



# THE LINK

to the Florida United Methodist Children's Home

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## **Children's Home Assumes Operations of Safe Place in West Palm Beach**

The Florida United Methodist Children's Home operates an emergency intake shelter on their Enterprise campus as part of the continuum of care provided for children who are the victims of abuse, abandonment, or neglect. ChildNet, a foster care lead agency operating in Palm Beach and Broward Counties, recently asked the Children's Home to assume the operations and management of their emergency intake program called Safe Place in West Palm Beach. This is due in part because of the experience and expertise in the operation of an emergency shelter, the existing relationship the Children's Home has with ChildNet as well as being a member of Florida Coalition for Children, and the fact that the Children's Home already provides foster care services in those counties.

Last year, ChildNet served approximately 3,500 children in Palm Beach and Broward Counties who came from an environment of abuse, abandonment, or neglect. The number of children in this area and across the state is only expected to grow, and that's why the Children's Home is expanding services in this area. This eight-bed shelter was established to provide meals, clothing, and short term care while a child transitions to a foster home or other appropriate placement. Beginning September 1, the Children's Home assumed the day-to-day operation of Safe Place as we expand our ability to care for youth in South Florida.

According to Diahann Suchan, Vice President of Residential Clinical Services at the Children's Home, "Assuming the operation of Safe Place is a natural expansion of our current skills and resources. In conjunction with our other services, including Foster Care, we expect to be able to provide care for more children than before and help them find the loving home they need."

## **Mims Mullet Festival Golf Tournament is On!**

For nearly a decade, the Mims Mullet Festival Golf Tournament has attracted golfers from around the state to support our ministry to children and families in need. We are very excited to share that the 9<sup>th</sup> annual Tournament will take place on October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2020 at the Indian River Preserve Golf Club. Registration begins at 7:00am, followed by a shotgun start at 8:30am, and a luncheon to close the day.

Proceeds for the tournament will be given to the Florida United Methodist Children's Home and the Florida Baptist Children's Home. Costs are \$65 for an individual golfer, or \$260 for a foursome, and they include a round of golf, participation in the luncheon, and much more. There are sponsorship opportunities available as well, to advertise your business or even honor an individual. Not only do these allow people to support the mission, but they also accommodate those who are unable to attend the event. Please spread the word to any golfers you know, as well as anyone who wants to support ministries to children/youth in need. Please see the attached registration form. The Mullet Festival Facebook page can be found at <https://www.facebook.com/MimsMulletFestival/>. For advance tournament registration or more information, please e-mail [mulletgolf@rocketmail.com](mailto:mulletgolf@rocketmail.com) or call Sid Champaigne at 321.863.9558.

*(More on back...)*

## Dance Classes Expand!

Not only does the Florida United Methodist seek to provide healing from the traumatic experiences of children, but we also seek to create opportunities for them to cultivate skills, relationships, talents, and passions. From the culinary arts program to the running club, these efforts help us to better develop the full person within those we serve. A program that has always been enjoyed by children is dance, which has evolved over the years to reflect the interests and needs of our current census. Dance is one of the ministries offered through our Spiritual Life program, and is housed in our newly renovated musical suite. Like in most churches that offer a similar ministry, this program creates yet another opportunity for the children we serve to grow in their faith. Lately there has been so much interest in dance that we have begun offering two classes - one ballet and one hip hop. In both cases, the children receive instruction in the basics and have a great time. We are grateful for any opportunity that our children have to experience normalcy, along with the ways that dance is creating fun ways for them to connect with God and one another.

## A Bequest is a Wonderful Way to Support the Children's Home

There are many reasons why you might consider making a charitable bequest. A bequest is one of the easiest gifts you can make to significantly impact our work. Your estate planning attorney can include a provision in your will that leaves a lasting gift to Florida United Methodist Children's Home. Your bequest could be a gift of specific assets, a dollar amount, or a percentage of your estate. A bequest could also be made from the residue of your estate or what is left after all have been made to your heirs.

To learn more about strategies and tools that will help you plan for your family, contact Elisabeth Gadd, Chief Development Officer for the Children's Home. You can reach her at 386.753.2066, or at [plannedgiving@fumch.org](mailto:plannedgiving@fumch.org). You can also visit [www.fumchlegacy.org](http://www.fumchlegacy.org) to learn more.

## Testimonial From an Alumnus

"I was a resident at the Children's Home on a couple of occasions. First in 6<sup>th</sup> grade and then again in 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade. I am 28 years old now and living in Pennsylvania with my husband, who was also a resident. We have 3 beautiful children. Neither one of us left the Children's Home on the greatest of terms, but I believe God put us there for a reason. We still have a wonderful relationship after all these years. We were friends back then and are now raising a family.

Our oldest daughter is 10, and she is in the gifted program at school, attends Girl Scouts, and the church youth group. Our other daughter is 9, and also attends the same activities. They are A honor roll students, and are involved in the band at school. Our son is 2. He is perpetual motion. My husband has a good job, which brought us to Pennsylvania, allowing me to stay home with the children. Both of our lives faced difficult times after leaving FUMCH. But we pulled it together and I attended some college courses and worked for most of those years. My husband went back for his GED and now is working hard to provide for his family.

We have both mended relationships with our family, especially our mothers. As we have grown older, we have grown closer. I wanted to write this letter because I often think of the houseparents and staff that had an influence on my life. Would love to hear from you or anyone who remembers us if they are still there."

## Current Resident Needs

- Toothpaste
- Male deodorant
- Lotion sunscreen/sunblock spf 50
- Bath towels
- Washcloths
- Hair conditioner
- Cantu hair products
- Men's socks
- Boxer shorts, sizes S and M