



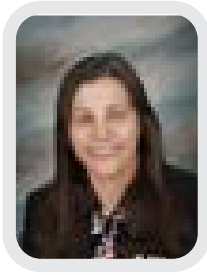
FLORIDA UNITED METHODIST
CHILDREN'S HOME®

ESTABLISHED 1908

THE HERALD

VOLUME 33/NO. 2, 2023

Empower children and families to experience the transforming love of Christ through evidence-based care and holistic services.



A *word* FROM EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION
Jayne Carroll
Director of Early Childhood Education
Florida United Methodist Children's Home

In the spring, our Upper Elementary students, teachers, class parents and I traveled to Wauchula, Florida to canoe up the Peace River on a fossil expedition. Many of the students and some of the adults had not previously canoed. The children quickly caught on and I was the only one who had a misstep and fell into the water. Egrets, herons, and a small alligator or two were visible along the river. We arrived at our destination, beached our canoes and waded waist deep into the river where the children began to sift shovels full of river bottom into floating screens. The excitement quickly grew as the children started finding shark teeth, fossils and turtle shell pieces. This is just one example of the many real life experiences enjoyed by our students. The real magic from this expedition happened upon the students' return to school. The experience sparked incredible interest leading many of them to pursue further studies into everything from Florida ecosystems to the habitat and life of the prehistoric megalodon and three toed horse.

In As Much has a rich history of serving children and families in the community. Established in 1980 to support single parents and low income families, this small Montessori program quickly became popular and was open to all families who could benefit from high quality early childhood education. In 2000, *In As Much* expanded to include summer camp programs for school age children and swim instruction for all children. In 2012, through a generous gift, two staff were certified to teach survival swim skills to children six months and older. In 2018, through the generous donations of many of our supporters, *In As Much* moved into the state of the art Lamar Louise Curry Early Childhood Education and Development Center, allowing us to serve more children in more ways. Last year, 235 children were served by our Early Childhood Education program, many of these were financially challenged. At this time, 96 children are partially funded by state and county scholarship programs.

In 2016, *In As Much* began a kindergarten program and each year we have added a grade to meet the needs of our students and families. This year we have a sixth grade class, which mostly consists of children who have been with us since infancy. Our elementary program currently serves 60 students, K-6th grade. The extensive curriculum includes Geography and cultures, Civics and Government, History (ancient civilizations, American and Florida History, and Current Events), and Math from concrete to abstract which includes solving square roots and graphing linear equations. The students also study Computer Coding, Graphic Design, Engineering, Science (Physical and Earth), Spanish, Art, Music and Physical Education as well. Last academic year, we started an internship program for fifth graders where they applied and interviewed for the internship of their choice. Students worked with a qualified adult on-site as a teacher's aide, an office aide, or in food preparation or custodial work. At the end of the internship, each student wrote about their experiences and what they learned.

As you can see, the Montessori philosophy is built on fostering a lifelong love of learning and experiences that comes from a developed personal interest in the world around us and this is evident in our students on a daily basis when you watch their joy in the classroom. We are honored and humbled to do this in partnership with friends like you around the state who help to impact our future leaders.

Jayne Carroll
Chief Development Officer
Florida United Methodist Children's Home

**ON THE
COVER:**

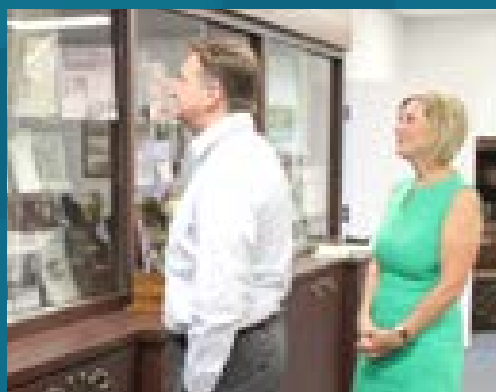
Students from *In As Much* sifting for artifacts.

