester) graduates would ever come true. My teachers and Mr. Stuart at the James E. Davis School helped me to believe in myself."

In addition to the graduation, two former residents received post secondary education scholarships. Ben Lilly received a Hoffman Family Scholarship to obtain a real estate license. Chyna Gates also received a scholarship through the Hoffman Family Fund and the Pulliam Scholarship Fund. Chyna is a nursing student at IUPUI.

Special guests in attendance included: Boone County Sherriff Tony Harris as well as players and coaches from the local professional basketball team known as the Lebanon Leprechauns.



"Visiting the campus always feels like coming home," stated former resident Ben Lilly. Pictured from left to right are: Daryl and Lois Hoffman, members of the scholarship committee; Ben Lilly; Christy Huston, Executive Director of IUMCH Foundation and Michael Mallory, member of the scholarship committee.



Michael and Michelle Longsworth are highly valued Family Teachers at IUMCH. They work with the boys in Wesley Home.

helping the youth we serve become successful and independent while living at the Home and beyond. They are also instrumental components of the Teaching-Family model since they assist youth and their families in remediation of challenging and sometimes destructive behaviors.

Michael

and Michelle

Longsworth

are special

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As Family

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Teachers, they

are crucial in

Michael and Michelle are a married couple that were hired as Family Teachers to provide daily care and supervision while teaching important social skills and functional alternatives to behaviors that caused youth to be placed out of the home environment. They help facilitate and accelerate family reunification by teaching youth ways to interact successfully with adults and their peers in school, their community and at home.

This amazing couple was called by God to work with children and have a heart for showing youth what it means to be a part of a family. Even their beloved dog Maggie is incorporated into the family and the

Meet Our Family Teachers

boys love having an "adopted pet" in their home. Having volunteered at vacation bible school, summer camps, and serving meals at church, they knew eventually they wanted to do more. Michael was a truck driver for several years but had a calling to work with youth in need. Michelle meeting them. also had a calling. Before coming to the Home, they worked in other Children's Homes including Boy's Town.

> They believe their role as Family Teachers is to show youth what being a family really means. This is truly "a life-style for them" and they believe you "don't clock out on family." It is not uncommon for Michael and Michelle to work 80 hours a week. On their days off they go visit youth that have moved on from the Home, often times several hours away. They believe, "family is what you make of it" and in this case "it's not always typical" but they tailor their engagement to the youths' needs while also creating important boundaries and expectations.

> One of their favorite Bible verses is Romans 8:28 which reads- "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose."

We are incredibly grateful for Michael and Michelle and the positive impact they are having with the youth they serve.

Prayers of Hope –

Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Thank you for praying for the youth at Indiana United Methodist Children's Home. We are continually made aware that our youth have many prayer requests and need our love and support.

John Wesley called prayer "the grand means of drawing near to God." That's why we would love for you to become one of our prayer warriors. Simply go to iumch.org and click on Make an Impact tab. Provide your e-mail and on the third Thursday of the month, you will receive prayer requests from our youth. You may also contact Susan Bennett or Kellie Leeper for a signup sheet which allows for multiple people to be included in our monthly email. Here is a recent prayer need:

Dear Lord: We pray for our youth that will be learning new skills in the Independent Leaning (IL) class. It is the largest class since implementing the IL program. We celebrate their great achievements and we pray that You steer them in the right direction and help them to discover new and exciting gifts within their souls. Thank you God for Your enduring grace and love! 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.

Children's Home Receives March Impact Award From The Boone County Chamber of Commerce

The Children's Home was honored to receive the Boone County Chamber of Commerce Impact Award for March. This award recognizes Boone County Chamber members who have made positive contributions to the Boone County community.

The Home is honored to be recognized as a leader in the community and dedicated to improving the lives of Indiana's most abused and neglected children. The Home was pleased to have the Boone County Chamber of Commerce Executive Director, Joslyn McGriff-Bensley, tour the Home recently to learn about the depth of services we provide for the youths and see how we are making an impact everyday.

This award would not be possible without the loyal, dedicated, and skilled staff at the Children's Home. We are grateful for all the supporters of the Home who help make this possible.



Giving Back in the Community Through Spiritual Development



Worship services are held on Wednesday evenings in Gress Memorial Chapel. Often times, youth will help lead the worship services along with Rev. Perry Montgomery's input.

Reverend Perry Montgomery has been busy engaging the youth the past few months with 30 in attendance each Wednesday at service in Gress Chapel. We are encouraged that four youth have requested Bibles recently, which is wonderful confirmation that they are listening and seeking to know God in a deeper way.

Ten youth enjoyed packing meals as part of the Million Meals initiative that was held at Zionsville United Methodist

Church in late November. Along with approximately 100 other community members, the group worked together to pack 15,000 meals in just a few hours. The youth felt great about what they accomplished and enjoyed working as a team to help others in need.

In December, 20 youth went to Fletcher Place to help pack 100 backpacks for the homeless. As part of the hot meals program, those homeless who came to the community center for a hot meal could also pick up a backpack filled with socks, non-perishable items, and a blanket to support them during the colder weather. The youth also helped with breaking down the Christmas Shopping event held the same weekend, which included packing up and organizing the remaining items and moving things into storage.

