



FLORIDA UNITED METHODIST
CHILDREN'S HOME



THE

HERALD

SEPTEMBER 2015

VOLUME 25/NO 3.

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



A *word* FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Becky Dotson
President & CEO
Florida United Methodist Children's Home

WE DEPEND ON YOU

"Don't worry about anything, but in all your prayers ask God for what you need, always asking him with a thankful heart." Philippians 4:6

As we move into the final three months of 2015, I am so deeply grateful for all the churches, individuals, groups, and businesses that support the ministry of the Florida United Methodist Children's Home. Being in ministry for at-risk children and youth who come into our care can be difficult, challenging, and expensive. Yet you always respond to the needs placed before you knowing that when we work together in the name and spirit of Jesus Christ, amazing things can be accomplished.

Please pause to read about all the wonderful things that are happening at your Children's Home. I am especially excited about our Legacy Scholars Academy that began in August. Please read about this crucial expansion of our education program on the facing page. Providing a meaningful Christmas for all our residents and foster families is a daunting undertaking and requires months of planning. See how you can help on page 6. September 23, marks the one year anniversary of the dedication of the Madison Youth Ranch. Highlights of the first year can be found on page 4.

In spite of all the difficulty and hard work, it is worth it. Every day we see those small steps taken and little decisions made that begin to add up to a changed life. As long as children and families have special needs that the Children's Home can reach through its unique ministry, we will be on duty 24 hours a day. Thanks for giving, loving, working, and praying for the Florida United Methodist Children's Home.

THANK YOU FOR BRINGING

Summer
FUN



Announcing LEGACY SCHOLARS ACADEMY



Our on-campus school, Aldersgate Academy which operated last year as a private school, has officially partnered with the Volusia County School district and is now called Legacy Scholars Academy (LSA). The school district assigned Stephanie Workman as the school administrator and she oversees the Volusia County School criteria, scheduling, transcripts, credits, graduation requirements and teacher evaluations. Ms. Workman commented, "Volusia County Schools is very excited about our partnership with FUMCH. The students at FUMCH are all our children and we have a responsibility to provide them with an all encompassing support system that will ultimately foster both emotional and academic success."

LSA provides on-campus schooling for our residents, grades K-12th. The classroom ratio remains the same as last year, 8 students to one teacher along with one teacher assistant. We started the school year with four classrooms with a maximum of 8 students to a classroom for a total of 32 students. LSA remains voluntary for our middle and high school students who wanted to attend a smaller school. One elementary classroom was added this year and enrollment is based on need and prior school disciplinary reports. The majority of our residents will continue to go off campus to attend local public schools. By partnering with Volusia County Schools, the Children's Home has access to a broad range of resources including academic specialists, Volusia Virtual School, dual enrollment and the ability to obtain a high school diploma equal to that of their peers in public school.



YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE



We would love for you to prayerfully consider partnering with our Open Hearts Family Services to become licensed as foster parents providing a Godly home for children in need. For more information contact LaShawnda Rainge at 386-668-4774 or lashawnda.rainge@fumch.org. We are currently licensed in Volusia, Flagler, Seminole, Orange, Osceola and Hillsborough Counties.

Madison Youth Ranch

★
CELEBRATING OUR
FIRST ANNIVERSARY
IN MINISTRY



- September 23, 2014 the official dedication ceremony was held with over 750 in attendance.
- Began with 2 resident homes. The Maultsby Home for boys and the Ott Home for girls.
- 49 children and youth have lived at the Madison Youth Ranch during our first year.
- 8 sibling groups have been welcomed. It is a priority to keep families together.
- Young people from age 4 to 17 lived at the Ranch.
- Each month the Ranch receives between 30-40 inquires about placement.
- On May 17, 2015, a new 16'x16' pavilion was dedicated.
- Over 50 tours have been given to individuals and groups interested in the ministry.
- Several mission work teams from across the Florida Conference have worked hard to expand and improve the campus.
- On July 10, 2015, the Stickney Stable for Equine Therapy was dedicated.



Madison Youth Ranch
Groundbreaking Sept. 18, 2012



Madison Youth Ranch
Dedication Sept. 23, 2014

If you are interested in a volunteer opportunity, would like a tour, or learn more about the Ranch, please contact Ruth Moore at (850) 929-3000.

