



THE LINK

to the Florida United Methodist Children's Home

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Christmas Wish List and Gift Card Information

As Christmas moves closer, we are excited to provide information for our Christmas gift card drive. This drive gives us, as a connectional ministry, an opportunity to show God's love through gifts. The Christmas season is a time that reflects and celebrates both gift-giving and generosity. We ask that you again consider purchasing gift cards to be distributed across the Children's Home ministry to give to the children we serve.

The houseparents and therapists will utilize a portion of the gift cards to purchase personalized gifts for our children. The gifts will be wrapped and placed under the Christmas tree to be opened on Christmas morning. The children will also receive some gift cards on Christmas morning, which 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.

It is most helpful for gift cards to be in increments of \$10 to \$100 to major chain stores and restaurants. Especially useful and flexible gift cards for our children include Amazon, Visa, Kohl's, Wal-Mart, Epic Theater, and GameStop gift cards. Popular restaurants our staff like to treat the children to over Christmas break include Darden Brands, Papa John's Pizza, Applebee's, and Chili's restaurants. 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 3rd**. 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 know of multiple gift cards from the same donor, please list them together on subsequent lines.

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

October is a Fifth Sunday Month

The Fifth Sunday Offering remains our largest source of church funding, and is a vital component to the ministry here at the Florida United Methodist Children's Home. From the early days of our founding, the dedicated support of faithful churches has sustained the work done here. We ask that your church once again take up a special offering for the Children's Home on the fifth Sunday of October. We will soon be sharing a video with you to play at your church, or on whichever virtual platform you choose. Thank you for your continued support of the Children's Home!

Current Resident Needs

- Wash cloths
- Bath towels
- Cantu brand hair products
- Toothpaste
- AAA batteries

(More on back...)

Testimonial From an Alumnus

To fully put into words how the Florida United Methodist Children's Home transformed my life for the better as a child and shaped me into the man I am today would be simply impossible. I first heard of the Children's Home at age 10. My mother was struggling as an addict and as a single mother with five children. A few months later and I was on my way to live at the Children's Home. Prior to my arrival, I was exposed to extreme poverty, parents with drug and alcohol addition, and mental, physical, and emotional abuse. I was such a lost, confused, and hurt child. I loved my family despite what I went through and just felt so guilty and alone. I acted out a lot when I first came to the Children's Home: temper tantrums, uncontrollable crying, etc. But they changed me. They offered weekly therapy, an education center with tutors, daily recreation, mandatory study hour, chores, behavioral reinforcements and reasonable consequences. Most importantly, food, shelter, safety, and people who listened and validated my feelings. They loved me. By age 12, everyone including myself noticed a change. I took the hurt of my past as a reason to do better than anything I ever experienced. I poured myself into my schoolwork and living by the motto, "Life is what you make it." I excelled in my schoolwork and decided to enter the dual enrollment program which allowed me to go to college and high school during my Junior and Senior year. I also worked part-time during high school. I decided as a child that I am capable of anything that I put my mind to, and that nothing of my past can stop me from achieving my goals. In fact, it pushed me to fight even harder. I thank the Children's Home from the bottom of my heart for existing and allowing kids like me to have a space to feel validated and worthy. They uplifted me during the darkest time of my life and taught me fundamentals of mental health, education, kindness, resilience, and how to live a life full of purpose.

Join Us for: Creating Trauma Informed Ministries

On October 20th at noon, the Florida United Methodist Children's Home will have our final of the three virtual sessions, entitled: *Creating Trauma-Informed Ministries*. We invite you to join Diahann Suchan and Rev. Ryan Frack, our Vice President of Residential Clinical Services and Director of Church Relations, respectively, as they share about the trauma-informed care we provide at the Children's Home. Additionally, they will then discuss ideas for incorporating trauma-informed principles into your ministries. To RSVP for this session, please contact Ryan Frack at 386.668.4774 extension 2222, or ryan.frack@fumch.org.

LCR Workshop Happening in November

The Local Church Representative (LCR) is a vital person who connects the Children's Home with the local church. In order to help new LCRs 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, however, we have been able to move these training events to a virtual platform. While we certainly have missed in-person trainings, this format has allowed us to stay both safe and connected, as we celebrate the important role LCRs play in the lives of both the Children's Home and the local church. The virtual LCR Workshop will be held via ZOOM on November 17 at 12pm. To attend, please RSVP to ryan.frack@fumch.org and you will be sent information and a link for the ZOOM event. For those unable to attend the live ZOOM, we will make a recording available for later viewing. This will allow LCRs to continue your important work of communicating the ministry of the Children's Home with your local church. We'll look forward to seeing you at the workshop!

GIFTS OF STOCK

Rather than sell your stock, consider gifting some of it to the Children's Home. You won't pay any taxes, and you will receive an income tax deduction for your gift. Benefits of a stock gift include:

- Avoid capital gains taxes up to 23.8%.
- Receive an income tax deduction for the full amount of your gift.
- Make a meaningful gift with no cash out-of-pocket.
- Capture the value of your stock and end the worrying about market ups and downs.
- Put your gift to work right away for the causes you care about most.

Please contact Elisabeth Gadd, Chief Development Officer at (386) 753-2066 or at plannedgiving@fumch.org to learn how you can provide for the people and the causes you care about the most. You can also visit <https://www.fumch.org/making-a-difference/planned-giving/> to learn more about planned giving options.