According to Rich Lapinski, Executive Director of Indiana United Methodist Children's Home, "It's not unusual to see our youth volunteering in the community and surrounding areas. This teaches our youth the value of serving others. We have so many people and churches helping the Home and the youth are aware of their kindness and generosity. Our youth want to give back, too."

Key Note Speaker Announced for Annual Auxiliary Meeting

First Lady Racelder Grandberry-Trimble will be the keynote speaker at the Annual Auxiliary Program and Meeting to be held on Saturday, April 29th at 10:00, Gress Memorial Chapel. First Lady Grandberry-Trimble serves alongside her husband, Julius C. Trimble, Resident Indiana Bishop.

First Lady Grandberry-Trimble is a committed volunteer, and civic activist/organizer speaking to issues facing women, children, and families through workshops, retreats and public speaking. Her personal call statement is, "I will serve God and humanity where I can be a positive influence on as many lives as possible."



First Lady Racelder Grandberry-Trimble

During the program, the Auxiliary James E. Davis Student of the Year will be announced and 2023 Auxiliary officers will be installed. Tours of the campus will be available after the program and luncheon.

If you will be attending the program and staying for lunch, please RSVP to Susan Bennett by April 18, 2023. Contact Susan at 765-482-5900 or send e-mail reservations to susanb@iumch.org.

COFFEE AND DONUTS WILL BE AVAILABLE AT 9:30. A FREE WILL OFFERING LUNCH WILL BE SERVED. ALL ARE WELCOME!

Kirks' Tax-Smart Giving Helps Youth in Crisis



Warren and Helen Kirk, of West Harrison, IN, give to the Children's Home from their IRA to maximize their gift. They became aware of Indiana United

Warren and Helen Kirk

Methodist Children's Home (IUMCH) after Warren had retired from full-time ministry as an Elder in the Indiana Conference of the United Methodist Church. Helen had been a social worker mainly helping to facilitate adoptions. In retirement, they both began to search for charities they could support.

In 2018, the Kirks visited the IUMCH and Foundation booth at the annual Indiana Conference meeting and our ministry caught their attention. Our mission spoke to them and shortly thereafter they made a few gifts, which put them on our mailing list. They have enjoyed receiving our communications and found them to be highly informative. Through the communications, the Kirks became more interested in how we impacted the lives of the youth at the Home.

In 2020, the Kirks began making contributions from their IRA account because of the opportunity to help the youth at IUMCH while also taking advantage of tax benefits as you age. Making an annual IRA donation has made them feel gratitude and connected to the Home's mission.

This past fall Helen participated as a volunteer on the Children's Champion committee. The Kirks also attended the Breakfast With Champions event. They told us how impressed they were by the testimony of several youth. Some of the youth were virtually homeless before coming to the Home and the Kirks believe that their "lives have been completely changed." Warren and Helen have come to believe that Indiana United Methodist Children's Home, "is one of the best kept secrets in Indiana." They are especially impressed by the graduation rates from our high school on campus.

Warren and Helen want everyone to know they believe in our mission and that IUMCH is a "gold charity helping children in Indiana." They believe that, "you too will be impressed with their results."

To learn more about making a gift from your IRA, as a tax-wise way to support our children's mission, please see the IRA article on the last page of the enclosed Foundation insert.

Schedule A Campus Tour in 2023

Touring the Home is an inspirational outreach trip for any of your church groups including, circle groups, mission outreach committees and youth groups.

The Home is conveniently located in the center of the state – just two miles off of 1-65 and a very short distance from the Indianapolis metro area. The tour includes visiting one of our innovative Teaching-



Reverend Jim Gentry, former President of the Home's Board of Trustees, helped lead a tour group from Zionsville United Methodist Church in February. After touring, one of the members of the congregation commented that the Children's Home is a "Boone County gem."

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Family homes, the state-of-the-art school, Gress chapel and our Independent Living Learning Lab. One of the highlights of the tour is meeting some of our youth while visiting one of the Teaching-Family homes. 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 Kellie Leeper, Director of Communications and Outreach at 765-482-5900 or send e-mail inquiries to kelliel@iumch.org. Visit iumch.org for more information about the Children's Home.



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

- Deodorant for teens Suggested brands: Axe, Old Spice, Right Guard, Mitchum, Secret, Dove
- Shampoos/Conditioners for teens Suggested brands: Panteen, Suave, Cantu with Shea Butter, Dove, Herbal Essence, OGX
- Lotions Suggested brands: Aveeno, Olay, EOS with Shea Butter, Curel, Dove, CeraVe, Neutrogena, Jergens Rose Body Butter, Any item from Bath and Body Works
- Body Wash Suggested brands: OGX, Dove, Suave, Neutrogena Rainbath, Olay, SheaMoisture brand, Dial for Men, Dove for Men, Axe, Old Spice
- Hair dryers
- Gently used golf carts for campus tours

For questions, contact Susan Bennett or Kellie Leeper at 765-482-5900 or send e-mail to susanb@iumch.org or kelliel@iumch.org



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 Vision

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

Our Mission

The Indiana United Methodist Children's Home provides the best opportunities for children and youth to thrive and to achieve permanency in a stable and loving environment.

