



VOLUME 27/NO.4

To empower children and families to experience God's love as revealed in the ministry of Jesus Christ.





<mark>Kitwana McTyer</mark> President & CEO Florida United Methodist Children's Home

As I ponder what has happened over the past twelve months, I realize that it has been a year of accomplishments and firsts as well as a year of new beginnings. In terms of accomplishments, we have completed the implementation of the Teaching Family Model (TFM) at both the Enterprise campus and the Madison Youth Ranch. The TFM focuses less on punishing inappropriate behavior and more on actually teaching the children about acceptable behavior options. The results have been clear and unmistakable. Behavior incidents are far less frequent, and our children are doing well enough in school that most of them are on the Honor Roll. Now that is an accomplishment!

While we did evacuate our Enterprise campus for the first time ever, just prior to Hurricane Irma, the real story was how smoothly it went for the children. Our friends at The Methodist Home in Macon took wonderful care of us, and the children behaved very well. Upon their return home, the children pitched in to clean up their home by helping to gather and stack storm debris. It was impressive to see the teamwork between the staff and children as they cleared the campus.

Perhaps the most exciting happenings this year have been the commencement of no less than four construction projects on our two campuses. The majority of the projects are at the Ranch with the Chapel, Counseling & Support Services Center, as well as a warehouse to accommodate materials and supplies. The largest project is the Lamar Louise Curry Early Childhood Education Development Center on our Enterprise campus. Even though we've included an update on all the construction projects in this issue, I encourage you to follow us on Facebook. You'll be able to see all the progress as it happens along with other exciting news about the children and their successes.

It has truly been a year of successes, and a year to be thankful. We are thankful for all of the support that friends like you have given to the children, and for the positive impact that support has made on so many young lives.

Sincerely,

**Kitwana McTyer** President & CEO Florida United Methodist Children's Home



Michael with his First Place ribbon

## YOUNG CRAFTSMEN TAKE TOP HONORS



Kiandre's First Place Chair

Luke took Best Of Show

Three of our young adults made a big impression on the judges at the Volusia County Fair & Youth Show this fall. The annual fair was founded in 1930 to provide a place for youth to learn and show their livestock products. Residents of Volusia County are encouraged to participate in art, photography, music, agriculture, horticulture, home and craft projects. Our youth each entered an Adirondack chair that they constructed in our wood shop on the Enterprise campus. All three of the boys received a First Place ribbon, and Luke's chair won Best of Show.

#### DAY ON CAMPUS COMING MARCH 17

On March 17, 2018, we will be hosting the next Day On Campus at our Enterprise location. The special guests for this event will be the North West, North Central and North East Districts. Day On Campus is our way of saying thank you to the United Methodist Churches as well as the many friends who support the Children's Home

with their generous gifts throughout the year. Stay tuned to our Facebook page for announcements about Day On Campus and other happenings at the Children's Home.

. Success at the children's home

he children in our care come from many different home situations, ranging from dysfunctional to dangerous. The child may have been subjected to abuse, abandonment, or neglect. In any case, they are here because someone has hurt them. And while we can see a great deal of success here at the Children's Home, we do see success defined in different ways.

For each and every child here, we develop a unique care plan to help them address and overcome the trauma they have faced and reach their potential. Because of the difficult backgrounds that our children have, we define success in different ways for each child. Our measures of success will often vary from that of the typical child with whom you are familiar. Academically, many of the children come to us a grade level or more behind in their studies. So when a



child takes a 0.1 GPA to a 2.5, we celebrate. In fact, we had an awards ceremony recently for the 42 students of our Legacy Scholars Academy who made the Honor Roll.



Reeann's (far right) adoption day.

We also measure success in ways that reflect positive behavioral changes. If the child comes to us with a history of behavior issues and referrals at school, then we celebrate when the child finishes an academic term without referrals. Maybe it's as simple as not having an outburst when they're asked to clean their room. For some children, and because of the abusive environment they came from, even this is a big success.

Success can also be seen when a child finds their forever home, and leave us through adoption. These photos show two of our teens who were adopted in the last few months. All of these successes, large and small, can be attributed to the love and support that we receive from you.



The Lamar Louise Curry Early Childhood Education Development Center should open in late 2018.



Preparing the footers for the Lamar Louise Curry Early Childhood Education Development Center.



The new Chapel at the Ranch.



The new Counseling & Support Services Center at the Ranch.

## **CONTINUED GROWTH** AT THE CHILDREN'S HOME

We are currently serving over 500 children each day through our Enterprise campus, Madison Youth Ranch, and Foster Care program. These children include those who are victims of abuse, abandonment neglect, or other dysfunctional home situation. Your support has helped to make a positive impact in many lives across the state. But the need for our services continues to grow. In 2015 (most recent data available):

- Florida had 217,895 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 43,775 were victims of abuse or neglect.
- There were 124 reported child deaths in Florida resulting from abuse or neglect.
- The number of children living in out-of-home care increased 13.2% in comparison to the previous year.

In an effort to serve more children in need, we have several construction projects in the works on both of our campuses.

- Lamar Louise Curry Early Childhood Education Development Center: Expansion of our Early Childhood Education Development program began in November with the groundbreaking of a new 20,000 square foot building that will allow us to serve up to 250 children as compared to the 70 currently served at In As Much.
- **Chapel:** The new Chapel at the Madison Youth Ranch will give the children a place to worship within walking distance of their cottages.
- **Counseling and Support Services Center:** This building will provide much needed space for the therapeutic staff to meet with and treat the children living at the Ranch. It will also provide space for after school tutoring for the children as well as meeting space for staff.