DIGNITARIES VISIT CHILDREN'S HOME

The Children's Home was recently visited by multiple dignitaries after extending an invitation to each one to learn more about the important ministry that you support.



Representative Cory Mills, serving Florida's 7th Congressional District, visited the Children's Home. Rep. Mills spent some time learning about our Independent Living program that serves young adults age 18-26 years old. The program gives them the guidance they need to become self-sufficient adults. As part of that visit, Rep. Mills visited with Sam, one of our young adults who has flourished under the program. He later visited Legacy Scholars Academy, our on-campus school. Rep. Mills stated, "My visit to the Children's Home demonstrated the importance of a safety net for our kids. I learned about the incredible services the Children's Home provides, such as life skills training, counseling, and community outreach offerings. It was evident the school and staff provide a platform for our children to achieve success in their lives. Thank you to Children's Home for being a great resource in our community here in Florida's 7th."

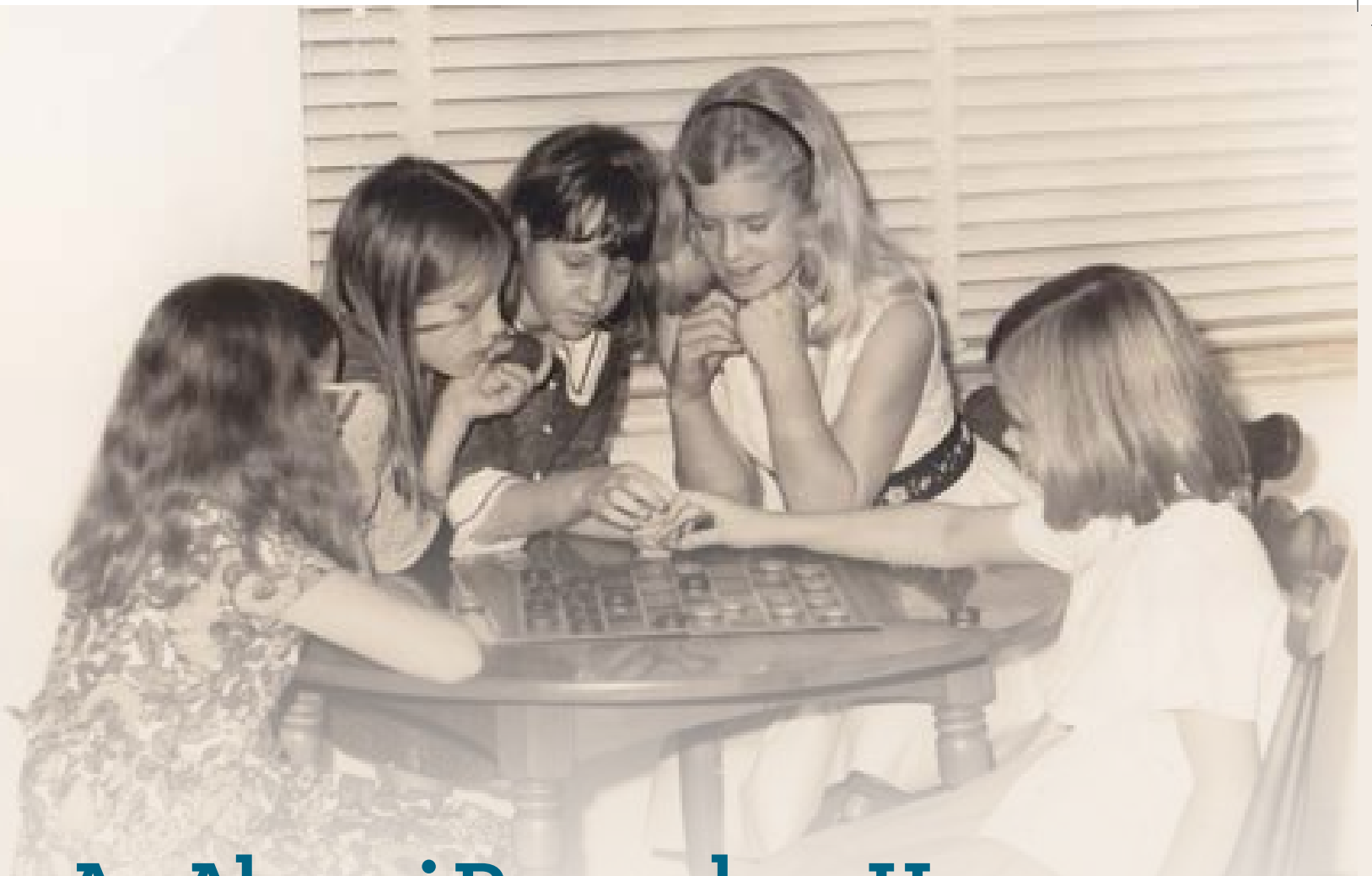


Florida State Senator Jason T. Brodeur toured the campus as well and spent some time in our historic Archives Room learning about the history of the Children's Home and how our programs have evolved over the course of our 115 years to address the needs of the children. Sen. Brodeur said, "I was honored to visit the Children's Home and meet so many passionate staff members who work tirelessly to promote the success and well-being of Florida's children. This organization provides an array of advanced and balanced programs that aid the development of the children who live there as well as other families across the state and in the community. As someone who was in the adoption system as a child and advocates for displaced children in the Florida legislature, it makes me proud to have such an exceptional facility, which should be modeled throughout the state, in our community."



Jamie Haynes, chair of the Volusia County School board, recently toured Legacy Scholars Academy. Our on-campus school is a partnership with Volusia County Schools, providing the same academic standards with the

addition of the social emotional learning (SEL) component our students need to succeed. She spent some time in a couple of the classrooms speaking to the teachers as well as the students.