STICKNEY STABLE DEDICATION JULY 10, 2015

The Stickney Stable for Equine Therapy was officially dedicated on July 10, 2015. We are so thankful for all the donors who made this fantastic addition at our Madison Youth Ranch possible. We are currently researching Equine Therapy programs and hope to have the program in place in the next couple of months. Equine therapy has shown remarkable results to help our residents on the Enterprise campus find a sense of healing and wholeness. We look forward to having the program at the Madison Youth Ranch. Pictured are Clyde and Kathy Stickney addressing the dedication.



MISSION WORK TEAMS APPRECIATED

This year, groups of youth and adults have come, or are scheduled to arrive, from the churches and organizations listed below. They represent over 200 volunteers and thousands of hours of volunteer service.



Top: Mission work team from First UMC of Coral Gables; Bottom left: Youth from Arlington UMC in Jacksonville constructing a greenhouse on the Enterprise campus; Bottom Right: Southside UMC of Jacksonville youth working at the Madison Youth Ranch

Ponte Vedra UMC
First UMC, Winter Garden
Trinity Assembly of God, Deltona
NOMADS (2 groups)
Safeharbor Christian Church, Sanford
St. John's UMC, Winter Haven
Summit Church, Lake Mary
Marriott Vacations Worldwide
First UMC, Coral Gables
University City UMC, Charlotte, NC
Santuario Las Escrituras (Scripture Sanctuary), DeLand
Venice-Nokomis UMC, Venice
Florida Conference United Methodist Women 'Mission u'
First UMC, Spring Hill
Arlington UMC, Jacksonville
First UMC, Kissimmee
Harvester UMC, Land O' Lakes
Beymer UMC, Winter Haven
Deer Lake UMC, Tallahassee
Southside UMC, Jacksonville
Orange Park UMC

For information about bringing a work group to one of our campuses, contact Lynn Bellomy at lynn.bellomy@fumch.org



Congratulations

To FUMCH,

I would like to express my appreciation and gratitude for everything FUMCH has done for me throughout the years. Thanks to FUMCH and all the wonderful people I have had the pleasure of meeting, I am the person you know today. FUMCH has given me hope and has inspired me to build a better future for myself. Today, I can proudly say that I'm a college graduate and it's all thanks to FUMCH. I would especially like to thank the Scholarship Committee for giving me an opportunity to have a future without limitations. I will forever be eternally grateful. Here is a picture from one of the happiest days of my life.

*With Love,
Jacqueline*

(She graduated from Seminole State College)

**CAN YOU
HELP?**

Heart & Home
Resale Shop

Our Resale Shop located in Orange City is always in need of assistance. Please consider volunteering to help sort donations, price items, etc. Contact Lynn Bellomy for more information at lynn.bellomy@fumch.org.

Christmas Begins Early at the Children's Home!

WE NEED YOUR HELP

For the past two years, we have changed how we give Christmas gifts. It has proven to be very popular with our residents and much more convenient for churches and groups that support our Christmas effort. Instead of buying actual gifts, we ask that you purchase gift cards. Our children love being able to go to a store and buy exactly what they want instead of filling out a wish list a few months before Christmas.

We request that you please purchase gift cards in any increments of \$10, \$20 or \$25. Especially useful and flexible for our children are VISA, Master Card or American Express gift cards. Other ideas are Target, Walmart and Best Buy (or any other major chain store). Our goal is to be able to give every child in our care \$150.00 in gift cards. We also strive to make Christmas morning special. Each child receives a stocking with small gifts to open on Christmas morning.

In order to prepare our campus for Christmas, we ask that your gift cards arrive before December 7, 2015, if possible. Of course, we are happy to receive donations after that date.



If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact our development office at (386) 668-5088. Again, we thank you for your love and prayers for our children and this wonderful ministry.

SUMMER CAMP FUN

This summer, 33 of our residents were able to enjoy a week of summer camp at our Warren W. Willis United Methodist Youth Camp in Leesburg, Florida. This is always a fun and meaningful week for our kids.

