



FOR IMMEDIATE
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Children's Home Adds Outpatient Therapy Services

Enterprise, FL – In an effort to expand our service continuum to the families and children of Florida, the Florida United Methodist Children's Home is excited to announce the addition of the Circle of Friends Services, (COFS) a non-profit community health provider, as one of our service lines. COFS will celebrate its tenth anniversary on January 6, 2019, and in those ten years has expanded to provide services in ten counties across Central Florida and the West Coast. COFS will continue its rich history of providing excellent service by growing our current continuum at FUMCH to include the following services:

- **Individual/Family Therapy.** Therapists use a combination of individual and family therapy to address the changing needs of the family unit as they progress toward permanency. Therapists are Adoption Competent Trained and have received extensive training in trauma treatment.
- **Infant Mental Health.** Therapists specially trained in working with the zero to five year old population provide early intervention strategies for children as well as their caretakers.
- **Psychiatric Evaluations and Med Management (Seminole and Volusia counties only).** Services are provided by a bi-lingual (Spanish), Board Certified Child Psychiatrist for children and youth 18 and younger.
- **Supervised Therapeutic Visitations.** Therapists mentor parents and children in a therapeutic setting to make visitation part of a healing experience.
- **Comprehensive Behavioral Health Assessments.** All children in the state of Florida receive this comprehensive assessment as the initial step in planning for the child's permanency. The child's developmental, medical, educational and emotional needs are all assessed as a way of developing a meaningful plan for the child's successful future.

"This means that we will now be able to expand our continuum of care and provide much needed services to more children who are dealing with abuse, neglect, and other trauma," said Kitwana McTyer, President and CEO of the Children's Home.

Barbara Defazzio, one of the founders of COFS, will continue to oversee these services as the Vice President of Outpatient Clinical Services, and as part of the Leadership team of the Children's Home.

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For more information about the Florida United Methodist Children's Home, please contact Mark Cobia, Director of Marketing and Communications at 386.668.4774 or 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 Madison Youth Ranch, a second residential location, was added in 2014 in North Florida. The Children's Home provides services to families and children from childhood to adulthood, and is accredited by COA (Council on Accreditation), EAGLE (a program of the United Methodist Association of Health and Welfare Ministries), and is a member of the Alliance for Children and Families. Our Residential Care Program provides care and a family style home for school-aged children who have been victimized by abuse, neglect or family trauma, and provides education, counseling, as well as recreation and ministry opportunities. The Children's Home also provides Foster Care, an Emergency Shelter, an Independent Living Program as well as a Montessori-based early childhood program to the public through In As Much. The Children's Home is supported through the generosity of churches with the United Methodist Florida Conference, individuals and legacy gifts. For more information, visit www.fumch.org.