



THE LINK

to the Florida United Methodist Children's Home

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Brandy's Story: A Snapshot Into the Independent Living Program, Serving Young Adults

Not only does the Florida United Methodist Children's Home serve children and families, but we also care for young adults after they turn 18. Brandy has been a part of our Independent Living program for about a year. She had previously spent some time without a home, and in a toxic relationship. After being referred to the Children's Home, she has grown in amazing ways. You can view this most recent Fifth Sunday video on our YouTube.com channel, and watch as Brandy shares about what her time in the Independent Living program here has meant to her. The growth she has experienced has not only helped her, but it has also made her a better mother to her six year-old daughter. We also have a longer version of the video available as well.

We are excited about the incredible work that God is continuing to do in Brandy's life, as well as in the lives of other children and young adults. This is due in large part to your continued support. The Fifth Sunday Offering celebrates the incredible connection between the Children's Home and the church. We ask you to please share this video with your congregation as you take up the November Fifth Sunday offering. Thank you for your ongoing support for our ministry to children and families.

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. As a reminder, we ask that your gift cards arrive before **December 4th**, if possible. Of course, we are happy to receive donations after that date.

Because of the campus-wide COVID-19 safety precautions we have put in place, any in-person drop offs will probably look a bit different this year. We will be accepting Christmas gifts, but ask that you call our development office at 386.668.5088 in advance to schedule a drop-off and receive current protocols. If you have any questions or would like more information about gift donations, please contact us. Again, we thank you for your love and prayers for our children and this wonderful ministry.

(More on back...)

Day of Service

At the Florida United Methodist Children's Home, we are proud to be a part of the communities in which we serve. On October 21, children and residential staff went out into our Enterprise/Deltona community to give back through service. "We talk regularly about the importance of our children giving back to others," said Betty Cesar, Program Coordinator in our Spiritual Life Department. "The additional goal of an event like this is to give people in the community, many of whom may not normally have much interaction with our children, an opportunity to engage with them in a positive way. We know that their backstories don't tell the full stories of the children, so we are grateful for any chance for people to learn more about our children. They love to serve."

The pandemic certainly necessitated a need for a change of plans, since we couldn't gather as a large group. The kids worked in smaller, socially distanced (and masked) groups and everyone had a great time. Teams performed a wide range of service acts for others that included weeding, cleaning, planting, and lots more. Organizations that our children and staff helped ranged from churches and schools to other civic entities within Enterprise, Sanford, and Deltona. We want to say a special word of thanks to our site hosts for their hospitality in receiving us, even in a pandemic! To everyone who supports the Florida United Methodist Children's Home, thank you for creating opportunities for our children to come to know a God who calls them to care for others.

Testimonial From an Alumnus

"I have realized that I would not be as successful as I am today in my life without the Florida United Methodist Children's Home. The reason I came to the Home was because I lost my mother when I was 14 from cancer, and my father and I are not very close to each other. I knew I needed to live in a residential facility with counseling available. I am so grateful for the Children's Home because they have helped me in so many ways. With the wonderful counseling I received, I also met incredible staff members. I wanted to take the time to let you know how much the Children's Home has helped me in becoming a successful adult today. I am sure there are many young ladies out there who could benefit as I did."

Required Mandatory Distribution

Once a person reaches 70 ½, they are required to withdraw a minimum amount from their IRA. This required minimum distribution (RMD) is a certain percentage that must be taken. Some people don't need the money, so they can consider giving to a charity of their choice.

With the full economic impact of COVID-19 still to be seen, we know the importance of making your money go as far as possible. Instead of paying more in taxes, those that are 70 ½ can roll over up to \$100,000 from your IRA to the Florida United Methodist Children's Home. The transfer will not be taxed, and it counts against the required distribution.

For more information, contact Elisabeth Gadd, Chief Development Officer, at 386.753.2066, or at plannedgiving@FUMCH.org. You can also visit www.fumchlegacy.org.

Current Resident Needs

- Adult toothpaste
- Male deodorant
- Bath towels
- Male and female hair brushes
- Axe body wash and spray
- Girls' body wash
- Craft kits for teenagers
- UNO card games
- Cantu hair products (shampoo, conditioner)
- Men's socks
- Boxer shorts, sizes S and M
- Ear buds
- Headphones