

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE May 3, 2017 Contact: Mark Cobia Manager of Marketing and Communications 386.668.4774 mark.cobia@fumch.org

Florida United Methodist Children's Home Begins Expansion At Madison Youth Ranch

Enterprise, FL – Florida United Methodist Children's Home has broken ground on two additional buildings at their Madison Youth Ranch. Guest were on hand for the ceremony that recognized the commencement of construction of a Chapel and the Counseling and Support Services Center.

The Chapel will be where the children will attend Sunday services, and will include space for music and other activities. Currently, the children attend a local United Methodist Church for services. The Counseling and Support Services Center will provide the necessary space for our therapist to meet with and treat the children residing at the Youth Ranch, including individual and group sessions. The building will also provide space for tutoring, a clinic, group meeting room, and a tornado safe room in case of inclement weather.

The groundbreaking event was attended by members of the Board of Trustees for the United Methodist Children's Home, as well as staff about 100 donors and supporters. The Madison Youth Ranch, part of the Florida United Methodist Children's Home, was opened in 2014 in Pinetta, Florida. It is located on 300 acres of pristine Florida land that is flush with pine, oak and magnolia trees.

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For more information about the Florida United Methodist Children's Home, please contact Mark Cobia, Manager of Marketing and Communications at 386.668.4774 or <u>mark.cobia@fumch.org</u>.

The Florida United Methodist Children's Home was established in 1908 in Enterprise, Florida on the banks of Lake Monroe. The Children's Home provides services to families and children from childhood to adulthood. Our Residential Care Program provides school-aged children who have been victimized by abuse, abandonment , or neglect with a family-style home environment cared for by loving houseparents, and includes education, counseling, recreation, and ministry opportunities. The Children's Home also provides Foster Care, an Emergency Shelter, an Independent Living Program and early childhood education to the community, and is supported primarily through the generosity of churches with the United Methodist Florida Conference, individuals, and legacy gifts. For more information, visit www.fumch.org.



Left to right

- Elisabeth Gadd, Chief Development Officer
- Rev. Charles Lever, Chairman, Board of Trustees
- Rev. Bob Laidlaw, Board of Trustees
- Kitwana McTyer, President & CEO
- Scott Davidson, Board of Trustees
- Rev. Durwood Foshee, Board of Trustees
- Rev. Bob Gibbs