An Alumni Remembers How The Children's Home Helped Her

In 1964, Lyndon Johnson was president and it would be the following year before the first U.S. combat troops would enter Vietnam. Bread was .22 a loaf and gasoline was .30 a gallon. Sandra (Sandy) Krenz was only 10 years old when she came to the Children's Home, but it made life-long impact on her. We recently spoke with Sandy about her time here, and just how impactful it was on her life.

What brought you to the Children's Home in 1964?

"My parents had divorced, and I lived with my mom and her mother. My grandmother passed away the year before, and it was difficult for my mom to support me and my brother while working as a bank teller. At that time we were members of the Methodist Church in Cocoa, Florida, and Rev. Leonard Vanderwater helped mom get us into the Children's Home. I was in fifth grade and my little brother was in third."

What was your first impression of the Children's Home?

"I thought it was very nice, people were friendly, and I had my own room upstairs in Hardin Hall. I liked the routines and stability of living there. Mom Petty, the house parent, was amazing. She made us feel like one big family. We would pitch in and help with chores as well, just like a family."

What kind of chores did you do?

“Back then we all ate in the big dining hall. After meals, we would load the trays, dishes and silverware into the dishwasher and wipe down the tables.”

What did you do for fun and recreation?

“We spent a lot of time outside on the beautiful campus. We played on the swings as well as games of tag and kickball. We also had a lot of board games in the activity room of Hardin Hall. On Sundays we would have sandwiches in the activity room and play instead of eating downstairs in the dining hall.”

How long were you at the Children’s Home, and what kind of impact did it have on you?

“My brother and I were only there a year, then we were able to rejoin our mother. While at the Children’s Home, I learned what it meant to be loved and cared for by people who didn’t know me. The staff also showed me how stable home life could be, and that was something I took into adulthood with my own home. The spirit of God was clearly evident in their care, and I learned from them that I could care for others. And that’s another lesson that has stuck with me.”

