



FROM DEVELOPMENT
Elisabeth Gadd, MNM, CFRE
Chief Development Officer
Florida United Methodist Children's Home

This past year has forced us to rethink the whole idea of "planning." My favorite new word has become "pivot" because just when we thought we had a handle on things, the environment would shift again, causing us to rethink our new plan once again. I'm sure this sounds familiar to you as well. Many of the plans we all shared for 2020 and 2021 have not been realized as we had envisioned. Nonetheless, we have to keep pressing forward and working within the environment before us. Here at the Children's Home, we are always reviewing, revising and planning for the future with the children at the center of all we do. This includes both our short term and long term goals.

As you plan for the future, it will certainly include a thoughtful plan for your legacy. What are your legacy goals and dreams? Have you considered charitable organizations as part of your legacy? On behalf of the Children's Home, I want to take this opportunity to ask you to consider a legacy provision in support of our children and families. Your intention could be made through general support of the ministry, or it could be for a specific purpose such as capital improvement or additions, to support a specific program like residential care, therapy program (training for cutting edge practices), equine therapy, education (including Legacy Scholars Academy and post-secondary), or spiritual life (including musical instruments and technology offerings). A provision for our independent living program ensures that our young adults have all the tools for a successful transition. If early childhood education is your passion, you may choose to support In As Much with its cutting edge Montessori curriculum for the children while also providing supportive programming for the parents.

Many individuals are health and fitness conscious. Our recreation program runs 365 days a year, taking a toll on the equipment and facilities. This makes regular replacements a necessity, which provides additional giving opportunities. If you are a wellness enthusiast, there are opportunities to help sustain or bolster current programs.

The wide range of programs for the youth provides a wide range of opportunities to support them. You may choose to support one of our programs mentioned above as a one-time gift or in perpetuity through an endowment. There is no better time to consider contemplating your legacy and planned gift options. If are you interested in discussing an opportunity mentioned above or something similar, I would be glad to discuss how to best accomplish the goals and dreams for your legacy.

We have begun renovating the 14 cottages on the Enterprise campus. It will take two to three years to complete the project. Some of the work is quite extensive given that some of them are more than 60 years old. And while our staff does a great job maintaining them, all homeowners know there are times when updates and necessary changes are more substantive.

#### Elisabeth Gadd, MNM, CFRE

Chief Development Officer Florida United Methodist Children's Home

ON THE COVER:

Sunrise over the Madison Youth Ranch.

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# OUR YOUTH SHOW APPRECIATION FOR OUR STAFF

We are very proud of our staff. They receive special training and are trauma informed, helping them do a great job with the young lives in our care. During a recent appreciation brunch, our staff was presented with some notes written by the children. Here are some of the touching comments written by the children.

"I am thankful for my house parents because they spend their time to help me learn and grow. They are helping me in many ways, teaching me how to become a successful man. I am thankful for that."

"All of our staff are so nice. They are caring and understanding."

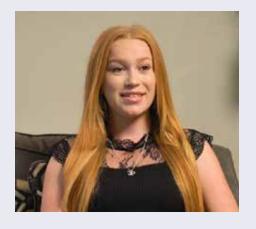
"My house parents make me feel safe. They make me laugh and have taken the time to see the good in me."



"I am thankful for the staff here at the Children's Home because they help me learn what is right and what is wrong."

"I am thankful for all the staff because they have helped me through so much. They have also motivated me to do good.

"I am thankful for my house parents because they are here for us. No matter what, they keep coming to work. They care for us, they fight for us when things go wrong, and they make sure we are safe."



## CHECK OUT OUR SUCCESS STORIES

If you really want to see the impact you're having on the lives of our youth, visit our website (fumch.org) and click on **Success Stories**. You'll find testimonials from youth like Allie, who was a resident on our Enterprise campus and is now on her own, working, and attending college.



It was just five years ago that the Florida United Methodist Children's Home committed to implementing the Teaching Family Model. The team identified it as the best model of care to provide our children and youth with the needed tools and support to overcome their individual traumas in order to be successful. In less than three years after making that decision, we were fully accredited by the Teaching-Family Association (TFA). TFA was founded in 1970 as the governing body to ensure that the model is properly used as well as providing the necessary training and evaluation to become fully accredited.

The Teaching Family Model isn't new and can be traced to its origins in the early 1960s as a result of research that was being done at the University of Kansas by Montrose Wolf and Gary Timbers. If you have ever put your own children in a time-out, you're familiar with some of the original research since Wolf pioneered the time-out as a learning tool to shape behavior in children.

One aspect of this model that makes it so effective is that it focuses on respectful and humane practices that not only teach children but help to ensure their wellbeing while delivering measurable outcomes. As part of the Teaching Family Model, treatment can be individualized to meet the social, emotional, cognitive, and developmental needs of each child. It is also a trauma-informed model, so that it helps the child cope with their individual life experiences.

Part of the original studies included ways to change the behavior of children who had been removed from their homes and placed in a group home. This placement could have been the result of abuse or neglect, or the parents not being able to manage the child at home. They discovered certain approaches and treatment methods that would help foster a relationship of trust and mutual respect while also establishing communication. As a result, the children responded positively to instruction and the more structured environment. These responses developed into behavioral patterns and skills, and it's those skills that have become a big part of the Teaching Family Model's effectiveness.

