



THE LINK

to the Florida United Methodist Children's Home

Vol 29 . No. 12

December 2020

Last Call For the Christmas Gift Card Drive!

We have been so grateful for the outpouring of support through our annual Christmas gift card drive. This drive gives us an opportunity to show God's love through gifts – during both a season in which gift-giving is especially celebrated, and a pandemic in which good news and generosity are desperately needed. If you would like to give gift cards for the Children's Home, it's not too late! **You can send in a check to the Children's Home and designate it for gift cards.** For any questions, or if you would like more information about donations, please contact our development office at 386.668.5088. Thank you for all that you do to support children and families, and we pray you and yours have a blessed Christmas.

Deadline For 2020 Church Giving

We are incredibly grateful for your generosity to the Florida United Methodist Children's Home during the Advent and Christmas seasons. We are especially thankful for the selfless generosity shown by so many during such a difficult COVID-19 season. The Children's Home would not be able to care for the children and families we do without your support!

In order for the timely close of our 2020 financial books, please ensure that **all 2020 gifts are postmarked no later than December 31, 2020.** This will allow us to quickly prepare and publicize the 2020 Church Giving Report, as well as close out our 2020 financial records. All gifts sent to us that are postmarked after December 31st will be counted with your 2021 church giving. For any questions, please contact our Development department at 386.668.4774 ext. 2295. Thank you for your continued support of the Children's Home!

LCR Records Update

The Local Church Representative (LCR) plays a vital part in connecting the Florida United Methodist Children's Home with the local church. As we finish out the year, we want to make sure our records are accurate. If there has been a change of LCR at your church, we ask that you contact us to confirm. Even if a change has been indicated to the Conference through your charge conference forms, it is likely that we aren't aware of it until contacted by either the pastor or someone from the church. This can present a significant delay in the transmission of communication to the new LCR when we are not advised directly of the change. Please give us a call so that we can ensure the right person gets the important information about this important ministry! You can email Rev. Ryan Frack at ryan.frack@fumch.org, or call 386.668.4774 ext. 2222.

(More on back...)

Local Church Representative Workshop

To help new Local Church Representatives (LCR) acclimate themselves to the role, as well as to connect with seasoned LCRs and share updates about the ministry, the Florida United Methodist Children's Home typically holds a number of in-person LCR Workshops at the beginning of the year. This year has certainly not been typical, so our 2021 Workshops will look a little different. Instead of in-person Workshops, we will be holding a virtual LCR Workshop in the Spring. While we will miss seeing everyone in-person, this format will allow us to engage with LCRs and share about the ministry of the Children's Home, and discuss roles and responsibilities of the LCR in the church. We will keep you updated on the details of the event as we get closer, and hope you will then make plans to join us online!

Testimonial From a Parent

"As you can tell, we have all worked very hard over the past year, but the one who has worked the hardest is my daughter. We are so very proud of all that she has accomplished here. She now believes in herself and has the self esteem to go forward. I believe that her educational success is due to the relationship the Children's Home has with the school system on all levels. She has brought home some of the best grades she has ever made in her entire school career. With her new socialization skills, she has made many new friends, both at school and at the Children's Home. There is a new found respect for herself and others and she chooses her friends more carefully now.

"We are a family again and she has grown into a lovely, caring young lady. But most of all, she is a pleasure to be with and we are sharing our love and finally having fun together. In other words, our dream has come true in the way of a miracle. I would like to thank God, along with all of the supporters of the Children's Home and all the dedicated staff who worked with our daughter and gave us that precious thing called family."

Smart Ideas for Year-End Benefits

As the end of the year approaches, you may be looking for ways to save on taxes and end the year well. The following strategies can provide you with tax savings and allow you to make a significant gift to support the Children's Home this year:

Outright gifts of appreciated assets – Gifts of appreciated assets such as real estate are an excellent way to help our ministry. You can receive an income tax deduction, based typically on the asset's fair market value.

Life insurance gifts – Making a gift to us of your old, unneeded, or obsolete life insurance policy can provide you with a charitable tax deduction and reduce your taxable estate.

Charitable life income plans – If you own low-yielding assets and are seeking a higher income, a charitable life income gift such as a charitable gift annuity or charitable remainder trust may be worth exploring.

To learn more, contact Elisabeth Gadd, Chief Development Officer, at 386.753.2066, or at plannedgiving@fumch.org. You can also visit www.fumchlegacy.org for more tax saving ideas.

Current Resident Needs

- Toothpaste
- Male deodorant
- African American hair products (Cantu)
- Bath towels
- Wash cloths
- Female body wash
- Axe body wash and spray
- Dish cloths