



FLORIDA UNITED METHODIST
CHILDREN'S HOME®

ESTABLISHED 1908

THE HERALD

VOLUME 33/NO. 3, 2023

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



A *word* FROM MADISON YOUTH RANCH
Neva Baltzell
Director, Madison Youth Ranch
Florida United Methodist Children's Home

The Madison Youth Ranch strives to fulfill the mission of **[e]mpowering children and families to experience the transforming love of Christ through evidence-based care and holistic services**, utilizing a variety of methods to ensure residents receive the very best care possible. Residents attend local schools, worship services, and participate in a variety of volunteer opportunities. Community based activities give the residents a unique opportunity to interact and feel connected to their local community. The attention paid to holistic services became apparent during the campus wide preparation and eventual evacuation of residents in the days leading up to Hurricane Idalia making landfall.

Hurricane Idalia, a 100 year storm for the Big Bend area, gave our team the opportunity to put their hearts for service to work, pulling together to help residents get both physically and mentally prepared to evacuate to the Enterprise campus. Youth Ranch staff were able to help residents understand that the evacuation was necessary for their safety, and address their concerns while helping each resident pack what was needed for the trip.

We had a great road trip experience in the van driving to the Enterprise campus, singing with the radio, telling stories, and asking approximately a million questions. While driving through Gainesville, home of the University of Florida, there were plenty of questions about college admissions. As soon as the van pulled into the gate, we were met by the amazing staff on the Enterprise campus. We were escorted to a cottage where Kitwana McTyer (our CEO) delivered personalized gifts for each of the girls. He welcomed the girls to the campus and let them know how excited he and the Enterprise team were to have them.

As the girls settled into the cottage, they demonstrated generosity towards one another by helping carry bags for each other, organizing cottage supplies, and most importantly laughing and having a good time even though they were all nervous about being in new surroundings. During the ten day long stay on the Enterprise campus, the girls were kept incredibly busy through the generosity of several donors. They were able to go to the Central Florida Zoo, a play at The Shoestring Theater, and out to dinner with the Mayor of DeBary. Additionally, they were able to participate in all the recreational activities on the Enterprise campus and attend church services in the Chapel. Most importantly, they were able to meet Enterprise residents and make friends with young people who have experienced similar traumas.

The girls loved being on the Enterprise campus because they were having a great time. The remarkable thing about the trip is that the girls gathered together every day at the dinner table and asked staff for updates on the Youth Ranch staff and families, the facilities, as well as Sugar and Shiloh, the horses used for equine therapy and the most popular Youth Ranch residents. After each update, the girls asked to pray for the staff, their families and the local community. The biggest surprise came seven days into the adventure when some of the Youth Ranch staff showed up in Enterprise to stay with them. Staff brought the good news that power was back on, everyone was safe, and that things were slowly returning to normal. When the girls returned to the Madison Youth Ranch campus, they got out of the van repeating the phrase "It's good to be home!"

Neva Baltzell
Director, Madison Youth Ranch
Florida United Methodist Children's Home

**ON THE
COVER:**

Denijah, an alumni of the Independent Living program, graduates from UCF

Denaijah

ANOTHER SUCCESS STORY



Denaijah was experiencing a very difficult situation at home with her single mother, and was looking for help. Being eighteen years old, she had already “aged out” of any traditional help that youth may have available to them like residential or foster care. But a guidance counselor at Denaijah’s high school told her about our Independent Living program. The purpose of the Independent Living program is to assist young adults 18-26 as they age out of traditional residential group care or who are out on their own and have difficulty maintaining their housing.

Her guidance counselor arranged for her to meet with our Independent Living staff, and Denaijah was able to participate in the program. We were able to provide Denaijah with the guidance and stability she needed to attend college full time while also working full time. She made the President’s List during her first semester and the Dean’s List the second semester.

In August of 2022 Denaijah graduated from the nursing program at Seminole State College. Four months later she graduated from University of Central Florida with her Bachelor’s Degree. Now she is an RN working as a postpartum nurse. She hopes to continue her education in the future and transition into neonatal intensive care.

