

November/December 2008

the Children's Voice

A Publication of the Kentucky United Methodist Homes for Children & Youth • 859-873-4481 • www.kyumh.org

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Fifth Sunday is

November 30th

**Please Help Our Children
SEND A SPECIAL GIFT!**

Photo by Jeana Pillion Walter

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Rev. Randy Coy

Communications Coordinator
Lauren Hiatt
Lauren.Hiatt@kyumh.org

With special thanks to
Jeana Walter

The Children's Voice is published quarterly by The Kentucky United Methodist Homes for Children and Youth (incorporated as The Methodist Home of Kentucky), a ministry of the Kentucky Conference of The United Methodist Church. We serve children and families throughout Kentucky. The Children's Voice is freely distributed to all interested persons.

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ACCREDITED BY:



Our Mission

We serve Christ by providing for the physical, emotional, educational, and spiritual needs of children and families.

The Kentucky United Methodist Homes for Children and Youth has dual accreditation through the Council on Accreditation of Services for Families and Children, Inc. (COA) and The United Methodist Association of Health and Welfare Ministries' EAGLE (Educational Assessment Guidelines Leading toward Excellence) Program.

We serve persons regardless of race, ethnicity, economic status, sex or religion.

God Has a Plan for Us

By Rev. Randy Coy, President/CEO

"Anyone can count the number of seeds in an apple, but God sees the number of apples in a single seed," said Mordecai Ham.



Ham's quote spoken over 100 years ago is still alive today at the Kentucky United Methodist

Homes. We see many children God planted here in Kentucky and help them discover potential and hope for their future.

Mordecai Ham didn't know the plan God had for him. He didn't know his potential...even resisting it for a long time. Ham, born on April 2, 1877, in Allen County, Kentucky, resisted God's call to become an evangelist because he wanted to be a salesman. His grandfather and father, both preachers, had lived in poverty and Ham did not want that. But eventually the seeds the Lord

planted in Mordecai Ham prevailed – he quit his business to grow into the ministry as a fundamentalist Baptist.

As an evangelist, it is said that Ham had over 33,000 converts to Christ and over his lifetime, Ham won over 300,000 to the Lord.

In 1934 in North Carolina, Ham preached a revival that would change the world. At that meeting, a young man named William Franklin

Graham, Jr. came forward and gave his heart to Christ.

Rev. Billy Graham has preached in person to more people around the world than any Protestant who has ever lived. As of 1993, more than 2.5 million people had stepped forward at his crusades to accept Jesus Christ as their personal savior. As of 2002, Graham's lifetime audience, including radio and television broadcasts, topped two billion. He served as spiritual

advisor to numerous U.S. presidents and was number seven on Gallup's list of admired people.

God sees the potential that remains hidden in us. This is why the work of the Kentucky United Methodist Home remains vital.

Every child that comes to stay at our Children's Home is God's gift to the whole world. God knows the purpose that He has created into each one. **We believe it is our call to help each resident discover that potential.**

"Every child that comes to stay at our Children's Home is God's gift to the whole world."

Many former residents have found careers that fulfill their potential, from doctors, lawyers, entrepreneurs, professional sports, and ministry.

We are thankful for your faithful support in this ministry. We believe that we are not only offering unconditional love and hope, one child at a time, but we are building the Kingdom of God on this earth. **Who knows what hidden potential God has planned for His creation through the life of one child?**

Baptism Celebrating a Child's New Birthday

By Chuck Christensen, Chaplain, Versailles Campus

Most of the children who come to the Kentucky United Methodist Children's Home, are not used to attending events such as those



associated with the Spiritual Life Program on Campus. However, some children seek and desire it from their first day with all their

heart. Many are yearning to find a personal relationship with God.

Shortly after his arrival, Johnny who came to our Versailles Campus, began to ask important and tough questions about God.

"Who is God? What is this Holy Spirit thing?"

As his questions dug deeper, he started showing up at almost every service, including Chapel services on Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings.

