



THE LINK

to the Florida United Methodist Children's Home

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Support the New Horizon Golf Classic "FORE" the Children Silent Auction

We want to thank you all for your continued support as we have adjusted to the new realities of COVID-19. While the golf committee made every effort to continue the New Horizon Golf Classic, recent developments have determined that this year's tournament will not take place as it has each year. Instead, the event will be limited to a virtual silent auction, which has become a very popular part of previous tournaments.

The silent auction will be conducted through the event's Bidpal page, with items being accessible starting on August 10th. Individuals can start bidding on August 22nd, and the virtual auction will conclude on August 23rd. Proceeds from the silent auction will benefit the Foster Care Services of the Florida United Methodist Children's Home. Our Foster Care serves Broward and Palm Beach counties, as well as other counties across the state. Please contact New Horizon at 954.434.7400 for more information on the silent auction. You can also visit the event page at <https://one.bidpal.net/nhgolf/welcome>. We hope you can participate!

Summer Camp

Although we at the Florida United Methodist Children's Home were hoping for the opportunity to send our children to the Warren W. Willis Camp in June, the pandemic led to the Camp closing its doors this summer. As such, we created an opportunity for the children to attend summer camp on campus. Summer camp has always been a highlight for children at the Children's Home. Thanks to the incredible generosity of the Simpkins Family Foundation, which funded and enabled the vision for this year's special summer camp experience to happen. The Foundation has also provided for some special activities to happen in the fall. Our Spiritual Life and Recreation departments designed an altered camp experience for our children, called Camp Rona. We felt confident that we would be able to put it on with all of the guidelines and safety precautions needed and still give the children an opportunity to grow. Our children and staff from the Madison Youth Ranch also came down to Enterprise and took part in the week-long camp. Once again, we are so grateful for the Simpkins Family Foundation!

The theme for the week was water and how God used water to provide for God's people and provide new life. Daily activities began at 9am and concluded around 3pm, just in time for the afternoon thunderstorms. The mornings began with devotions (similar to praise time at traditional summer camp), and each day included swim time. All of the activities were based around that theme, reminding people that God is with us. Daily themes included: messy, Olympics, nature, water, and game shows. Rev. Madeline Luzinski, the Director of Pastoral Care at the Children's Home, spoke of the impact of the week. "We wanted the week to feel very special, as if the children had actually left campus and gone to camp," she said. "The fact that they were able to do so many things outside of their normal routines, and to join with our children and staff from Madison, really made the week an energizing experience and a wonderful opportunity to reset."

Another special aspect of the week came courtesy of Community United Methodist Church in Casselberry, which provided for our July 4th celebrations: an ice cream party and a July 4th party. Following the children's participation in messy games, they were treated to an ice cream party outside. Both children and staff appreciated the opportunity to get cooled off, and both the ice cream and toppings were a huge hit. Then on Thursday we had the July 4th party by the pool. The kids enjoyed fried chicken, coleslaw, and watermelon, and then were able to play in the pool before the rest of water day. Thank you, Community UMC, for your continued support!

(More on back...)

Back To School Donation Drive

As the Florida United Methodist Children's Home enjoys the beginning of summer and our students have begun their participation in our annual Summer Fun program, preparations are already being made for the 2020-2021 school year. While the landscape for this school year still remains to be seen, we know that providing our children with the high quality education they desperately need will continue to be one of our highest priorities. A substantial way we meet this need is to ensure we have the supplies required to make this a reality. The Children's Home has been blessed by countless individuals, churches, and groups who continue to support us in so many ways. Donations are a vital part of our ministry, as they enable us to better serve the children. We have included a list of our school needs, and ask that you and your church take up a back-to-school drive to help as we prepare to serve our students' educational needs for the 2020-2021 school year. For any questions, please contact our Volunteer Relations Supervisor Lynn Bellomy at lynn.bellomy@fumch.org or 386-668-4774 ext. 2321. Thanks for the many ways you continue to support the children.

Make the Most of Your Options

Everyone with a life insurance policy knows you can name a spouse or child as a beneficiary. You may not know that you can also name a charitable organization such as the Florida United Methodist Children's Home as a beneficiary and benefit from a tax deduction. A gift of life insurance is a wonderful way to support our work at a fraction of the cost of other gifts. If you would like more information about how making the Children's Home a beneficiary on your life insurance policy, contact Elisabeth Gadd, Chief Development Officer, at 386.753.2066, or at plannedgiving@fumch.org.

Current Resident Needs

- Toothpaste
- Sunscreen (SPF 50)
- Bath towels
- Wash cloths
- Male hair brushes
- Male deodorant
- Male conditioner
- Cantu products (shampoo, leave-in conditioner)

Testimonial From an Alumnus

"Before I came to the Children's Home, I had gone from therapist to therapist to work through 7 years of abuse. I became so depressed that I didn't even want to decorate our Christmas tree. The slightest criticism made me feel worthless and soon I felt that I didn't deserve to live. I was a mess. I had over 2,000 scars on my body and spent a total of 4 months in different hospitals. My GPA dropped from a 4.2 to a 0.3. But that was before I came to live here at the Children's Home.

That is not to say that I didn't have my ups and downs, and there were a lot more downs in the beginning – just ask my houseparents. But through all the stuff I put my family and my houseparents through, I finally learned to give up and let go. And then one day, just as easily as it sounds, everything completely changed. I sat and cried and talked to God until I had told Him everything I wanted and needed in this life. Then I told Him what I was going to do to get there. That was the moment when everything changed. I had given my life to the Lord and I let go of all my anger and sadness and moved on.

There have been many changes and "firsts" during my time here at the Home that I never expected to experience while living here. And as I become closer with the Lord I feel more and more compelled to work in the ministry field. There are a few times in a person's life when they are completely surrounded by absolutely amazing people. Living at the Home is one of those rare and lucky times. Whether it was my houseparents or other cottages, someone was always there for me to fill the void when I longed for my family.

To all the girls in my cottage, you have taught me so much, and it has been a blast. Looking back even the drama was fun. Among the hundreds of important things my stay at the Home as taught me is that there is a plan for every life, a purpose and meaning for everything and for what it's worth, I am sadder to be leaving here than I was to be coming here."