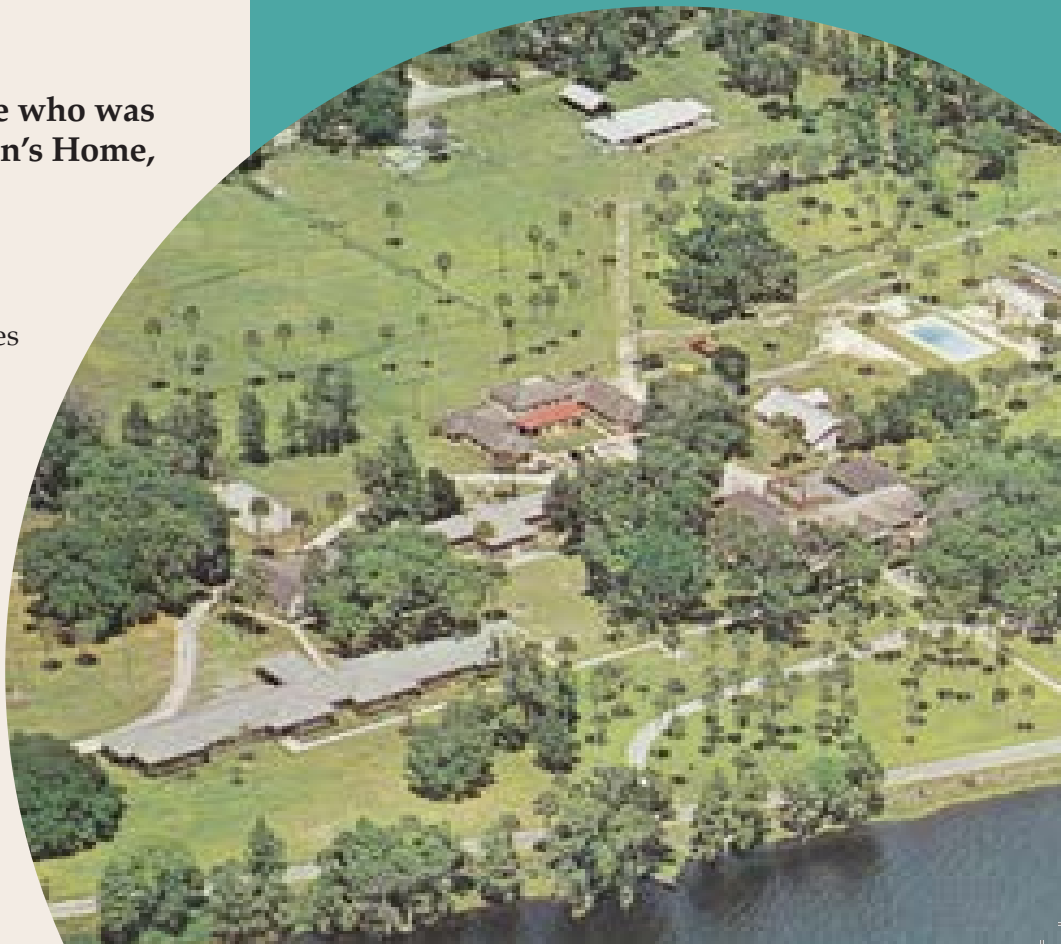
What would you say to someone who was considering a gift to the Children’s Home, or was already a donor?

“Giving to the Children’s Home is a lifetime blessing to a child. Some children cannot live with their families for a variety of reasons. The staff at the Children’s Home becomes their family, and the other children become their brothers and sisters. Giving to the Children’s Home means giving those children a family.”

Aerial view of the Children’s Home in 1960.

What happened in 1964?

- The Beatles appeared on Ed Sullivan, their first live television performance in the U.S.
- Muhammad Ali beat Sonny Liston to become the world heavyweight boxing champion.
- The Ford Mustang was introduced.
- The Civil Rights Act of 1964 became law.
- Television premiers included *Gilligan’s Island* and *Bewitched*, as well as the stop-motion animated special *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer*.
- Movie premiers included Walt Disney’s *Mary Poppins* with Julie Andrews, and the film version of *My Fair Lady* with Audrey Hepburn.



TAXES ON YOUR MIND?