It was during altar call one Wednesday night that Johnny made the decision to let Messiah Jesus take the lead in his day-to-day life. I was honored to be able to pray with him that night.



Pastor Chuck leads Johnny's Baptist ceremony.

Johnny began Confirmation Classes the next Monday evening and kept at them for five weeks. He dutifully read his Scriptures each week and traced with me the history and rationale behind Holy Baptism.

Then on the 31st of August at the Versailles Baptist Church, our President and Senior Pastor, Randy Coy, baptized Johnny through immersion in front of his peers and staff counselors. He wore a

white robe and wanted the full immersion. **It was Johnny's new BIRTHday.**

"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creation: the old has gone; the new has come." 2 Corinthians 5:17

The Friends of the Children Board Members purchased a personalized bible for Johnny as a gift. We took photos and gave hugs of congratulations. There is nothing greater than knowing we helped a child toward knowing God. We are all truly blessed to be used by God in this vital ministry.

A Soldier Comes Home Again

By Lauren Haitt, Communications Coordinator

A call to The Kentucky United Methodist Homes for Children and Youth was the first contact Kathleen (our former resident) made when she learned she'd be coming back to the U.S. for health reasons. She had been serving in Afghanistan. A couple months ago, the Army flew Kathleen to Germany from Afghanistan for two surgeries that proved unsuccessful. It was decided that she needed more extensive medical care, so she was brought to Fort Knox as a Wounded Warrior. Although upset that she had to leave her station as an Automated Logistical Specialist, she was happy to be home in Kentucky.

"Kathleen wants to be a social worker so she can help others just as she was helped by her counselors"

While recuperating, Kathleen chose to come home again to The United Methodist Children's Homes. She told me that The Home means so much to her

because she remembers how kind the staff were to her. Our Chaplain, Chuck Christensen, who is a retired Marine, was the first from the Home to re-connect with her. Kathleen says that she really feels the care from the staff, and that their positive and upbeat approach to life are what give her the fond memories of her time here.

When Kathleen was 14, she was placed in our Emergency Shelter as a result of neglect and abuse. The Emergency Shelter is a facility for immediate placement of children at high risk. Children in the Emergency Shelter receive therapy and urgent care and are often transitioned into longer term residential living at The Home. Kathleen had a hard time adjusting to living in treatment facilities, often talking-back and behaving defiantly. She told me that she knows she was

acting out because she didn't want to have to go back home. While with us, her care included spiritual support through Chapel and worship services. The Chapel services and Bible Studies here were the first time she remembers ever really being happy. Though Kathleen is very passionate about her military service, she feels a pull toward continuing her education through college. Kathleen's experiences in our care have taught her compassion for other children who also are suffering through tough times. As a result, she plans to return to school and become a social worker so she can help others just as she was helped by her counselors.



Photo by Jeana Pillion Walter

Kathleen in her army uniform at Fort Knox.

Each year we serve over 900 young people like Kathleen who, with your help, we equip to heal their past and reach their great potential to become outstanding citizens.

Expanded Independent Living Program on Versailles Campus

By Lauren Hiatt, Communications Coordinator

Being on your own as a young adult can be intimidating and scary if you have not been adequately prepared. In fact, one of the fastest growing populations of homeless people are youth aging out of the foster care system. Preparing youth for life on their own is the purpose of the new, expanded, Independent Living Program here at The Kentucky United Methodist Home for Children and Youth. This new program helps older youth, ages 16-17, begin learning how to transition into the "real" world as young adults.



This new element of the program is lead by Earl Washington, the Independent Living Coordinator. The program instructs these kids on a number of daily life skills including: menu designing, proper nutrition, grocery list making, preparing meals, budget and money management,



A view of the kitchen and one living room in the new Independent Living cottage.

interviewing skills, how to fill out job applications and to follow up, resume writing, laundry, conflict resolution skills and many more. Each week the youth have group meetings. During these meetings they learn stress management, anger management, how to buy a car, personal hygiene, how to find an apartment, and how to register to vote. Each treatment plan is based on the individual youth's needs.