Denaijah says that, “The staff here in the Independent Living program at the Children’s Home were able to help me visualize my potential. Without their support, I don’t believe that I would be where I am today.” Your continued support makes it possible for youth like Denaijah to receive the support and guidance they need to become successful. To watch a recent interview with Denaijah and hear her story, use the camera on your cell phone to scan the QR code and go directly to her video.



Scan the QR code with
your phone’s camera
to watch Denaijah
share her story

A Rich History of Serving Children

The Children's Home has been serving children for 115 years and has expanded far beyond the original location in Enterprise. It began in 1908 as the Florida Methodist Orphanage with the purchase of one building, eight town lots, and a forty acre tract on beautiful Lake Monroe. The need at the time was for a home to provide for orphaned children throughout Florida. During the Great Depression in the 1930's, the Florida Methodist Orphanage housed as many as 150 children at a time. During this time, the Orphanage grew much of its own food, tended dairy cattle, and raised a variety of other animals. As many as 100 former residents from this period served in the military during World War II.

In 1939, the name was changed to the Florida Methodist Children's Home. This was to reflect the reality that an increasing number of children coming into care were not simply orphans, but victims of abuse, abandonment, and family breakdown.

The philosophy of child care began to change noticeably during the 1940's and 1950's. It was becoming evident that the children in care needed more than just three meals a day, a safe place to sleep and basic care. The emotional and psychological needs of the children required a higher level of clinical care. In 1955, the first two cottages were built on the Enterprise campus. Prior to this time, boys and girls lived in dormitory style buildings. The move to a cottage based form of care



Original building on Enterprise campus

provided a more family like atmosphere and allowed children to be grouped and better supported based on their needs. Each cottage is under the care and supervision of a dedicated set of teaching parents and a trained therapist.

In 1971, the Florida Methodist Children's Home merged the Sarah Hunt Methodist Children's Home in Daytona Beach, and was renamed the Florida United Methodist Children's Home. This reflected the merging of the two organizations as well as the merging of the Methodist Church and the Evangelical-United Brethren Church to create the United Methodist Church.

The Children's Home continued to expand during the 1970's and 1980's with the construction of a gymnasium and chapel, as well a day care center. In As Much, while started as a day care center, has grown into a Montessori early education program for children from birth through the sixth grade.

Our Madison Youth Ranch in north Florida opened in 2014. The Ranch enjoys a beautiful rural setting

with two cottages, a chapel, pool and an administrative building. The most unique feature of the Ranch is the Equine Assisted Psychotherapy (EAP) program. EAP involves the combined use of horses, a licensed therapist and a horse specialist working with the child to address various individual psychotherapy treatment goals. This unique method enables the child to learn about themselves and others by actually participating in activities with the horses, and then processing or discussing their feelings with the therapist. In that same year, the Heart & Home Resale Shop was opened in Orange City, near the Enterprise campus. This thrift store sells donated items, providing additional funds for the ministry.

By 2018, In As Much had outgrown its original building with a capacity of about 70 children. The Lamar Louise Curry Early Education Development Center was constructed on the Enterprise campus to house the growing Montessori program and now has a capacity of more than 200 children.

In addition to caring for youth on our two campuses, the Children's Home has expanded to include Foster Care Services in multiple counties. Foster parents are trained and licensed by our staff, and then provided support and continued training to ensure a successful placement for the child. Our foster parents even work along-side adoptive families as the child transitions from foster care to their forever home.

Our range of services go beyond residential and foster care, and now include counseling. In 2019 the Children's Home acquired Circle Of Friends Services, a nonprofit community health provider offering trauma-focused services to children and families in the



Current view of the Chapel on Enterprise campus

home, at school, or clinic. The objective is to help children and families cope with traumatic issues that might otherwise lead to the need for residential or foster care, thereby keeping the family together. Circle Of Friends Services provide therapeutic counseling in several counties.

When you consider how much we've grown and our services expanded over the past 115 years, it becomes clear that we are far more than a Children's Home.

Featured bottom, left: Maultsby Cottage, Madison Youth Ranch

Featured bottom, right: Lamar Louise Curry Early Education Development Center

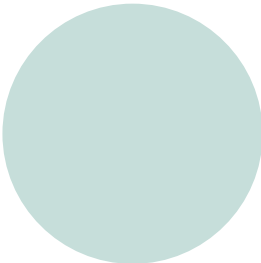


Board of Trustees Approves New Members

The Florida United Methodist Children's Home approved five new members to the Board of Trustees. The dedicated Board of the Children's Home is involved in all aspects of the ministry to ensure that as many children as possible are served. The following members were recently installed to the Board for three year terms.