If higher taxes are on your horizon, don't worry. We have what you need to reduce taxes and keep your life and your plans on track. We can help you lower taxes while often increasing your liquidity with proven strategies that may:

- Decrease taxes with strategic income tax deductions.
- Increase income by utilizing tax-advantaged opportunities.
- Use your income, assets and investments more effectively.

You can create a legacy while enjoying the unparalleled satisfaction of knowing you have supported a mission that is important and meaningful to you.

In addition, you can lower your taxes in ways you might not expect.

IRA ROLLOVER If you are 70 ½ or above, you can direct your IRA administrator to make a distribution directly to charity. If you are over 72, this may fulfill your required minimum distribution. You won't receive an income tax deduction, but you won't have to pay tax on the distribution.

NEW USE FOR OLD STOCK If you have stock or other appreciated assets, you can transfer the stock to a charity like the Children's Home. When you do, you receive an income tax deduction for the present value but pay no capital gains tax. Whether it is a charitable gift annuity, charitable remainder trust or other vehicle, we can help you find ways to use your assets to:

- Receive the best income tax deduction possible.
- Possibly create new tax-advantaged payments.
- Work with your attorney and advisor so you receive all the benefits to which you are entitled.

Many people, even longtime donors, are unaware of all the possibilities that may help reduce your higher taxes. Best of all, when you do, your smart planning also becomes smart giving. You help others while helping yourself



Consider ways to minimize taxes

There are many ways we can help you meet your goals, but here are some of the most popular and productive ways to minimize taxes:

STRATEGIC IDEA	INCOME TAX DEDUCTION FOR YOU	PROVIDES PAYMENTS TO YOU	EXTRA BENEFIT
Charitable Gift Annuity	●	●	Possible tax-free payments
Charitable Remainder Unitrust	●	●	Payments for life
Gift of Stock	●		Avoid capital gains tax
IRA Charitable Rollover	●		May fulfill your RMD

To learn more about decreasing your taxes, contact

ELISABETH GADD
 Chief Development Officer
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FINDING THEIR *INNER* *COURAGE*



One of the more popular activities on Enterprise campus of the Children's Home is the high ropes course, complete with zip line. The youth participate in the high ropes course under the supervision of our trained and certified staff, and all the necessary precautions are taken to ensure a safe experience. But that doesn't stop some of the children from being hesitant and even fearful.

Lucas, who is about fourteen years old, decided he would give the zip line a try. He was encouraged by the other youth in attendance as well as the staff. He had already been through the basic safety briefing, so he strapped on the harness and helmet and was ready to go. Our staff double checked everything and connected him to the belay line that would prevent him from falling as he climbed the fifty foot pole. Bravely, Lucas took a deep breath and began his climb. In no time he was at the top, and the staff connected his harness to the zip line. It was at that point that Lucas began to doubt his decision.

As he sat on the edge of the platform, feet dangling over the side, he wondered why he agreed to do such a thing. The staff standing next to him on the platform as well as those on the ground reassured him. His friends and house parents on the ground cheered for him, shouting, "You can do this! You got it!" He was given the standard 3-2-1

countdown several times, but couldn't muster the courage to push off from the platform. No matter, everyone was there for Lucas at that moment. Everyone continued to cheer and shout their support, everyone wanted to see him succeed. Finally, after a few minutes, Lucas found his inner courage.

A few seconds later he was at the bottom of the zip line, and nothing could remove the huge grin on his face. The first words out of his mouth were, "I want to go again!" Triumphs like this mean a lot for youth like Lucas. And whether they realize it or not, the staff is helping them rebuild the confidence they lost before coming to the Children's Home.

The high ropes course at the Children's Home is used to help the youth in many ways. It helps them to understand that they need to take some risk in order to reap the reward, and it gets them out of their comfort zone. It also helps them to overcome fear and build trust in others.

Bottom line, facing some of their fears on the ropes course and winning helps the youth to become more successful in facing their other fears. And that helps them to become more successful in life. Just ask Lucas.

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