This program is a co-educational program emphasizing socialization. Understanding how to live and work well with others is key to doing well in society. It is also key to forming lasting, supportive relationships.

This program has already made a difference for Tyson. He has only positive things to say and was the first youth in the program to get a job in the community. "Tyson is head strong, but has been nothing but positive. He is a leader and

even helps the other kids in the program," says Youth Counselor, and Team Leader, Matthew Jones.

The youth in the new Independent Living cottage are primarily encouraged to further their education. Secondary is encouraging them to find employment. A few of the youth have jobs, while some are both studying and working. Each youth has their own goals they have established, in collaboration with the staff.

Bishop Lindsey Davis Speaks At Annual Day

By Melinda Ryles-Smith, VP of Advancement

The Versailles Campus of the Kentucky United Methodist Homes for Children and Youth hosted Annual Day Celebration and Auction on Saturday, September 13th at the campus. Hundreds of supporters attended the event to help raise money and awareness for the children served by the Home. Attendees included former Governor and current Senator Julian Carroll, our new Bishop, Lindsey Davis and his wife, Jennifer, as well as over 700 other guests. Bishop Davis presented an inspiring message in which he shared that he knew of a church known for their stained glass windows. **He challenged the United Methodist Church to rise to a higher notability and be known as "the church that cares about children."** In reflecting on his love for his grandchildren he said, "What resource would I not be willing to give if God were to assure me that my precious grandchild would come to know the love of God and God's presence in his life?" He said likewise, all children are God's children and also our children. He stated we need to have that same passion and concern that we have for our own children for all,

including those of the United Methodist Children's Homes.

The Annual Day program included a performance by our choir, musician Kent Miller, *Country Grass Band*, and the band *Here and Now*, a barbecue lunch and a live and silent auction. Each year the Friends of the Children Board uses funds from the Annual Day Auction, this year totaling \$18,730, to provide special wants for the children, such as birthday parties, sports equipment, newspapers and magazines, entertainment, and Bible study books.



Our new Bishop, Lindsey Davis, challenges churches to be known as the churches who care about children.



Guests shop at our Annual Day Auction. Items available were quilts, tickets to the Cincinnati Opera and UK Athletics, handmade furniture, original artwork and a variety of other items.



Randy Coy, President, and Senator Julian Carroll visit during the festivities. Senator Carroll serves three counties including Woodford County, home of our Versailles Campus.



"Dootles" The Clown brings his lovely wife each year to Annual Day where he entertains the young children who attend. They are also known as Rev. and Mrs. John and Frances Dutil.



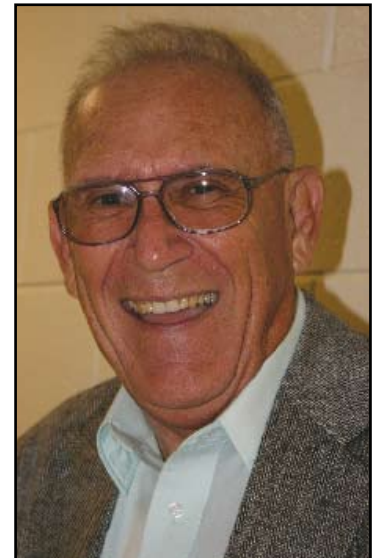
Kent Miller, Versailles UMC Minister of Music, who's father, Rev. W. Maynard Miller was a former Campus Director



Mrs. Denise Coy, wife of the Executive Director, and Dr. and Mrs. Jim Criswell, longtime Friends of the Children members. Dr. Criswell recently received the Heros, Saints, and Legends Award at Wesley Village.



Ruth Roland, longtime friend of the Home and the Methodist Home Representative for Epiphany UMC. Ruth and several ladies of her church make beautiful quilts which they sell and send the profits to the Methodist Home. Ruth is a wonderful advocate for the Methodist Home young people.



