



FOR IMMEDIATE  
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### **Madison Youth Ranch Visited By Chester C. Weber**

**Enterprise, FL** – Madison Youth Ranch, part of the Florida United Methodist Children’s Home, was visited by Chester C. Weber, the most decorated driver in the United States. The sport of driving involves a competition where horse teams pull appropriately designed carriages through various courses that test the skill of both the driver and his team. Weber’s interest in visiting the Youth Ranch was to learn about the care provided to abused, abandoned and neglected children, including the Equine Assisted Therapy Program.

Tragically, one in five children experience psychological or sexual abuse before the age of 18. As a result of this trauma, they often are not comfortable opening up to a therapist. Equine Therapy can help the child build confidence and trust as a connection with the horse is established. As treatment progresses, the child becomes more comfortable speaking with their therapist and the healing process continues.

“It was a pleasure to welcome Chester to the Madison Youth Ranch,” said Elisabeth Gadd, Chief Development Officer for the Children’s Home. “I was so appreciative of Chester’s obvious care and concern for our children. He appreciated the value of equine therapy as it pertains to helping children overcome the trauma from their past. His expertise in the equestrian arena is also helpful as it relates to how we provide healing and restore hope for our children because he understands the horse to human relationship.”

During his visit, Weber was able to tour the facilities at the Youth Ranch, including the residential cottages, Counseling & Support Services Center, the Chapel, and the pool. He also spent some time in the stable that supports the Equine Assisted Therapy Program. “Chester’s interest and work in helping disadvantaged children spans across the state through his involvement in other children related organizations,” added Gadd. “We look forward to building a stronger relationship that will support children in need of a brighter future.”

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