

News@Home



New Recovery Home to Address Pressing Problem



We are proud to announce breaking ground this year on a new Recovery Home on our Lebanon campus to improve outcomes for our students who are working to overcome addiction.

A recovery home provides a secure and supportive bridge between active addiction treatment and a return to normal life. Our Recovery Home will be our seventh residential home and can serve ten teens who have completed active addiction treatment elsewhere. Teens will be closely supervised, and will participate in several therapeutic activities, including intensive individual and group counseling, as well as classes to help them steer clear of addictive substances and activities. They will also attend our school to help them catch up academically.

Substance Use Disorder (SUD) is a blight ravaging families nationwide and is keenly felt at the Children's Home. More than 90% of our teens have been directly impacted by SUD. Some students contend with their own use, others have lost parents or have lived with an addicted caregiver.

The road to recovery is difficult for anyone, but especially so for adolescents. Without support and effective coping strategies, frequently they'll return to familiar friends and patterns, and return to the addictive behaviors they struggled to escape.

We expect the new Recovery Home to open in early-2026.

Never Give Up

It is amazing what can happen in 15 months! And Dana might be amazed herself!

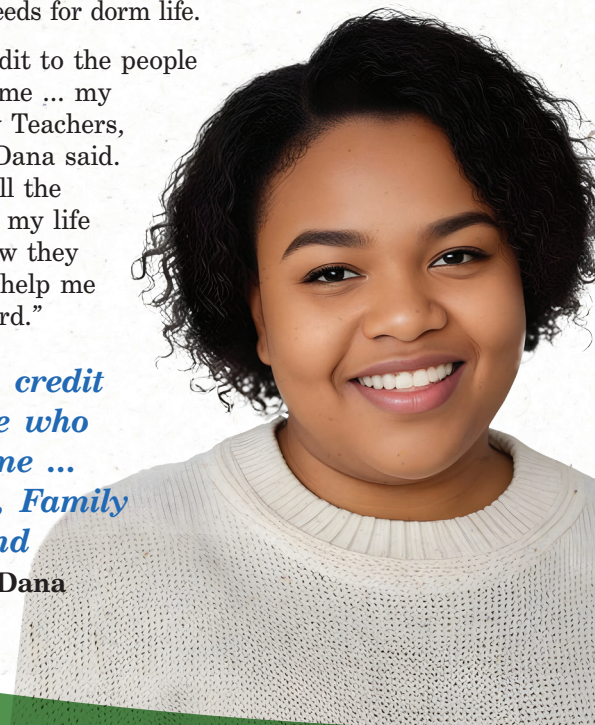
Considering all that she's been through, Dana is one of our walking miracles. Her difficult childhood trauma included physical and sexual abuse, witnessing her parents' substance use and domestic violence, and her father's incarceration. Depressed and withdrawn, she turned to alcohol, self-harm, considered suicide, and eventually fell afoul of the juvenile-justice system. Through God's grace, a judge placed her at our Children's Home.

"I have received the best advice from the staff at the Home," Dana said. "It is the kind of advice that I can use all my life: 'never give up'. Kids here need to work the program. If they do, they will be so much better off than when they came in. I am a good example of that."

After only 15 months here, Dana graduated from our James E. Davis School in May 2024. Dana will study engineering at a two-year college and plans to transfer to another university to attain her Bachelor of Science degree. She is proud to be the first person in her family to attend college. We are proud of her too, and the staff gave her a "college shower" this month to give her everything she needs for dorm life.

"I must give credit to the people who care about me ... my teachers, Family Teachers, and therapist," Dana said. "That is about all the people I have in my life right now. I know they will continue to help me as I move forward."

"I must give credit to the people who care about me ... my teachers, Family Teachers, and therapist." – Dana



Dear Friends,

Happy New Year! At the Children's Home, we're starting 2025 with **gratitude and optimism.**

Gratitude to our volunteers, our staff and our donors for helping us serve 100 teens in 2024, (up from 88 in 2023). Five teens received the gift of the Holy Spirit through baptism. Thirteen achieved a significant milestone—and enhanced their self-esteem—as they graduated from our school. (Read about baptisms and graduation on page 6.) We also awarded five post-secondary scholarships.