Next summer in 2016, we will be looking for individuals, families and church groups who would be willing to underwrite a week of camp for one or more of our residents. For more information please contact our Development Office at (386) 668-5088.



"Thank you for getting me to camp. I feel like I got closer to God and closer to who I really am."

! IMPORTANT NOTICE

Consider the Florida United Methodist Children's Home as you review your end of the year **Required Minimum Distribution** plans. With a traditional IRA, the account holder must begin taking required minimum distributions (RMDs) by April 1 of the year after he or she turns 70½. These payments are based on the IRS' tables for life expectancy. If Congress again passes the IRA charitable rollover, you can transfer up to \$100,000 directly from your IRA to a qualified nonprofit without paying federal income tax.

For more information visit www.fumchlegacy.org or email plannedgiving@FUMCH.org or contact Jeanne Griffith, Director Strategic Partnerships at 386-668-4774 ext. 2234.

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 <http://goo.gl/forms/ebLNjs0DQz>

PROGRAMS

What program(s) of the organization is most important to you?

- ☐ Emergency Shelter
- ☐ Residential Care
- ☐ Foster Care
- ☐ Specialized Treatment for Boys
- ☐ Legacy Scholars Academy
- ☐ Independent Living
- ☐ Counseling Program
- ☐ 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 some of the residents on that campus known as Legacy Scholars Academy? ☐ YES ☐ NO

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

COMMUNICATION

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

- ☐ Right amount ☐ Too many ☐ Not enough

Did you know that you can receive the Herald newsletter via email? ☐ YES ☐ NO

If yes, would you like to receive it in this format?
☐ YES ☐ NO

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

Is there any other information you would like to see?

Do you utilize our website? ☐ YES ☐ NO

If yes, for what purpose?

- ☐ General updates ☐ Specific programmatic information
☐ Make gifts ☐ Reach out to staff

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? ☐ YES ☐ 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 ☐ Tour
☐ Scheduling an In-Kind Drive

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Did you know there are individual and group volunteer opportunities? ☐ YES ☐ NO

EXTERNAL OPERATIONS

Did you know that the Home operates Heart & Home Resale Store, 2460A South Volusia Avenue, Orange City?
☐ YES ☐ NO

Did you know that you can donate items to it and get a tax credit? ☐ YES ☐ NO

(Optional)

Name: _____

Phone No.: _____

Email: _____

Thank you for your willingness to provide vital feedback. We want your input. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to me (386) 753-2066. You can return the survey in the envelope provided in this newsletter.



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

We'd like to make it right. Help us update our records. Please correct the Herald label with the information below and mail it back to us or email at the email address info@fumch.org or call 386.668.5088.

- ☐ Misspelled name
- ☐ Received more than one
- ☐ Wrong address
- ☐ Remove my name from mailing list
- ☐ Add my email address

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www.allchildrenfirst.org

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FIFTH SUNDAY OFFERING

November 29, 2015

Please remember the
Children's Home!



Keep up to date with everything at the
Florida United Methodist Children's Home
by following us on Social Media.

We are on Facebook, Twitter,
LinkedIn and YouTube.



The Florida United Methodist Children's Home does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, veteran status, marital status, or any other status protected by law except where such protected category is a bona fide occupational qualification (BFOQ), to the extent that someone's needs can be addressed and cared for within the scope of program services with the financial resources of the agency.

FUMCH makes services accessible and available for persons with communication challenges. An equal opportunity employer. Pursuant to Section 286.26, Florida Statutes, any disabled person wishing to access services who may be in need of special assistance should contact diana.griffith@fumch.org at least 48 hours in advance of the service or meeting. If you are hearing or speech impaired, please call FUMCH at (386) 668-4850 (TTY) or the Florida Relay Service at (800) 955-8771 (TDD).

A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION FOR THE FLORIDA UNITED METHODIST CHILDREN'S HOME, A FLORIDA-BASED NONPROFIT CORPORATION (REGISTRATION NO. CH1628), MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE 1-800-HELP-FLA (435-7352) WITHIN THE STATE OR VISITING THEIR WEBSITE <https://csapp.800helpfla.com/cspublicapp/giftgiversquery/giftgiversquery.aspx> REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE.