



### **Children's Home Received Cloth Masks Donations**

As the effects of the global pandemic continue to set in, the Florida United Methodist Children's Home has joined with churches all over in making the adjustments necessary to respond to it. Not only have we instituted remote working policies for staff who are able to do so and safety protocols for those working on-campus, but we are also practicing social distancing and holding spiritual life activities in wide open outdoor spaces. We are committed to continue providing the highest quality care in the safest way possible. Recently, we received some generous donations that have greatly aided in our efforts to do that: cloth facemasks.

Health professionals around the world have spoken of the importance of wearing a mask in fighting the spread of COVID-19. Valeri Lavin, Registered Nurse and Wellness Services Coordinator at the Children's Home, echoed this information and her gratitude for the donation of cloth masks. "In the absence of the n95 masks, which need to be saved for healthcare workers, these cloth masks help by limiting the transmission of germs to other people," she said. Sharing about their technical functions, she said, "the masks hold in the respiratory droplets, thereby limiting the abilities of illnesses to spread."

Compounding the need for heightened safety precautions are the unique challenges posed by a residential group home setting. Each cottage on our two campuses can house up to eight children and two staff, not to mention the total number of children and staff that make up the remainder of the campus. Even with the newly instituted 6-ft. social distancing guidelines, we must remain vigilant in our efforts to ensure the continued safety of both our children and staff. One of the best ways we can do that is through the practice of wearing masks.

These mask donations, which came from multiple groups across the Annual Conference, have been incredibly helpful to the Children's Home as we continue our efforts to stay vigilant in fighting the spread of the virus. Lavin noted the importance of safety measures for everyone, stating that around 80% of those who were recorded as contracting COVID-19 showed little to no signs. We have had no occurrences of the virus on either of our campuses, nor in any of our ministries, thanks in large part to the masks and our intentional safety protocols. "The children have gotten good at their hygiene habits," said Lavin, "as things have settled into a new normal". Thank you to all of those who made masks for our children and staff, as well as to everyone who has continued to pray for us. We join in praying for you, and are grateful for your continued support.

### **TESTIMONIAL FROM AN ALUMNUS**

"I miss being there. The Children's Home saved my life. Had I not gone there, God only knows what could have happened to me. I met some of the best people that have made some big impacts on me. I miss the Children's Home and wish that I would have taken advantage of being there, rather than hating it so much at the time. It's the one place I was safe. Sure, things weren't perfect, but it was close. I love you all and miss everyone very much. You are all a part of my family."

*(More on back...)*

### Miss Last Fifth Sunday? Not To Worry!

The effects of COVID-19 can certainly be felt all over the world. Yet, in the midst of our collective worry, people have gone out of their way to care for their neighbors. Churches, in particular, have increased the ways in which they already serve their communities. As a ministry of the Florida Annual Conference, we at the Children's Home consider it an honor to care for those in need on behalf of United Methodists around the state. This has been possible because of the support from faithful congregations and individuals. One of our most vital forms of support has been the Fifth Sunday Offering. While some churches were still able to take up the March Fifth Sunday Offering, many churches did not due to the effects of the pandemic. We know that finances have been greatly affected, as we have also experienced that here at the Children's Home.

The next Fifth Sunday Offering is just around the corner, as it will be taking place on May 31<sup>st</sup>. No matter the meeting forum at that time, there will still be an opportunity for you to participate in this important tradition. You will be receiving more information about the upcoming Fifth Sunday Offering soon. If you missed the March Fifth Sunday, you can still support the Home. Simply go to our website at [www.fumch.org](http://www.fumch.org) and click the "DONATE" button. You can also text "spark" to 50155. We want to thank you in advance for your continued partnership, as it is because of you that the Children's Home continues to be a beacon of hope for so many who desperately need it.

### New Horizon Golf Classic Selects New Date

Since the last version of the Link, the state-wide stay at home order has been issued, limiting movement through the month of April. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, efforts have been made on local, state, national, and international levels to help stop the spread of the virus. At the Florida United Methodist Children's Home, we fully support these efforts, and are also committed to doing all that we can to aid in containment efforts. Because of these factors, the New Horizon Golf Classic and silent auction luncheon, originally slated for April 25<sup>th</sup>, has been moved to **Saturday, August 22<sup>nd</sup>**. The event will be held at Jacaranda Golf Club in Plantation Florida, and we will share more details in the coming months. Please contact New Horizon at 954.434.7400 for up-to-date information on the status of the event, as well as for ways you can support the tournament. You can also visit the event page at [bidpal.net/nhgolf](http://bidpal.net/nhgolf) or on facebook at [www.facebook.com/benefit4children/](https://www.facebook.com/benefit4children/). We hope you can join us!

### What Would Your Loved Ones Do Without You There?

With just a little planning, you can have peace of mind knowing you have taken care of your family and secured their future. One of the most effective ways to care for your family is with a current estate plan. Are your plans up-to-date? Here are some questions to consider:

- WHO** is dependent on you for financial support? Are you married? How many children and grandchildren do you have? Do you have any heirs with special needs?
- WHAT** significant life changes have occurred with your family (marriages, divorces, births, deaths, etc.) since you last updated your will or trust?
- HOW** much is "enough," and what is an appropriate inheritance for each heir?
- WHO** will receive your assets? Will it be the people you intend or will your assets be unintentionally distributed to someone else?
- WHAT** else do you really desire for your heirs beyond money – college education, social responsibility, etc.?
- WHAT** charitable institutions have been most important to you, and do you want to include them in your plans?

A current estate plan is vital to making sure your wishes are carried out. It can also help you leave a lasting personal legacy.

While each family's situation is different, there are some planning strategies that can help you provide for your heirs and leave your legacy. It's easy to get started. To assist you with making or updating your future plans, we can provide you with our FREE *Planning Your Legacy* wills guide. Many of our supporters have found this guide useful in helping them think through their goals.

For more information, contact Elisabeth Gadd, Chief Development Officer at 386.753.2066, or at [plannedgiving@FUMCH.org](mailto:plannedgiving@FUMCH.org). You can also visit [www.fumchlegacy.org](http://www.fumchlegacy.org).

### Current Resident Needs

**\*Note: In-person donations are currently on hold until the safer-at-home order is lifted\***

- Twin size comforters
- Male deodorant
- Male hair brush
- Toothpaste
- Tampons
- Washcloths
- Towels