

# News@Home



## Celebration Honors Past and Looks to Future

Nearly 200 supporters celebrated our 100th anniversary of serving Indiana children on our campus in Lebanon on September 28 during our third annual **Breakfast With Champions**, presented by UBS. Read about our eight 2024 Indiana Children's Champions honorees on pages 4 and 5, including our own centenarian, Russ Nicoles.

The day was proclaimed by Gov. Eric Holcomb as "2024 Indiana Children's Champion Day". Indiana State Representative Mark Genda (representing District 41) shared the proclamation, which in part reads, "Indiana organizations and churches are essential for their service, leadership, and advocacy work in making an exemplary impact on children's rights and care throughout the state."

This message resonates today, as it did 100 years ago when the Children's Home moved from Greencastle to Lebanon in 1924. Children in crisis then and today need a stable and safe place to learn, grow, and find hope for a way forward.

"We are humbled by all the people, churches and the community of Lebanon who have helped our children flourish," said Edna May, Vice President of the Children's Home Trustees. "As we begin our next 100 years, we are planning to serve even more children in even more ways."

Use the QR code to watch our **Century of Hope video** presented by Indiana University Health to learn more about our 100 years in Lebanon and our journey of serving 5,500 Indiana children in crisis.



## From Despair to Giving Back

"We are seeing such a transformation in Becca. She has grown through the Home's spiritual development program and believes that God has a plan for her," said Michelle Longsworth, Family Teacher. "If she stays the course, I believe she will feel more positive about her future."

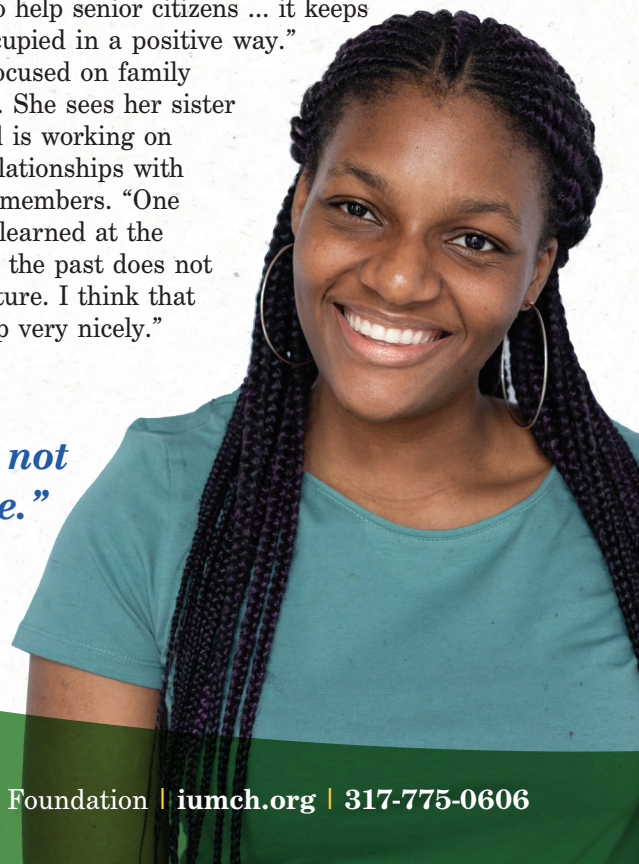
That's a big deal—before coming to our Children's Home, Becca's life was filled with turmoil and instability. She grew up around drugs, witnessed and experienced abuse, and then went to live with her grandparents when she was eight. Becca soon became angry, depressed, defiant and ended up in the juvenile justice system. Thankfully, a county court intervened, and she was placed on our campus.

And Becca is doing well in school both academically and behaviorally. Her teachers describe her as kind, energetic, articulate, and a good role model for the other students. She is serious about taking advantage of what the Home has to offer, and she feels fortunate to have good therapy.

Now she's giving back to the community: "Since I am too young to have a job (in the community), the next best thing for me is to volunteer. To keep busy, I volunteer to help senior citizens ... it keeps my mind occupied in a positive way." She is also focused on family relationships. She sees her sister regularly and is working on improving relationships with other family members. "One thing I have learned at the Home is that the past does not define my future. I think that sums it all up very nicely."

*"The past does not define my future."*

— Becca





As we approach the season of giving thanks, we thank God for you!

