



THE LINK

to the Florida United Methodist Children's Home

Vol 30 . No. 5

May 2021

New Fifth Sunday Video: Michelle's Story

Michelle spent her high school years at the Children's Home. Since graduating high school and college, she has gone on to success in her career of choice. In this month's Fifth Sunday video, which is located on our YouTube page, Michelle speaks about her time at the Children's Home. Specifically, she shares about the positive ways that her time spent in the therapy program supported her as she worked towards her goals. You can access the link at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EscUC4Y8YIY>

May 30th is a Fifth Sunday, and we ask that your church take up a Fifth Sunday offering. This offering remains the largest source of church funding for the Florida United Methodist Children's Home, and it is vital to ensuring that we can continue to provide the care that we do for our children. Whether you take the offering as a part of your virtual worship service or your in-person service, we invite you to show this video as a reminder of the wonderful impact you are making through the Children's Home. Thank you for your continued partnership in serving children in need.

Support the Children's Home Through Your Church's VBS

As summer approaches and churches start to return to a sense of normalcy, many are preparing for a very exciting time in the life of the church: Vacation Bible School (VBS)! This tradition often includes opportunities to learn about God through Bible stories, songs, games, and shared meals. If your church is holding a VBS this year, whether it is in-person or virtual, we know that this promises to be a fruitful time of learning, and many children will also have the opportunity to give back.

Here at the Florida United Methodist Children's Home, funds and donated items play a huge role in the ministry we offer to children and families. From toiletries and clothing to school supplies and diapers, in-kind donations go a long way toward supporting the various ministries of the Children's Home. Candies, lip gloss, silly putty, puzzles, and other small items can also be used in our incentives store for the children.

If you are looking for a particular mission for your church to partner with for VBS, we would be honored if you would consider the Florida United Methodist Children's Home. In addition to providing you with a needs list, we also have videos and other resources available to communicate the mission and ministry of the Children's Home. Please contact Ryan Frack, Director of Church Relations, at ryan.frack@fumch.org or 386.668.4774 x2222 for more information.

(More on back...)

Back To School Supply Drive

Education remains a vital need for the children we serve, and a substantial way we are able to keep meeting this need is to ensure we have the supplies required to make this a reality. Donations are a vital part of our ministry, and we are announcing the 2021-2022 back to school supply drive. We have put together a list of our school needs, and ask that you and your church take up a back-to-school drive. A great way to participate in this is to incorporate this needs drive into your church's VBS or other special summer ministries. Whether you are meeting in-person, online, or somewhere in the middle, we remain incredibly grateful for all of the support you continue to provide our children. For any questions, please contact our Volunteer Manager Lynn Bellomy at lynn.bellomy@fumch.org or 386-668-4774 ext. 2321.

Children's Home Awarded EAGLE Accreditation

The Florida United Methodist Children's is proud to share that we were recently awarded EAGLE Accreditation by the EAGLE Accreditation Commission. Educational Assessment Guidelines Leading toward Excellence (EAGLE) is the only faith-based accrediting body in the world and focuses on ministry with older adults and children. Their goal is to recognize organizations that voluntarily go beyond the minimum requirements of licensure to improve operational processes and outcomes.

"We are very proud of earning this accreditation once again," said Kitwana McTyer, President & CEO of the Children's Home. "It has helped us to improve our outcomes as well as making us more responsible stewards of the gifts we receive from supporters like you. Ultimately, it all translates into better care for our children." EAGLE-accredited designation lasts for four years. During that time the Children's Home will submit annual reports to ensure all accreditation standards are being met. We couldn't provide the care at the level that we do without the support of our wonderful partners. Thank you for enabling this exciting accomplishment!

Testimonial From an Alumnus

"I was a resident at the Children's Home on a couple of occasions: first in 6th grade, and then again in 7th and 8th grade. I am 28 years old now and living in Pennsylvania with my husband, who was also a resident at the Children's Home. We have 3 beautiful children. Our two daughters are A honor roll students, and are involved in the band at school. Our son is 2, and is in 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 the Children's Home, but we pulled it together. 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."

Current Resident Needs

- AAA batteries
- Cantu brand shampoo and conditioner
- Cantu brand leave-in conditioner
- Regular toothpaste
- Dove sensitive skin soap
- Mp3 players (without cameras)
- Men's swim goggles
- Dish cloths
- Hair picks (male comb)
- Bath towels
- Wash cloths
- Clock radios

Build Your Legacy With Many Happy Returns

Our charitable gift annuity gives you payments every year for as long as you live.

When you fund a charitable gift annuity, we agree to send you a check each year for as long as you live, based on your funding amount and your age at the time of funding. The payment amount never changes.

In addition, you may also receive:

- An income tax deduction this year for part of the funding amount.
- If you fund it by transferring stock, some of your capital gains are eliminated, some spread over a number of years.
- After a lifetime of payments to you, any remaining funds automatically support our mission in your name.

Call or email to learn what your payment rate and tax benefits will be. Be sure to ask about deferred charitable gift annuities and other options that may give you greater payments and tax benefits. If you would like to learn more, please contact Elisabeth Gadd, Chief Development Officer, at (386) 753-2066 or at plannedgiving@fumch.org. You can also visit www.fumchlegacy.org for more tax savings ideas.