



FOR IMMEDIATE
RELEASE
August 31, 2020

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Children's Home to Assume Operation of Safe Place in West Palm Beach

Enterprise, FL – The Florida United Methodist Children's Home operates an emergency intake shelter on their Enterprise campus as part of the continuum of care provided for children who are the victim of abuse, abandonment, or neglect. ChildNet, a foster care lead agency operating in Palm Beach and Broward Counties, recently asked the Children's Home to assume the operations and management of their emergency intake program called Safe Place. This is due in part because of the experience and expertise in the operation of an emergency shelter, the existing relationship the Children's Home has with ChildNet as well as being a member of Florida Coalition for Children, and the fact that the Children's Home already provides foster care services in those counties.

Last year, ChildNet served approximately 3,500 children in Palm Beach and Broward Counties who came from an environment of abuse, abandonment, or neglect. The number of children in this area and across the state is only expected to grow, and that's why the Children's Home is expanding services in this area. This eight-bed shelter was established to provide meals, clothing, and short term care while a child transitions to a foster home or other appropriate placement. Beginning September 1, the Children's Home will assume the day-to-day operation of Safe Place as we expand our ability to care for youth in South Florida.

According to Diahann Suchan, Vice President of Residential Clinical Services at the Children's Home, "Assuming the operation of Safe Place is a natural expansion of our current skills and resources. In conjunction with our other services, including Foster Care, we expect to be able to provide care for more children than before and help them find the loving home they need."

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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.