Dear Friends,

Compassionate and caring people like you have helped our Children's Home give hope to thousands of children and their families throughout the decades. Many of you have included our mission in your estate plans, allowing us to respond to the ever-changing needs of Indiana's most vulnerable children. (You can see a long list of those altruistic individuals on page 6.)

And now, when the need to expand our service is so desperate, an anonymous donor has responded to the call, giving a visionary catalyst donation of nearly \$500,000 to support the first three years of our Independence Project pilot program. The donation allows us to provide safe residential spaces for independent living designed for 18-and-older alumni who feel they need extra support navigating toward independence.

The program is already underway, and our first three young adults are living with us in newly renovated apartments. They have developed their goals. (Read more about their focus in the blue box below.) They regularly meet with our life coach, attend post-secondary school, and/or work in the community. Our next two participants will soon move in to a house that was donated by Witham Health and is currently being renovated for our project.

As we give thanks for the generosity that has allowed us to launch our new service, we also face the reality that government dollars are not available for these young adults. So, the need for philanthropic investment will continue. We move forward into a New Century of Hope trusting that God will provide for the future needs of our mission, just as He has provided for the care of the 5,500 children we have been privileged to serve since our beginning more than 100 years ago.

As you sit down to enjoy your own Thanksgiving traditions, we hope you will join us in thinking of the families your support has helped over the years. And we ask, what would have become of Indiana's most vulnerable children in our care without that support? It is hard to imagine.

Wishing you a very Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas,

Blessings Abound,



Christy Huston  
Christy Huston, MA, CFRM, IOM  
Foundation  
Executive Director



Rich Lapinski, MS  
Children's Home  
Executive Director/CEO

**P.S. Remembering the Home in your estate plan is an opportunity to make an enduring difference in the lives of Indiana's children. No matter the size, your legacy gift will be invested and help Indiana's children and young adults succeed. When they succeed, Indiana wins. What a legacy!**

## Independence Project Outcomes for Each Participant

After much research, Children's Home leadership selected a personalized planning and outcomes development tool that will be personally guided by each participant. The Foster Club's Transition Toolkit\* meets federal guidelines as a best practice. The premise is that up to ten areas of need will become part of each participant's plan, with guidance from trusted adults and step-by-step plans for action and goals.

The 10 areas of focus include:

1. Finances and money management
2. Job and career
3. Life skills
4. Identity
5. Permanence
6. Education
7. Self-care and health
8. Housing
9. Transportation and community
10. Culture and social life.

\* [www.iumch.org/independence](http://www.iumch.org/independence) to view the tool kit

## From Their Voices

Ms. Gavin, English teacher at our James E. Davis School (JEDS), is teaching a journalism class this semester. Her budding journalists have already published their first school newspaper, which profiled the Student Council election, a student award-winning poem, and more.

### What do I like about journalism class?

"At seventeen, I've come to realize how much my passions and experiences shape who I am ... It's not just about getting my own feelings out. It's about helping others feel seen and understood."

— Josh, JEDS Student Newspaper Journalist

"Hello, I am a fifteen-year-old student journalist ... I enjoy taking my time to help others and meet new people ... I am getting into reading and writing. I write a lot of poetry about my life story and my feelings ... I have learned that we are all equal in ways that tend to help me see others in a more positive way."

— Leann, JEDS Student Newspaper Journalist

"I have always been interested in the news and I am so excited that I get to write about it now. Something I hope to get out of this student-journalism class is the ability to work smoothly with others while sorting facts and opinions.... It also allows students to learn how to express their beliefs and opinions while delivering neutral, unbiased information and allowing readers to pick where they stand with certain issues .... To summarize, I am a freshman here at James E. Davis School ... and I am so honored to be your JEDS student journalist."

— Henry, JEDS Student Newspaper Journalist

"Ms. Gavin handpicked me and the other reporters for this class. At the time, I was not interested in writing, as I feel I have a lot of room to grow, but I am excited for the new challenge [and] so far, I'm really enjoying journalism. Journalism has been the highlight of my days; it's an amazing experience. We have to go by a fake name because we want to protect yours and our identities—it's about confidentiality."

