



# 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 an opportunity to show God's love through gifts, as a connectional ministry. 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 3<sup>rd</sup>**. 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 specified. 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 the denomination amount is written on the gift card.**

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

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

**If you receive 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.

### Children's Home Has Begun Needed Cottage Renovations

At the Florida United Methodist Children's Home, our goal is to provide our children with exceptional care. We are currently in the process of renovating some of our cottages, as our ministry continues to evolve. These renovations will help us to better serve those in our care. If you are interested in learning more about these renovations, or would like to be involved in the process, please contact Chief Development Officer Elisabeth Gadd at [elisabeth.gadd@fumch.org](mailto:elisabeth.gadd@fumch.org) or by calling 386.753.2066.

### Current Resident Needs

- Wash cloths
- Bath towels
- Cantu brand hair products
- Toothpaste
- Female liquid body wash
- AAA batteries
- New/gently used Christmas trees (6 or 8 ft)

(More on back...)

### **Enterprise Enjoys Music and Food Truck Event**

A highlight for the children at the Florida United Methodist Children's Home is the annual trip to Rock the Universe. Not only does it provide our children with the opportunity to explore the rides and attractions that Universal Studios has to offer, but it also gives them a chance to hear some great Christian music. Unfortunately, the ongoing effects of the pandemic led our Spiritual Life staff to make the difficult but necessary decision to forego the event this year. However, with the help of Sanlando United Methodist Church in Longwood, our team put on a wonderful and socially-distant music event for the Enterprise campus.

Rev. Madeline Luzinski, Director of Pastoral Care, knew that she wanted to provide an opportunity for our children to have something special. "Because we have had to forego participation in youth conferences and concerts for the past year, our team wanted to do something extra special for the youth this fall," she said. The hope was for this event to not only give the youth a fun night, but also encourage them as we continue with the ongoing implementation of COVID safety protocols. The event included music from three local Christian bands on an outdoor stage. Additionally, a food truck provided dinner to everyone, and Kona Ice served sweet treats to all. Earlier in the year, Rev. Jonathan Tarman of Sanlando United Methodist Church had reached out to inquire how they might best support the Children's Home. After learning of the food truck/music event, Rev. Tarman was very excited about this opportunity. Sanlando generously donated to help fund the event, as it would be a way to provide for both the children and the staff of the Enterprise campus. Thank you, Sanlando, for your generous support of the Children's Home!

### **Testimonial From an Alumnus**

"I am writing this letter in an effort to let you know that in my past, lonely, 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."

### **It's Not Too Late to Join Us for the LCR Workshop Happening on November 17**

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](mailto: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!

### **Required Mandatory Distribution**

Once a person reaches 70 ½, they are required to withdraw a minimum amount from their IRA. This required minimum distribution (RMD) is a certain percentage that must be taken. Some people don't need the money, so they can consider giving to a charity of their choice. With the full economic impact of COVID-19 still to be seen, we know the importance of making your money go as far as possible. Instead of paying more in taxes, those that are 70 ½ can roll over up to \$100,000 from your IRA to the Florida United Methodist Children's Home. The transfer will not be taxed, and it counts against the required distribution.

For more information, contact Elisabeth Gadd, Chief Development Officer, at 386.753.2066, or at [plannedgiving@FUMCH.org](mailto:plannedgiving@FUMCH.org). You can also visit [www.fumchlegacy.org](http://www.fumchlegacy.org).