Optimism that we will serve even more vulnerable teens and young adults. We are **expanding our residential capacity by 28%** and adding new mental-health wellness services to meet the changing needs of the teens and young adults we serve. This expansion includes our new transitional housing program called *The Independence Project* and our new Recovery Home. (Read about our new Recovery Home in the box below and also on page 1.)

Our Recovery Home will serve students who have already completed substance-use treatment and are currently in recovery from addiction. They will receive services to reinforce their sobriety, including several types of counseling based upon their individual needs. Most will spend three to six months in the Recovery Home before transitioning to one of our other family-style residences, where counseling, academic, and other services will continue.

To date, Indiana only has a handful of recovery homes for teens and the needs are greater than ever. Adding this service to our continuum of care will help our teens through all stages of recovery and will offer them a much more positive path moving forward in their lives. We will bridge the gap between treatment and mainstream society, helping teens ease back into the real world which includes school, employment, relationships and hope for their futures.

We are working diligently to fund these changing needs, and we do so with great **optimism.** We are **grateful** that some have already stepped up with catalyst funding for our new programming.

We know the need is great, we know we are well-placed to address it, and we believe that God will bless every effort to help our teens!

When our teens succeed, Indiana wins. Thank you for your ongoing prayers and support.

Blessings Abound,



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



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

P.S. Our children need all of us! And we need you.

What's a Recovery Home?

- Safe, structured facility for students in the early stages of addiction recovery.
- Secure, supportive bridge between active treatment and returning to normal life.
- Helps students through the difficult first few months of sober living.
- Teaches better behaviors and coping strategies, preparing them for independent lives.

Why a Recovery Home?

- Significant and alarming increases in adolescent addiction in Indiana and US.
- Nearly 63% of our current students have history of substance use disorder.
- Rehab alone isn't enough to provide long-term change, and our behavior strategies are key.
- Indiana has just six licensed Recovery Homes for teens.

What will the Recovery Home look like?

- Being constructed on our Lebanon campus next to our school, with short walk to our chapel.
- Similar to our current family-style homes, with additional space for special counseling and therapy.
- Room for ten boys and girls, ages 14-19, and each will have a private bedroom.
- Homelike setting with shared family-style kitchen.

What services will students receive?

- Help with physical symptoms of addiction (cravings and urges).
- 24-hour specialized adult supervision, and in-house counselors with proven therapies for emotional/mental health support.
- Exercise, nutrition, mindfulness and other supports for a balanced life.
- Spiritual assistance to help students find their purpose.

From Their Voices

We asked our teens to reflect on 2024—their accomplishments or their struggles—and we asked them to think about 2025. What would you like to do? What hopes do you have for yourself? Where would you like to be a year from now? Here are some of the things they said:

"2024 was a great year for me. I graduated from the Home's school. For 2025, I look forward to getting my barber's license. From there, I would like to work in a salon and save enough money for a car. Eventually, I plan on moving into my own apartment."

— **Kenyon**, Age 18

"This year, I look forward to living with my dad once I leave the Home. I think I've come a long way in the last few months, and I never thought I would be able to live with my dad. Things have really changed for the better."

— **Grace**, Age 16

"In 2024, I worked hard on not holding on to the past which was sad. In the New Year, my Family Teachers told me to focus on the future, not the past. So ... that is what I'm going to focus on."

— **Adrienne**, Age 17

"My sister is having a baby this year. I look forward to being an uncle for the first time in my life. I will have to get used to being called Uncle Toby."

— **Toby**, Age 18

You Really Did Make it the Best Christmas Ever!

Thank you for answering our call for help to make 2024 the Best Christmas Ever for the Children's Home teens. Our Giving Tuesday campaign supported many special events including a trip to Christmas at the Zoo. Thanks to matching gifts from Foundation President Mo Thomas we raised \$11,440! That's the most ever!