— Betty, JEDS Student Newspaper Journalist

### Award Winning Poet is Featured on First Page of Student Newspaper

Josh, a JEDS Student Newspaper Journalist interviewed the student poet who shared this about her poem printed below, "I realized poetry is art .... This poem to me feels like a relationship with God. He's there for you when you need Him. He always listens, but what's good about it is that you may not get an answer directly, but He always has a way to get you to your answer. He's here for you all the time whenever you need Him."

#### Faith over Fear.

Fear darkens the spirit and creeps on the mind. Fears are shadows of uncertainty. It will put you in a dream land of pressure and anxiety. But there's always a possibility out of these fears. Faith is that possibility. Faith knows our name & our hearts. Faith will conquer our worst, yet terrible enemies. Your tears that come from fear bring life to your faith. Our faith paints our canvas and fills your body with serenity. Instead of stress, faith will bury the fear we can't seem to get over. It will cover the worry that sins and fights against your body. Faith is the death that awaits its fear, our fear. Faith and fear are dear, hated enemies. Always do believe that faith will take away the fear you may dwell on. Faith is a confidence in what we hope for and our assurance about what we can't or won't see.





## Agape Awards:

A person or persons who, over time, shows an Agape love for children at the Children's Home. Motivated by Christ's love, this person(s) demonstrates Agape love for the children at the Children's Home through selfless personal relationships and interactions.



**Russ Nicoles:** Russ has been a joyful, active, and very generous supporter of the Home for many years. As a retired successful Eli Lilly and Co. employee, he shared his wisdom for investing in the Home: he toured, met with Home leadership and learned that the students

are shown love, with a focus not on being victims, but rather on their future with self-reliance and independent living skills. He reminds Home staff that his support is because of the love our students receive. He delights in the fact that his age and our mission in Lebanon are both 100 years.



**Larna Spearman:** Larna has supported the Children's Home in many capacities. He is currently the membership chairperson for the Auxiliary to the Children's Home. He served on the Children's Home's Board of Trustees for many years. He is an active member of University

United Methodist Church in Indianapolis. He is a board member of the Heartland Methodist Foundation. Larna volunteers in the schools in Indianapolis, mentoring many over the years.

## Advocate Award:

The Advocate Award recognizes a person or organization who has made an exemplary impact on children's rights and care at the Children's Home or throughout Indiana.



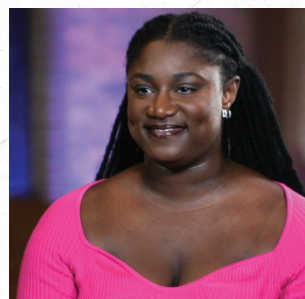
### Children Matter

**Most Initiative:** This statewide group of the Indiana Conference of the United Methodist Church focuses on nonviolence, food insecurity, and partnering with schools.

The group advocates for children by sharing research demonstrating that children are the most vulnerable in society, as well as the most resilient when given opportunities to thrive. Training in the realities of trauma, abuse, and neglect and the impacts on children are also imperatives. The Initiative actively shares resources with churches to help inspire and improve children's mission outreach and has established several grant opportunities in this space to encourage mission and outreach to serve children.

## Alumni Rising Phoenix Award:

The Alumni Rising Phoenix Award is reserved for a former resident of the Indiana United Methodist Children's Home, to better themselves and the community around them. Rising Phoenix Alumni are great examples and inspiration to all.



**Chyna Gates:** Chyna was a resident at the Children's Home for nearly two years, leaving in 2015. She credits the Teaching-Family Model for helping her overcome many years of abuse and neglect. Chyna has received Hoffman Family and Pulliam Scholarships through

the Children's Home Foundation. Chyna is a student at IUPUI with a major in nursing. Her dream is to pursue travel nursing. Her story of resilience is very compelling. She credits her Family Teachers for changing her life in a very positive way. She is scheduled to complete her degree in December, 2024. She is the first Foundation scholarship recipient to complete a 4-year degree.

## Community Partner Award:

The Community Partner Award goes to a company, government agency, or nonprofit that has made a significant impact on the lives of youth at the Children's Home. These partners have provided at least one of the following to the Children's Home: financial support, performed volunteer work at the Home, impact on youth, and/or impact on the ability of the Home to continue its mission.



