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### **Children's Home Awarded Accreditation By Teaching-Family Association**

**Enterprise, FL** – The Teaching-Family Association (TFA) awarded certification to the Florida United Methodist Children's Home after completing an initial peer-led on-site review. Since 1975, the TFA has grown out of the demand to replicate the highly effective Teaching-Family Model. The Model was developed specifically for children, youth, young adults and families receiving child welfare services. It has been demonstrated as effective for youth who are at-risk, juvenile delinquents, youth in foster care, and families/parents at risk of having children removed.

The Teaching-Family Model has 40+ years of in-context, outcomes-oriented research evidence. The Model was formally recognized by the American Psychological Association as an evidence-based practice in 2003. It has been proven and is used effectively with children who are having behavioral or emotional problems, depression, anxiety, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), attention-deficit disorder (ADD), attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD), and oppositional defiant disorder (ODD), among other behavioral and mental health issues.

The TFA Accreditation timeline has three steps.

- Development – The developing agency works with a mentoring agency with TFM experience to establish crucial TFM systems and begin using and supporting the Model. This step can take anywhere from several months to several years.
- Review – When TFM systems are in place, the developing agency collects one year's worth of records and program data for inclusion in the initial accreditation application. Time required for this step is one year.
- Initial Accreditation – After one year of data collection, the developing agency submits an initial application for accreditation. An initial peer-led on-site review is scheduled. After the completion of a successful review, the agency receives accreditation status.

“After three years of hard work, we are excited to announce our accreditation with the Teaching-Family Association. This evidence based model of care continues to enhance the lives of our youth by teaching social skills to take beyond their time here at the Children's Home,” said Diahann Suchan, Vice President of Residential Clinical Services at the Children's Home. Receiving full accreditation subsequent to the initial peer-led review is a testament to the hard work and dedication of the direct care staff of the Children's Home. Recertification will not be required until 2022.

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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).