Family Teacher Daniel Clay said, "We are thankful to all our generous donors from around the state. In addition to Christmas at the zoo, our boys had a special dinner at a Brazilian steakhouse in downtown Indianapolis. They also burned off a great deal of energy at a trampoline park and at an indoor golf range."

The girls in Temple Home were busy every day. They went to the zoo and the Indianapolis Children's Museum. They also went ice skating and watched two new Disney movies at the local theater. Jana, age 16, said, "I was sad to realize that I would not be going home for Christmas. I soon realized that we would be doing so many fun things during the break. Going on those trips and eating at different restaurants really cheered me up."

Family Teacher NaTasha Howell said, "I have been at the Children's Home for quite a while, and I would say that this truly was the best Christmas ever for our girls at Temple Home—they never had a chance to be bored. It was a wonderful Christmas break, and we thank all the donors who supported our holiday outings."



Jake says: "My favorite Christmas activity was going to the Indianapolis Zoo. I loved watching all the animals play."



Tribute gifts

We gratefully acknowledge the following tribute gifts received between July 1, 2024, and December 31, 2024.

To learn more about how you can make a gift honoring a loved one, please contact the Foundation at 317-775-0606 or info@iumchf.org.



Ready to Make a Gift?

Making a tribute gift is a meaningful way to honor your loved one or to celebrate a special occasion. For memorial gifts, we will notify the family about your thoughtful gift; and for special-occasion celebrations, we will inform your loved one of your thoughtful tribute in their honor. **It's simple! Fund your gift with cash, appreciated stock, or with a gift from your IRA.**

In Celebration of

Lucretia Scammahorn
Sheila Smith

In Honor of

Susan D. Bennett

Jackie and Rev. Bill Clayton

President Jimmy Carter's 100th birthday

Dr. Ginny Swift Singer and Don Singer

The Children

Eileen and Dale Rankin

Rev. William R. Clayton
Pamela and John Emly

Rev. Howard Cress
Nancy Frederick-Smith and Rev. Alvin Smith

Marilyn and Daniel F. Evans, Jr.

The Honorable Sarah Evans Barker and Kenneth Barker

Mary Everly's 80th birthday

Kathy and Dr. Steven Hockett

Rev. Jim Ewing

Judy and James Washburn
Methodist Women of Salem - Zionsville

The Foundation Team
Amanda and Mike Ims

Rev. and Mrs. James Gentry

Mary M. Barnes

Danuta A. Gessner
Marian Gillet

Rev. Lore B. Gibson
Jackson Heights UMC - Attica
United Methodist Women

My grandchildren:

Gracy and her Fiance'

Logan, Luke, Jack, Katie,

Michael James (MJ), Matthew, Rhyse and Carter

Carolyn Kennedy

Ruth Ann Grizzle

Methodist Women of Salem - Zionsville

Tina Hand

Methodist Women of Salem - Zionsville

Marilyn and Bob Hart

Roxanna and Larry O'Bryant

100 Years of Hope

Kirk Milburn

Rev. Marsha K. Hutchinson

Suzanne E. Moore

IUMCH dedicated staff & house parents

Carolyn Hathaway

Marin E. Krause

Marlene and Theodore Woodfield

IUMCH 100 years

in Lebanon

Dr. Ginny Swift Singer and Don Singer

Pastor Matt Landry and staff at Castleton UMC - Indianapolis

Rosemary Draga

Sarah F. Leffler

Janice and Samuel Hecht

Norbert Leonard

Anonymous

Phyllis R. Newton

Diana and Don Green
Joanne Solomon

Sharlene K. Ramsey

Methodist Women of Salem - Zionsville

Tim Schnepf

Hershey Elementary School

Student Council - Lafayette

Irma Slack's 100th

birthday

Hannah Christy

Theresa and Gordon Slack

Larna K. Spearman

Angela and Dennis Barlow

Amy and Michael Sullivan

Janet and Gary Taylor

Morris "Mo" E. Thomas, Jr.