### Zionsville Optimist Club

#### Zionsville Optimist Club:

The Club has been supporting the Children's Home since 2019, by including the Home's needs in their annual giving to Boone County youth-serving organizations. In 2023, the Club chose the Home as its "Spotlight Organization" for its 41st

annual fun-run. The Home was supported through all fun run promotions including yard signs in the county, newspaper advertisements, weekly booth at the Zionsville Farmer's Market, and social media. The result is greater exposure for the Home and a \$7,500 grant to buy student computers in 2023. It was an ideal partnership, and the Foundation hopes to find other organizations for similar partnerships.

## Mo Thomas Lifetime Leadership Award:

The Mo Thomas Lifetime Leadership Award is awarded to a current or former board member, committee member, or Auxiliary member of the Children's Home or Foundation.



**Rev. Bill Clayton:** Staff are sometimes told by long-time donors that they give because Bill Clayton encouraged them to do so. He has spent his lifetime sharing the importance of our children's mission. He served on the Home's Board of Trustees for 30-plus years. During that time he served as

president, vice president, secretary, and was the building and grounds chairperson when the James E. Davis School was constructed. He tells us in a recent letter that it was a "joyful journey". He has served appointments with many United Methodist churches for 68 years and the congregations have been active in supporting our missions due to his tireless advocacy and leadership.

## Partner in Christ Awards:

The Partner in Christ Award goes to a church or churches that have made a significant impact in the lives of youths at the Children's Home. Honorees have provided at least one of the following to the Children's Home or Foundation: financial support, volunteer time, promotion of the Home to its members, and/or promotion of the Home in its community.

### Centenary United Methodist Church, Lebanon:

Centenary has supported the Children's Home for 100 years. In 1924, the pastor at that time helped Lebanon

leaders secure the relocation of the Home from Greencastle. Over the decades, particularly

before the Gress Memorial Chapel was built, youths from the Home would go to Centenary for Sunday worship. Centenary took part in the Fall Booth Festival which helped raise funds for the Home. It has donated consecutively to the Home for decades.

### Shiloh United Methodist Church, Kokomo:

Shiloh has supported the Children's Home for decades. The United Women in Faith group there has been

very interested in and supportive of the Home. The church has supported 50 missions. It is the

largest financial supporter of a school and orphanage in Kenya. The UWF group at Shiloh UMC became the first lifetime member of the Home's Auxiliary.

## Champion Award Selection Committee

- Rev. David Williamson, Zionsville, Chairperson
- Lana Aebersold, New Albany
- Susan Bennett, Lebanon
- Ann Garceau, Syracuse
- Rev. Lore Gibson, Lafayette
- Helen Kirk, West Harrison
- Karen Ottjes, Warren
- Norma Singley, Lafayette
- Larna Spearman, Indianapolis



# John Wesley Circle

**John Wesley Circle** recognizes individuals who have committed a legacy gift or shared their intent to do so. Legacy gifts include an intent in your will, a bequest, stocks, retirement assets, charitable gift annuities, life insurance gifts, trusts, real estate gifts, jewelry, and other legacy gifts.

Thank you to the individuals listed below. You have embraced the privilege to secure the future of the Indiana United Methodist Children's Home and the urgent responsibility to serve Indiana's children in crisis for generations to come. You are guided by the words of John Wesley: "Do all the good you can in all the ways you can." **Thank you!**

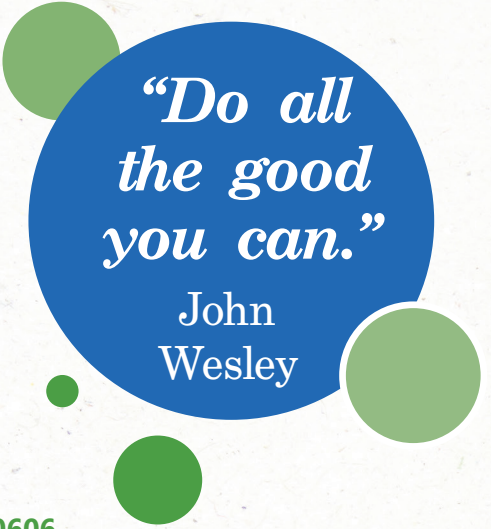
To learn about being included in 2024 contact the Foundation at (317) 775-0606.