Our Values

Compassion Connection Diversity and Inclusion Education Excellence Family Respect

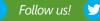
Safety

Spiritual Development

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



March 2023 Hope Has A Home

Dear Friends,

Have you ever wondered *where* is God calling you to give and *why*?

For Mary, finding the *where* and the *why* were easy after visiting her step grandson, Mike on our campus.

"I trusted God. Then He put Mike in the care of the good people at the Children's Home. And now Mike's life is just turned around!" Mary excitedly told me.

Beginning at age 12, Mike's home life was not stable. He was physically abused. He felt lost and felt unsafe. In just a few years, Mike was placed in nine unsuccessful foster and shelter placements before coming to the Children's Home campus.

"I visited Mike at the Home in December, just before Christmas, this past year," Mary said. "It is just a miracle how he is doing now", she told me with pride. "I watched Mike struggle for years, and after about a year in your good care, he has a goal to go to Ivy Tech. He is making good grades. He is now confident. He has his own room and they taught him how to do his own laundry. He even has a whole other family to support and love him."

That's our mission.

"I am so grateful he is thriving. And I thank you for everything you have done to make his life better!"

Mary made a tribute gift to the Foundation last month in memory of a dear friend who passed away. It was then that she first shared her story, and Mike's story, in a letter. She said she wants everyone to know how well he is doing at the Children's Home and how happy she is for him.

PS mikes grandpa was KIND ENDugh to take me to your Campus at Christmas 2022 We were to impressed how beautiful the place was and Everyone was to nice to w. Especially the Couple that stays there and watches over the Boys at the group home. And Maggie the dog that lives there was adorable. Mike Loves that Dog. God Bless you

On the following pages you will read names of many donors whose *why* is to help improve the lives of Indiana's children in crisis, while at the same time remembering or honoring someone they love.

We are thankful that their where is the Children's Home. Without the Children's Home, we wonder, what would have become of Mike?

Without your prayers and support, the Children's Home would not be able to provide the care that changes, even saves the lives of Indiana's children in crisis, like Mike.

Thank you!



Christy Huston **Christy Huston** Foundation

Executive Director



Indiana United Methodist Children's Home Foundation, Inc. Hope Has A Home

Tribute gifts

We gratefully acknowledge the following tribute gifts received between July 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022.

In Celebration Of

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In Honor Of

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Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of names. Please contact the Foundation if there are errors: 317-775-0606 or info@iumchf.org.

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Thank you!

For supporting the mission of the Children's Home with a tribute gift.

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You can send checks (payable to IUMCHF) to the Indiana United Methodist Children's Home Foundation, 9333 North Meridian Street, Suite 222, Indianapolis, IN 46260. Or to make an online gift, visit the Home's website at iumch.org/donate. For questions, contact Tom Fagan, Development Director, at 317-775-0606.

or memory of your

loved one.

Introducing our new IUMCHF Guardian Angels

John Wesley had very specific teachings about angels and spoke about them in some of his sermons. "And we may imitate them in all holiness; suiting our lives to the prayer our Lord himself has taught us; labouring to do his will on earth, as angels do it in heaven," he said.

At the Children's Home we know people who take this approach to helping the children in our care. They regularly keep the youths in their prayers and offer support to the Children's Home so services can be provided to the children.

We want to honor these people who are so constantly expressing their care for the children. The Guardian Angel Program recognizes people who make monthly donations in support of the Home's mission. It doesn't matter what amount, we are grateful to donors who make a monthly gift of any size.

Will you be a Guardian Angel to the youths at the Children's Home by joining our monthly Guardian Angels giving program? To learn more about Guardian Angels or to make a gift from your IRA, call Tom Fagan, Development Director at 317-775-0606 or email tomfagan@iumchf.org.

A Tax-Wise Way to Support our Children's Mission

If you are age 70 ½ or older, you can make a qualified charitable distribution (QCD) directly from your IRA to the Children's Home Foundation. Consider the benefits:

- No tax is due on the distribution up to the \$100,000 annual aggregate limit. (Note: contributions to an IRA after age 70 ½ count against QCD amounts.)
- Your gift amount counts toward your required minimum distribution if one is due (generally, age 73 and older).
- Your easy gift makes an immediate impact on our work helping Indiana's abused and neglected youth develop independence and find hope for the future.



To learn more about Guardian Angels or to make a gift from your IRA, call Tom Fagan, Development Director at 317-775-0606 or email tomfagan@iumchf.org.

Be sure to consult your legal, tax and financial advisors when considering your gift to help you understand its impact on your personal situation.

To make a gift go to www.iumch.org/donate or mail to Indiana United Methodist Children's Home Foundation 9333 N Meridian St., Suite 222, Indianapolis, IN 46260 or call 317-775-0606.

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