Judy and Levar Sergeant

Terri Thomas

Judy and James Washburn

John Hough

Sue and Wayne Weise

Jan and Keith Mast

Pastor Herb Wingard

Bette Jean and Jerry Taylor

In Memory of

Vera June Ayers

Randy Ayers

Rev. Dr. Charles Ballard

Jeanne and Rev. Lang Brownlee

Tara Bond

Donna and James Bond

Erin Elizabeth Bousum

Margaret and Richard Bousum

Richard Britton

Elsie Britton

J. D. "Smoky" Burgess

Jane Burgess

Mr. and Mrs. John Burton

Elaine Routh

Cherrie Butz

Anonymous

Mary Renae Clarkson

Tom Clarkson

Past members of the Christian

Crusaders Sunday

School Class

Castleton UMC - Christian

Crusaders Class - Indianapolis

Mrs. Julietta Coons

Donald Ingram

Lorie L. Coy

Jack Coy

Bishop Mike Coyner

Marsha Coyner

Riley James Craig

Colleen and Colin Craig

Rev. Louis D. Crouch

Anonymous

Rev. Larry Curtis

Sheryl and Scott Spradling

Leonie L. Davis

Susan and Milton Pressler

Sue and Rev. James E. Davis

Ann Boss

Molly Day

Karen Swank

Madeline Deckard

Joseph Deckard

Richard Dickinson

Leigh and Peter Dykema

Kathryn Joan and Dallas Dinger

Mandy and Brett Newman

Betty Dixon

Mary Dixon

Ramona Eisinger

Rev. Richard Eisinger

Jim Engledow

Elaine Engledow

Sue Engledow

Carol and Dr. Douglas Moore

Maude Felker

Carole and Bill McDonald

Sarah Lou Fishero

Theresa and Larry Harmless

Elizabeth Frazier

Cathy and Norman Hinkle

James Gibson

Sylvia Gibson

Charlotte and Ollie Hansen

Kahla Snapp

Jackie and Charles Heck

Sarah and David Tyrrell

John Hiatt

Donna and Philip Stackhouse

In Memory of

Continued

Ricky Howard and

William Howard

Phyllis Howard

Lita W. James

Jean and Ray Gotshall

Betty and Robert Johnson

Anonymous

Carol L. Joslin

Rev. Hurschell Joslin

Rev. John D. Kavich

Chaplain (Lt Col) Eldon Smith, Jr., USAF, Ret.

Our Parents

Donita and Jim Keidel

Sidney L. Kirtley

Lana Kirtley

Mary Catherine and

Marshall Kitterman

Jay Baker

Rev. Douglas Leffler

Marilyn Leffler

Kay E. Lopp

Mt. Zion United Women in Faith - Kentland

Wilford Lutes

Jennie Lutes

Nancy Ellen Matheny

Stanley Matheny

Inez and John McGuire

Rev. Judi and Dr. Jay Marshall

William "Bill" McKinney

Emma L. McKinney

Alice D. Miller

Anonymous

Rev. James Elwood Miller

William Butler

Canal Barge Company, Inc.