You can be confident that your gifts are making a positive impact in the lives of our children. We truly appreciate your continued support.

*If you are interested in sponsorship opportunities, please contact Elisabeth Gadd, Chief Development Officer, at 386.753.2066.* 

# How To Provide For Your Loved Ones and **Avoid Unnecessary Taxes**

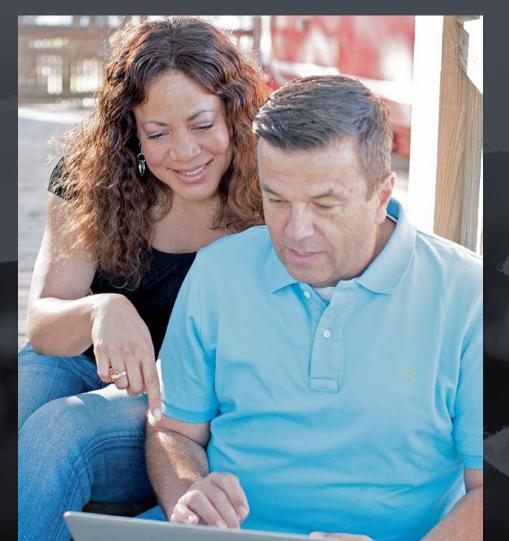
id you know that Americans own several trillions of dollars of wealth in the form of qualified pension plans, 401(k)s, and many other savings plans? These assets are considered as savings for you as an individual and Congress never intended for you to pass these funds along to your heirs.

If you do pass these funds to your heirs, you could be subjecting them to significant taxes on their inheritance. Even if you don't have a taxable estate, the tax rate on these assets could well exceed 50%! To avoid some of these tax issues, consider leaving your retirement assets to fund a charitable gift annuity that will benefit a friend or family member with lifetime fixed payments. Typically, this type of gift is appropriate when the beneficiary is fairly senior and/or would like to receive payments that never change. You can also fund a charitable gift annuity to support your favorite charitable cause like the Children's Home.

A gift annuity is easier and less expensive to establish and administer

than a charitable remainder trust. It also may be funded with a much lower amount. With this plan, usually only one charity is the named beneficiary of the remaining value.

Another option is to fund a charitable remainder trust with your retirement savings as part of your estate plan. It can help provide for your heirs while lessening their tax burden. You could also include charitable gifts in your estate plan. Consider naming a charity like the Children's Home as the beneficiary of your unneeded retirement savings while leaving cash and other investments to your heirs. Why? Charities are tax exempt and, unlike your heirs, will not pay taxes on IRAs and other retirement plans.



If you have questions, or want to learn more about giving retirement assets, contact Jeanne Griffith, Associate Director of Development at 386.668.4774, extension 2234, or at plannedgiving@fumch.org. You can also visit www.fumchlegacy.org.

### FLORIDA UNITED METHODIST CHILDREN'S HOME **ANNUAL SURVEY**

You are a valued partner in the mission of empowering children and families to experience God's love and care as revealed in the ministry of Jesus Christ. In order to be good and faithful stewards of the funds you afford us to support this organization, we would like to hear from YOU! You may also fill out the form online. Go to https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/childrenshomesurvey2017

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What program(s) of the Children's Home is most important to you?

Emergency Shelter
Residential Care
☐ Foster Care
□ Specialized Treatment for Boys
Legacy Scholars Academy
□ Independent Living
Counseling Program

L Early Education Center

Did you know that we have a second residential campus, the Madison Youth Ranch in Pinetta, Florida? 
YES 
NO

Did you know that we now have a K-12 school on the Enterprise campus serving the residents on that campus known as Legacy Scholars Academy?  $\Box$  YES  $\Box$  NO

Did you know that our Independent Living Program serves young adults who have aged out of care until age 26? YES NO

I would recommend the Children's Home to my friends as a cause they should consider supporting.  $\Box$  YES  $\Box$  NO

#### COMMUNICATION

In terms of newsletters and information pieces, do you feel that you receive:

 $\Box$  Right amount  $\Box$  Too many  $\Box$  Not enough

Do you feel that the Herald newsletter provides you with enough information to keep you engaged?  $\Box$  YES  $\Box$  NO

Is there any other information you would like to see?

Do you utili	ze our website?	ΩYE	es 🗆 nc
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Do you follow our Facebook page?  $\Box$  YES  $\Box$  NO

If yes, for what purpose?

General updates	□ Specific program
☐ Make gifts	Reach out to stat

m information ff

In terms of the number of requests to contribute, do you feel that you receive:

□ Right amount □ Too many □ Not enough

If you call/email with a question or concern, do you feel that it is addressed in a timely manner?  $\Box$  YES  $\Box$  NO

Do you have any suggestions on how we can improve communications with you?

Would you like someone to contact you concerning the following opportunities?

☐ Volunteer	Giving	Tou:
□ Scheduling	an In-Kind D	rive

#### **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

Did you know there are individual and group volunteer opportunities?  $\Box$  YES  $\Box$  NO

#### **EXTERNAL OPERATIONS**

Did you know that the Children's Home operates Heart & Home Resale Store, 2460A South Volusia Avenue, Orange City?  $\Box$  YES  $\Box$  NO

Did you know that you can donate items to it and get a tax deduction?  $\Box$  YES  $\Box$  NO

(Optional)			
Name:	Phone No.:	Email:	

Thank you for your willingness to provide vital feedback. You can return the survey in the envelope provided in this newsletter.

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