## CURRENT LEGACY DONORS

Anonymous (2)  
 Susan D. Bennett  
 Lisa Coleman  
 Darleene and George Galyean  
 Carmen Slavens Grose  
 Sherry Hall  
 Lois and Daryl Hoffman  
 Christy and Jim Huston  
 Georganna Irish  
 Lois and Edwin Kellar  
 Jean Kyle  
 Stephanie and Rich Lapinski  
 Marilyn Leffler  
 Benjamin Lilly  
 Chris Lilly  
 Beverly Marshall  
 Nancy and Donald Miller  
 Dr. Polly Nicely  
 Russell Nicoles  
 Charles Noble  
 Rev. Karen and Jim Ottjes  
 Elaine Routh  
 Dr. Donna Sandage  
 Dr. Ginny Swift Singer  
 Norma Singley  
 Marla Stanton  
 Morris "Mo" E. Thomas, Jr.  
 James Titak  
 Mrs. James E. Wilson and Family

## THE FOLLOWING DECEASED INDIVIDUALS HAVE REMEMBERED THE HOME IN THEIR ESTATE PLANNING AND THEIR LEGACY LIVES ON

Anonymous (2)	Katherine and Robert Mahan
Mary Jane Apple	Alice J. Masten
Karleen and Charles W. Ballard	Mary McCullough
Emily B. Beer	Michael McDonald
Morris E. Boles	Velma M. and Benjamin R. Mendenhall
Lauretta Borgman	Shirley Messerlie
Merrill Brown	Linda Meyers
Norman R. Carr	Donna S. Michael
Helen B. Cropp	Beth A. and Rev. Charles Myers
Alta and Lewis L. Davis	Phyllis B. Oakes
Martha Davis	Doris A. Onken
Wilma Eckerty	Oliver G. Petero
Harry Ervin	John M. Prendergast, Jr.
Shirley A. and John H. Fisher	Jean and John M. Prendergast, Sr.
Elsie Margaret Williams Fleeger	Martha Pulliam
Nancy W. Friedersdorf	Patsy Raver
Don C. Garboden	Rita and Jerry Redden
Raymond E. Graf	Robert A. Rice
Jean Lois Greenburg	Margaret and James B. Richman
Ralph E. Harvey	Charles Russell
Samuel S. Heath	Isgrigg Shaffer
Mary A. Hise	June Smith
Russell B. Huckstep	Marsella Smith
Lita W. James	Marthana J. Smith
Harold Johnson	Martha A. Smock
Violet Kepley	Edith Swift
Helen Rae Elliott Kraud	James Swift
Betty Jane and George J. Kyle	Betty Lou Swentzel
Elizabeth Lambert	Constance Titak
Rev. S. Douglas Leffler	Herbert L. Thompson
Clifford Lemon	James E. Wilson
Cora A. and James R. Lemon	Dorothy P. Word
Betty Lunsford	



## Teaching-Family Association Honors Our Staff

The International Teaching-Family Association (TFA) honored two Children's Home staff this fall. Tojoniaina "T" Ratianarivo was named the Teaching-Family Association Consultant of the Year, and Dustin Shipley was named the Teaching-Family Association Practitioner of the Year.

Dustin and his wife Lexi live in one of our boys homes and lead the boys in that home in learning social skills, self-advocacy, and basic independence skills. Dustin notes how the Teaching-Family Model principles help with parenting their own two daughters. "When Isla has a meltdown or tries to manipulate us, we refer back to our training as Family Teachers and find better ways to handle our own parenting challenges."

For ten years, T has led family teachers as a Case Manager. He oversees the day-to-day operations in one of the Teaching-Family Homes—currently Meyers Home. He also supervises the case management for those youth. He works closely with the Department of Child Services case managers and the juvenile courts.



Rightly proud of their awards are Dustin Shipley (left) and Tojoniaina Ratianarivo (right), and Home Executive Director/CEO and also the President of the TFA, Rich Lapinski (center) is rightly proud of them. The pair received their awards at the TFA annual conference in Little Rock, Arkansas.

**TFA'S TEACHING-FAMILY MODEL** is widely recognized as one of the most effective trauma-informed models of care. The international organization's standards are so rigorous that there are only 31 accredited organizations in the world. Three of them are in Indiana, and our Home is considered one of the finest.