Mary Ann Feeley

Rhonda and Tim Hopewell

Bynna Kaulback

Paula and Bob Overman

Andy and Donna Ricketts

Salem Methodist Church - Zionsville

Bob Vore Family

Judy and James Washburn

Fern P. Miner

Jim Miner

Oleta and Fred Nay

Kay and Eric Burkhammer

Donald L. Patton

Anonymous

Jane Ann and Walter

Pickering

James B. Pickering

Martha D. Pulliam

Mary Beth and Douglas

McDaniel

Mildred and Ralph Randall

Rosemary and Dennis Edens

Gertrude M. Ray

Anonymous

Aaron Ricketts

Frances Neidlinger Post 79 - American Legion

Methodist Women of Salem - Zionsville

Judy and James Washburn

Audrey, Marna, Sonny

(Lloyd) Robinson

Sandra and Jon Robinson

Diana J. Roundtree

Tom Roundtree

Nancy Schnepf

Hershey Elementary School

Student Council - Lafayette

Parents

Elaine Shadiow

Audrey and Clayton Sipes

Betty Calhoun

Irma E. Slack

Suzan Clevenger

Elaine and Don Dick

Debbie Dryden

Linda and Ed Langfeldt

Barry Mangus

Linda and John McNeil

Martha A. Smock

Yvonne Achterberg

Diana Black

James Snapp

Kahla Snapp

Anna Belle Spangler

Inessa and Timothy Hansen

Nancy Stallsworth

Lynn and John Casey

Eva Starr

Dr. Ginny Swift Singer

and Don Singer

Susan Stewart

Lee Stewart

Jerald Strawhacker

Joan Strawhacker

Morris and Marcia Sweet

Margie and Steven DeWell

Houston L. Swenson

Anonymous

The Nellie Tangeman Family

Sylvia Abrell

Tom Temple

Connie McDonald

Judy Thomas

Joyce Peterson

W. A. Trinler

Jacquelyn Trinler

Howard, Euleta and

John Turner

Wade Turner

Mr. and Mrs.

James B. Wallace

Scott and Nancy Wallace

William Whitted

Catherine Whitted

Ruth Ann Willis

Ralph Willis

Thank you!

We are so grateful for our tribute gifts and that our donors consider our children's mission a worthy charity to share their love with family and friends.

What inspired Suzanne Moore to make a tribute gift in honor of Rev. Marsha Hutchinson?

"I just love what you do and I believe in how you help children. I wanted to support you more financially this year and wanted to honor Marsha (Hutchinson) because she introduced me to your mission. I'm proud to be her friend."

Suzanne Moore

Five Enter New Year as High School Graduates

On Friday, December 7, 2024, five very hard-working students graduated from our James E. Davis School (JEDS). That doesn't sound like a big graduating class these days, but considering all that these teens have been through, every graduation at JEDS is a triumph.

Many teens at the Home experienced difficult circumstances before they were placed at the Home, and because of that, they are frequently three or four years behind academically than their peers in other schools.

According to JEDS Principal Jim Stuart, "One of my greatest joys is to see the expression on a student's face when I tell them they've earned their high-school diploma.... It is such a privilege to help our students achieve their academic goals."

Each of the five have big plans for the new year: Ezekiel plans to attend IU Indianapolis to study Criminal Justice and hopes to become a police officer. Micah plans to go to a Culinary Arts trade school. Sean wants to be a welder. Daniel will be working full-time and spending more time with his family.

Jean will attend Marian University in the fall of 2025 and will be studying nursing. In her graduation speech, she said, "Personally, I never thought I'd get this far ... and next year, I'm going to college. I know I've messed up a lot over the years, but even when I messed up, and I had lost all hope for myself and my future, I still had those who stood by my side and believed in me—believed in me when I didn't believe in myself—and I'm so glad they did."

"One of my greatest joys is to see the expression on a student's face when I tell them they've earned their high-school diploma...." – Jim Stuart, JEDS Principal



Life Won't Pass Her By



including something that most people take for granted: a driver's license.

One of the biggest barriers to employment is lack of reliable transportation. Though Gloria already had a learner's permit, she had logged almost none of the 50 supervised driving-practice hours required by the Bureau of Motor Vehicles.

Staff worked with Gloria to set goals to earn her driving hours, and she met them. But earning a license also requires 50 hours of one-on-one driving time with staff. Several of our Family Teachers—mainly Caleb Mathis and Joe Deno (pictured)—spent a lot of time in the car with her logging hours while she improved her driving skills.

Gloria passed her driving test and now has her license! Gloria is still living with us, as she works through her treatment plan for substance use disorder.

Gloria came to our Children's Home last August via the juvenile-justice system. When she arrived, she was already 18 and had graduated high school, but she still had many needs. We're helping her in many ways to achieve independence and happiness,

Now that she can drive, she is attending a beauty school. Someday soon, her troubles will all be in the rear-view mirror, and when she looks, she'll see us there cheering her on.

