



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Florida United Methodist Children's Home Wins Contract to Build Volusia County Lifeguard Chairs

September 9, 2010 -- The Construction Technology department of The Florida United Methodist Children's Home has been awarded the contract to build 100 lifeguard chairs for the Volusia County Safety Patrol, for Volusia County beaches.

The Children's Home Construction Technology department will share the contract with DeLand High School's Career and Technical Education department, both of which are taught by instructor Rick Hervey. They will deliver 100 chairs by February 2011, and then 15-20 chairs a year thereafter. The Children's Home will receive \$70 per chair, and is specializing in creating the wheels for the chairs, which requires specific machinery.

"It will be a wonderful self-esteem booster for the kids to go out on the beaches and see the chairs and know that they had a hand in building them," says Mr. Hervey.

The Children's Home has 18 foster care and privately placed students working in Construction Technology as part of its Career Development Program.

Currently many Construction Technology students are building hope chests or locker trunks, using 40 sheets of wood donated anonymously by a generous donor. Children and young people often arrive at the Children's Home with all their belongings in just a garbage bag, so building something permanent to hold their belongings, like a hope chest or trunk, has great meaning for them.

Construction Technology students also build Adirondack chairs, stools, and picnic tables for sale to the general public. Pictures and more information are available on the Florida United Methodist Children's Home website at www.allchildrenfirst.org.

Construction Technology is part of the Children's Home overall Independent Living Life Skills Program. The Life Skills Program offers a broad range of classes designed to teach and inspire residents to be confidently capable in skills required to live independently—from changing a tire on a car, to navigating the court system, to understanding parenting, to knowing how to perform basic CPR and First Aid, to

being able to understand the fundamentals of banking from checking/savings accounts, to planning for their financial future.

Career Development ensures the success of all residents by helping them to explore, refine, and fortify their unique individual gifts. Residents of the Children's Home not only gain a competitive advantage in a career field that is constantly seeking a skilled labor force; they are also given valuable skills for life after FUMCH. Utilizing cooperative learning environments, industrial-grade equipment, and highly certified instructors, residents will understand the value of teamwork by working with others to accomplish a common task. The skills learned throughout the program will be used to gain entrepreneurial knowledge and to provide a contribution to the community. Current opportunities include Construction Technology and Automotive Technology, with Cosmetology to be added soon.

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