Children's Home Executive Director Rich Lapinski is the current president of the International Teaching-Family Association.

## Ottjes Welcome Newest John Wesley Circle Member

Rev. Karen and Jim Ottjes of Warren, Indiana, committed volunteers and donors at the Indiana United Methodist Children's Home, are John Wesley Circle members. "As Jim and I spent more time with the youth and staff, we were very impressed and wanted to do more to support the Home's mission," said Karen.



At the 2024 Breakfast with Champions, Jim and Karen, (right) welcomed Ben Lilly, (left) former resident and Alumni Rising Phoenix Award honoree, as the newest member of the John Wesley Society.

## Special Welcome for New Residents

Three United Methodist Churches are helping make the arrival of new residents to the Children's Home more comfortable. Members at Lafayette Grace United Methodist Church, Trinity United Methodist Church in Lafayette, and St. Mark's United Methodist Church in Carmel worked to put together welcome kits. They gathered donated items which included bags, Bibles, notebooks, pens, pencils, and hygiene items, and assembled 90 kits. **Thank you!**



Left to right, Judy Robbins and Norma Singley (front row), both from Trinity UMC, Lafayette, and behind them, Nancy Hughes from Grace UMC, Lafayette, and Kay Franscoviak of Trinity UMC, with Home staff member Susan Bennett.



## Long-Time Volunteers Inspire Art Annex



A newly renovated pottery studio on the Children's Home campus was dedicated on August 1. The Hoffman Art Annex was named in tribute to Daryl and Lois Hoffman's inspiration for Children's Home

students. The Hoffmans are members at Calvary United Methodist Church in Brownsburg, and their pastors, Rev. Michelle Knight and Rev. Jolita Erbele, helped bless the new space.

The Hoffmans have been patiently teaching pottery to Children's Home students for many years. The new space is being utilized for a school pottery class this fall. The studio features its own kiln, pottery wheel, natural light, classroom space for teaching, and a wash sink designed with filters so clay won't clog the plumbing.

*"We love the kids, and it is so rewarding to work with them."* – Lois Hoffman

## Meet Jeremy

*"I still cannot believe that I passed all five tests. I almost gave up but thanks to my teachers, I was able to keep going and do well on each exam."*

Just a couple of months ago, you could see Jeremy "high-fiving" all the teachers and students at the James E. Davis School after passing all his tests for HiSet (the new term for graduate-equivalency diploma). He is the first person in his family to earn a high school diploma.

As Christmas approaches, Jeremy looks forward to being at the Children's Home. "I have heard the kids talk about how nice Christmas is here. They say we even get to make a Christmas wish list and go on fun trips."



Indiana United Methodist  
Children's Home Foundation  
*Hope Has A Home in Lebanon*

[iumch.org](http://iumch.org)

### Contact for Home:

515 W. Camp Street, Lebanon, IN 46052 | 765-482-5900

### Contact for Foundation:

9333 N. Meridian Street, Suite 222, Indianapolis, IN 46260  
317-775-0606 | [info@iumchf.org](mailto:info@iumchf.org)

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

## Your Giving Tuesday Gift Matched: Best Christmas Ever



Tuesday, December 3, is **GIVING TUESDAY**, and Foundation President Mo Thomas is matching all donations up to \$1,000! Your gifts will help our youths experience Christmas traditions, and new cultural experiences and learn the meaning of Christmas. **Follow the QR code to watch a video to get in the Christmas mood!**

## Thought about donating stock?

**Donating appreciated stock directly to the Children's Home Foundation can help you avoid capital gains tax.** The best choices depend on your portfolio, investment goals, and taxes. Consult your financial advisor.

- Stocks must have been held for more than one year to avoid capital gains tax on the appreciated value.
- You may be eligible to deduct the fair market value.
- Stocks with the greatest amount of appreciation provide the most tax-saving potential.
- Investors who follow set portfolio ratios (e.g., 40% stocks, 40% municipal bonds, and 20% cash) might choose to give a stock that would provide an opportunity to reposition investments, balance ratios, and enjoy valuable tax relief.

To donate stock contact:

**Tom Fagan, Development Director**  
[tomfagan@iumchf.org](mailto:tomfagan@iumchf.org), 317-775-0606



*"I have a feeling that Christmas 2024 will be a good one for me."*