



FOR IMMEDIATE  
RELEASE  
September 6, 2017

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### **Florida United Methodist Children's Home Prepared For Hurricane Irma**

**Enterprise, FL** – The Florida United Methodist Children's Home completed a review of preparations for Hurricane Irma today. Preparations began last week when it became possible that Irma would make landfall somewhere along the southeastern United States. The current forecast calls for the storm to make landfall in South Florida and then skirt the Atlantic coast, causing high winds and heavy rainfall for the Enterprise campus of the Children's Home and for our foster care families. The Madison Youth Ranch will also be affected, but is located further from the currently projected path. Preparations continue as the Irma's landfall becomes inevitable.

In accordance with its Disaster Plan, the Children's Home maintains ample supplies of food and water for emergencies. In the event that roads become impassible due to high winds, flooding, downed trees or other hazards, the campus will be adequately staffed to maintain supervisory ratios for the children with critical staff prepared to remain on campus until any danger passes. As the storm impacts the campus, all staff and children will shelter in place in accordance with the Disaster Plan and the designated "Code Brown" weather precautions. On the Enterprise campus, water filtration, sewage systems and the on campus commissary's food refrigeration are all protected by 24/7 on-demand power generators. The residential cottages will be supplied by portable generators, connected after the worst of the storm passes. The Enterprise campus has ample power generation to meet the essential needs of the children and staff, with fuel stores sufficient until resupply is available.

The Madison Youth Ranch is also staffed and supplied for the duration of the storm with power backup for its cottages and cold food storage. Cottages on both campuses are equipped with safe rooms, and can provide safety in case of high winds or tornadoes.

The Children's Home also supports foster care families in Hillsborough, Broward, Palm Beach, Volusia and Flagler counties who may have a significant impact from the storm. The Foster Care offices have been in contact with current foster families to verify that each family's emergency plans are in place and that they have the supplies necessary for the duration of the storm.

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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 [mark.cobia@fumch.org](mailto:mark.cobia@fumch.org).

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](http://www.fumch.org).