Rev. Denvil Farley has been the Lead Pastor of the Port Charlotte Global Methodist Church since January 2019. A native Floridian, Rev. Farley has been married to Gwen for more than 15 years and they have five children. He also served as a Residential Child Care Specialist at the Children's Home from 2010 – 2011. Rev. Farley is a graduate of Florida State University and Duke Divinity School.



Rev. Rachel Lever is originally from South Carolina, and serves as Assistant to the Pastor at St. Peter's United Methodist Church in Wellington, FL. Rev. Lever earned her degree from Columbia College and a masters degree from Scarritt College.



Rev. Phillip Short has been a United Methodist Pastor since 1988 and part of leading Southside United Methodist Church in Jacksonville since 2019 where he is currently the Senior Pastor. Short earned his Bachelor of Arts degree from Auburn University, and his Master of Divinity from Candler School of Theology, Emory University.



Rev. Mike Toluba is an Associate Pastor at Killearn Methodist Church in Tallahassee. Originally beginning his church career as a campus minister, Rev. Toluba has been with Killearn since 2020. He earned his Bachelor of Arts in History at Armstrong State University, and his Master of Divinity from Asbury Theological Seminary.



Rev. Charlie Watts, another Florida native, joined the Mims Methodist Church in 2019 and is the Senior Pastor. Starting his career in the funeral business, he became a pastor in 2005 and led Venice United Methodist Church in Venice, FL, as well as First United Methodist Church of Moore Haven.

SMART IDEAS FOR YEAR-END GIVING

If you're like most people, you're looking for ways to save money on this year's taxes. There is always simple and deductible monetary gift that can reduce your tax liability. But there are also many other ways that you can support the Children's Home while saving on your taxes.

Outright Gifts of Appreciated Assets

Gifts of appreciated assets such as securities or real estate are an excellent way to help the Children's Home. These gifts can provide you with numerous benefits:

- Receive an income tax deduction, based typically on the asset's fair market value
- Avoid federal and state capital gains taxes
- Avoid the Affordable Care Act Medicare tax

Life Insurance Gifts

Making a gift to us of your old, unneeded, or obsolete life insurance policy can provide you with the following benefits:

- Receive a charitable income tax deduction
- Reduce your taxable estate
- Preserve your cash and savings

Charitable Life Income Plans

If you own low-yielding assets and are seeking a higher income, a charitable life income gift such as a charitable life annuity or charitable remainder trust may be worth exploring. In exchange for your charitable gift of cash or appreciated securities, you reap multiple benefits:

- Receive payments for your lifetime
- Generate a current income tax deduction
- Bypass all or a portion of the capital gains on appreciated assets
- Enjoy increased financial security

Charitable Life Estates

If your estate plans include leaving your residence (home, farm, vacation home) to charity, you may wish to create a charitable life estate arrangement. You can make a gift to the Children's Home of your property today and receive the following benefits:

- Current income tax deduction
- Life use and enjoyment of the property
- A lasting legacy to further our mission

*For information
about estate
planning,
contact*

ELISABETH GADD, MNM, CFRE
Chief Development Officer
386.753.2066
plannedgiving@fumch.org
www.fumchlegacy.org

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Kitwana McTyler, CEO, speaking at Mt. Pleasant UMC of Gainesville

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Sherry Decrenza, President of West Volusia Regional Chamber of Commerce and Deltona Mayor Santiago Avila, Jr. bring lunch to our Madison Youth Ranch girls staying at Enterprise during Hurricane Idalia

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Six of our boys playing football in the West Volusia Little Hatters league

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Beverly Jane Tutt
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First Ft. Pierce United Women
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Pamela J. Woods
Mr. Timothy L. DeMotsis

E.A.W. "Pan" Zettler
Mr. and Mrs. Leo Sapp, Jr.

THE HERALD

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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Phone: 386.668.4774
www.fumch.org

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