Kaylee is a great example of how effective the Teaching Family Model can be in correcting behaviors and helping children be successful. Kaylee is a young teen who had to be removed from her adoptive home because of abuse. When she came to the Children's



One of our youth learning to cook

Home she demonstrated very disruptive anti-social behavior. She frequently had tantrums and had difficulty communicating and following directions. Kaylee also had major trust issues which is not surprising when one considers the abuse she experienced.

Once she arrived at the Children's Home, a plan of care was established and then implemented by her therapist, houseparents, and our Spiritual Life team. After only a few weeks, Kaylee was showing clear improvement. Soon the tantrums had disappeared completely, and she became much more social. Her academics improved noticeably, and she made the A/B honor roll during the last grading period at our on-campus school, Legacy Scholars Academy. This was very impactful for Kaylee since she had never before reached that academic achievement. It proved to her that she could be a success. Now she is beginning to ask her houseparents about how she should start planning for college.

Perhaps the biggest change is that she has become very active in Spiritual Life activities. Her attitude around the cottage has really changed, and her houseparents report that Kaylee will frequently sing while cleaning her room or helping with other chores. A child who was abused and distraught has become a happy child who has hope for the future. That is the impact that Teaching Family Model can have on young lives.



In a nutshell, estate planning is really nothing more than a plan of what you want done with what you own. The good news is that you can provide for the people and causes important to you by taking simple steps now. Creating your plan for the future can be easy and even enjoyable. While an attorney should always draft your will, we can help demystify the process and prepare you for meeting with your attorney with these simple steps:

- 1. **Itemize Your Assets** Take a piece of paper and draw a line down the middle. On the left side, write something you own. On the right side, write the name or names of the person(s) you wish to receive that item or asset.
- 2. **Organize Your Estate** Make the process of organizing your estate and plans even easier by downloading our free wills guide. This fill-inthe-blank guide walks you through the process of gathering information about what you own, your family, and your goals. Or, call us and request a copy.
- 3. **Write Down Questions** Consider practical questions, such as, "If I give my house to my adult son and my adult daughter, what will they do with it?" If you come up with a question that you can't seem to find a solution for, make a note to ask your attorney.
- 4. Review Your Plans for Family You can give some assets to family right away and others over time. Ask us how you can provide an income stream or a lump sum to a loved one and achieve your personal and inheritance goals.

- 5. **Consider Charity** Remember to include any charities that are important to you in your plan. If you have given during life, then consider providing for these organizations through your estate. Ask us about plans like charitable remainder trusts and gift annuities that can help your family and our mission.
- 6. **Visit Your Attorney** Bring the information you have gathered and questions to your attorney. Your attorney can draft a will or trust that will achieve your goals. You complete the plan through a simple signing process.
- 7. **Update Your Plan** Update your estate plan as your life changes. Marriages, births, and deaths are all events that may make you want you to revise your plans.

For your free copy of Planning Your Legacy, an estate planning quide, contact

#### **ELISABETH GADD**

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## WELCOME TO NEW TRUSTEES

The Children's Home recently installed new members to our Board of Trustees. The Board oversees and guides our ministry so that we are able to help as many children as possible.



Rev. Debbie Daley-Salinger is the lead pastor at Wesley Memorial United Methodist Church in Ft. Meyers, as well as an ordained Elder and a member of The Order of Elder in The United Methodist Church. She earned a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science from Brooklyn

College and subsequently a Masters in Computer Information System. With 20 years of corporate management experience, she pursued a different calling and earned a Masters in Divinity and in Pastoral Counseling from Asbury Theological Seminary. Rev. Daley-Salinger is currently a candidate for Doctorate in Ministry at Portland Seminary and has 10 years of ministry experience.



Originally born and raised in Tennessee, **Rev. Benjamin Stilwell-Hernandez** is the Senior Pastor at Aldersgate United Methodist Church in Seminole. He began as a youth minister in Milan, TN, and later entered the mission field as a volunteer in Puerto Rico. He received his

first pastoral appointment in 2002 as a member of the staff of the initial Methodist congregation formed in Puerto Rico (Holy Trinity Methodist Church). Prior to his appointment at Aldersgate UMC, he served as Senior Pastor to Homestead First United Methodist Church in

Homestead. He has a Bachelor of Science in Religion and a Master of Divinity, and is currently working toward his Doctors in Ministry.



Xiomara "Sam" Lever is the Florida Regional Director of Oncology for Astellas Pharma US, a top 20 global pharmaceutical research company. Originally from Puerto Rico, Sam graduated from Mercer University and began her professional journey with Johnson &

Johnson Healthcare. With a passion for advocating for individuals stricken with cancer, she has worked in the pharmaceutical industry for more than 25 years. While her latest passion is being a grandmother, she is active with children and youth programs at Orange Park United Methodist Church in Orange Park. She also serves as a counselor for the various mission trips and activities taken each year by her church.



Michelle Caudell spent many years in foster care before coming to the Florida United Methodist Children's Home. She spent much of her teenage years in our care before going on to college. Michelle earned her Bachelors degree in Marketing from the University of Central Florida and is

currently a Commercial Insurance Advisor at Foundation Risk Partners in Daytona. Michelle loves giving back to her community and is an active board member for several non-profits organizations. You can watch Michelle tell her story by visiting our website (fumch. org) and clicking on **Success Stories**.

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