His First Car

Our friend Brayden is our first young adult in *The Independence Project* to save enough money to participate in our First Car Match Program made possible by our donors.

Funds from *The Independence Project* matched his savings to make the purchase possible. He also is purchasing car insurance. He is a very hard-working 18-year-old with great promise (and a very big smile these days). We think he was motivated by cold weather, since he had been walking or riding a bicycle to work.

"We are so proud, and Brayden is too. Thank you to our donors for helping make this wonderful moment of new independence possible," said ***Director of Residential Services Ashley Slaughter.*** ***"It is worth noting that he did just as much for himself as we did!"***

When the Angels Rejoice

It's always a special event when one of our own makes a spiritual commitment. In December, we were privileged to see Rev. Montgomery baptize one of our teens—the fifth baptism in 2024—and he shares this story with us.

"Anne is a teen that fully participates in Chapel every Wednesday evening. It is common to see her singing and clapping her hands to the music. She also requests new Christian music that she and her peers like, and of course, I am glad to get the request because my idea of new music is sometimes much different than our teens!

"Anne was very excited when she was given the opportunity to be baptized. When I checked with her a few hours before Chapel, she was jumping up and down with joy!

"Each of the homes on campus were represented in Chapel that day, and Anne had one of her friends from Meyers Home and a

Family Teacher stand with her. I asked the traditional questions and following the water I said, "The Holy Spirit work within you, that being born through water and the spirit, you may be a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ. Amen."

"Anne has a love for Jesus that is contagious! I have noticed a real softening of hearts. It warms my heart to see the youth singing and clapping their hands to the music, but the big thing is when we say the Lord's Prayer and you can hear them praying along with me. **God is working in this place and in the hearts of our teens.**" – Rev. Perry Montgomery

"Anne has a love for Jesus that is contagious!"



It's Easy to Donate From Your IRA!

If you are age 70½ or older, you can start the new year by helping support the mission of the Children's Home. It's easy when you make a donation from your Individual Retirement Account (IRA). "It's as easy as lifting your telephone," according to Lowell Lowary of Franklin, Indiana.



He started off 2025 by calling his financial advisor to make his donation from his IRA. Lowell thinks of his IRA, "... as a blessing from God ... to pass on to others." Consult your financial advisor to learn how simple it is to donate from your IRA and about your potential tax savings.

For more information contact:

Tom Fagan, Development Director
317-775-0606 | tomfagan@iumchf.org

Save the Date

Annual Auxiliary Program and Lunch

Saturday, April 26, 2025, 10:00 AM
Gress Memorial Chapel, IUMCH Campus
615 W Essex Street, Lebanon, Indiana

The Auxiliary program will feature special music along with updates on *The Independence Project* and new Recovery Home. The program will be inspirational and informative. **All are welcome!** For more information or reservations, contact Susan Bennett at susanb@iumch.org

Soon to Be Blessed and Dedicated

On March 4, the Children's Home will dedicate two apartments and a house for *The Independence Project* (IP). The donated house is being completely renovated and will be the IP's second facility on our campus. The IP, still in the first year of its three-year pilot phase, is designed for young adults—those who have aged out of our program—and want help adjusting to living independently. Please join us for this joyous dedication! If you would like to attend, please contact Tom Fagan at 317-775-0606 for all the details.

To learn more about *The Independence Project*, please scan the QR code at right to watch our three-minute video.



Meet Elise

Before Elise, 17, was placed on our campus, she was surrounded by drugs for most of her life. There was drug dealing in her very own home, and all the turmoil, abuse, and danger that goes with it.

But now Elise says, "[Before] I came to the Home, I could not understand what I did wrong to end up with such a bad life.

"But now, every day, I feel more hopeful about what will come next. Right now, I am working toward graduating from high school. I have learned to take baby steps and not get too worked up about my past life."



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

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

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



*"But now, every day,
I feel more hopeful about
what will come next."*

— Elise