



THE LINK

to the Florida United Methodist Children's Home

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Children's Home Gift Card Information Is Here

As Fall is upon us and we move closer to Christmas, we are happy to share with you that our annual Christmas gift card drive will again take place for the children at the Florida United Methodist Children's Home. This drive gives us, as a connectional ministry, an opportunity to show God's love through gifts. We ask that you again consider purchasing gift cards to be distributed across our ministry to give to the children we serve.

Because our houseparents and therapists know our children well, they will actually go shopping for gifts using a portion of the gift cards. These gifts will be wrapped and placed under the Christmas tree to be opened on Christmas morning, along with a few gift cards that will allow the youth to go shopping. Our goal is to be able to give each child \$150 in gifts and gift cards. If we surpass this goal, any additional gift cards will be used after Christmas to purchase needed items for the children throughout the year.

We would be most grateful for the purchase of gift cards in increments of \$10-\$100 to major chain stores and restaurants (larger increments preferred, if possible). Especially useful and flexible cards for our children include Amazon, Visa, Walmart, Kohl's, and Gamestop gift cards. Popular restaurants our houseparents like to treat the children to over Christmas break include Darden Brands and Papa John's Pizza. We also strive to make Christmas morning special by giving each child a stocking made by friends of the Children's Home.

In order to prepare our campus for Christmas, we ask that your gift cards arrive before **December 4th**, if possible. Of course, we are happy to receive donations after that date. Helpful Hints:

We have included a gift card donation form to be included with your gift card donation. The donor information is optional, but we do need the different types of cards and different denominations listed out. This will allow us to process the cards correctly when they come in. It is important that we receive this form back with your donation.

We also ask that, if not done so already, the gift card denomination be written somewhere on the gift card.

Please include a gift card receipt with each gift card, as this will help us with processing the gift cards.

For those who collect cash donations as part of a group contribution, we ask that you consider purchasing gift cards in increments of \$50.

If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact our Development Services Team at 386.668.5088. Again, we thank you for your love and prayers for our children and this wonderful ministry.

(More on back...)

Happy Pastor Appreciation Month!

October is designated as Pastor Appreciation Month, and this is certainly something that resonates with us at the Florida United Methodist Children's Home. Clergy are faithful to God's calling on their lives to lead the church, which can come at a tremendous cost to them and their families. They seek to welcome others to a liberating relationship with Jesus, and call the church to embody faithfulness in all that it does. This work is unending and often thankless. Our clergy embody our call as a church to give of ourselves in order to be a part of God's Kingdom on earth, even during a pandemic!

The Children's Home is so grateful for the countless men and women who serve ministries across the state and beyond, both during Pastor Appreciation Month and beyond, and we want them to know how much we appreciate them. It is through their faithful championing of the Children's Home, and yours alongside them as well, that we are able to serve the way that we do. Thank you, pastors, for all that you do!

Testimonial From an Alumnus

"I am writing this letter in an effort to let you know, in the midst of my past lonely and hard times, how much your assistance was appreciated. I would like to first thank you for having faith in me. This gave me the motivation to want to make everyone proud of me. Secondly, you gave me a lovely home that I could call my own. This gave me a sense of security and comfort knowing that I could sleep safely and not have to worry where my next meal was coming from. And last but not least, you gave me love. There are many things on this earth that can be appraised, but love is simply not one of them. It is wonderful feeling to know you're loved. I can gladly say I felt loved. Thank you."

Why Give to Our Endowment?

The purpose of an endowment fund is to financially sustain the mission and work of a charitable organization. The principal of an endowment is kept intact and only the annual earnings, typically income and a portion of the capital growth, are used to fund current needs. The Children's Home has established its endowment so that we can continue to carry on our important work in the years to come. You can make a significant contribution to further our mission...and it's easier than you might think. Here are a number of charitable giving and estate planning strategies that can benefit you and build our endowment.

A bequest is one of the easiest gifts you can make to sustain our endowment. To most people, the most familiar type of bequests are gifts made through a provision in a will or trust. You can make a bequest of a dollar amount, a specific asset, or a percentage of or the residue from your estate. Our supporters like the fact that bequests are gifts that are made through an estate plan and are revocable, meaning you still have the opportunity to change your mind. Please contact Elisabeth Gadd, Chief Development Officer at 386.668.4774, extension 2349, or at plannedgiving@FUMCH.org. You can also visit www.fumchlegacy.org.

Current Resident Needs

- Toothpaste
- Male deodorant
- Bath towels
- All-in-one body wash for boys
- Hair conditioner
- Nair
- Body lotion
- Cantu hair products (shampoo, leave-in conditioner)
- Men's socks
- Boxer shorts, sizes S and M