Dr. E. Ray Throckmorton, former Executive Director of the Methodist Home stopped to charm us with a big smile. We are grateful that Mrs. Donna Throckmorton, who had recently undergone heart surgery, was well enough to join us, too.



Former Residents Ransom Cooper and Maurice Denton

Investing in Children's Lives: An Investment That Can Only Increase in Value

By Melinda Ryles-Smith, VP of Advancement



In these turbulent economic times, many people are cutting back on giving to charities such as ours. However,

more than ever, we need help to ride the economic tide. **We are looking for people who are capable of giving an especially generous end-of-the-year gift to the Kentucky United Methodist Homes for Children and Youth.** I hope you will prayerfully consider becoming one of those special people. Your gift will be an investment in the lives of our young people by giving them hope and a chance for a new, better life. What an incredible gift! **Investing in lives is an investment that never diminishes in value.**

Other benefits of a gift at this time can be assisting you in reducing taxes through a charitable gift. If you choose to take advantage of this opportunity, we provide you with the documentation that you need to present to the IRS. Here are some different ways that you can give:

Gifts of Cash – You can reduce your tax liability by giving generously to our Home. Gifts of

cash can be used to reduce taxes on up to 50% of your annual income.

Transfer of Stocks and Bonds – While the value of stocks have gone down recently, there are ways to minimize the financial impact on your finances. For example, if you sell a stock that has diminished in value, you can make a gift of the cash proceeds and receive a charitable deduction. Since the value has decreased, in addition to the charitable deduction, you will be able to report a loss on your taxes which will further decrease your tax burden. Of course, not all stocks, bonds or mutual funds have declined in value, so if you have one of those that have increased in value, you can avoid any capital gains taxes by donating the stock or other property before you sell

"When stocks decrease in value, there are ways to minimize the negative impact."

it. Therefore, you not only receive the tax-deduction for the gift, but you also avoid the additional capital gains tax. If you are interested in transferring a mutual fund, stock or bond to the Home, contact me and I can provide information on how to proceed.

Remembering the Home in Your Will – If you are going to review your estate plans at year-

end, remember that including the Methodist Children's Home in your will or estate planning can help you make an ongoing gift to the ministry, while also providing relief from gift and estate taxes to your family.

If you have general questions about transferring stocks, bonds, or property to the Home or the benefits of including the Home in your will or estate planning, you

can contact me, Melinda R. Smith, at 859-873-4481 ext. 244 and I will be glad to help you.

Thank you for caring enough to support this ministry. In Christ's eyes, we are all of immeasurable value. Thank you for helping us teach our young people of their worth. There is surely no better investment in this world than investing in the life of a child!



In July, Pleasant Ridge United Methodist Church Bible School held a "Kiss the Calf" contest donating money raised to the Kentucky Methodist Children's Home. Each set of classroom teachers had a quart jar with their names attached. All participants were encouraged to bring in their spare change and drop it in the teacher's jar that they would like to see "kiss the calf". At the end of Bible School the teacher's jar that raised the most money had to "Kiss the Calf" after the commencement cookout. "Our kids raised \$240.57 to send to the Children's Home. This event was truly enjoyed by the entire congregation. It taught our children some valuable lessons on helping others and was a fitting reflection of our church's rural farming location," said Lee Ann Edwards, Bible School Director.

Living Honors & Memorials

A donation to The Kentucky United Methodist Homes for Children and Youth has been made in the names of the following by friends, relatives and loved ones.

In Honor Of

Given By
 Roy & Patty Baker.....Burton & Ann Kimbrough
 Beulah Barlow.....Bessie Collins & the Collins family
 Faye Begliutti.....Mr. & Mrs. David L. Bishop
 Mr. & Mrs. Charles D. Bennett.....Mr. & Mrs. Robert L. Haynes
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 Dorothy Burner.....Marlene Mason
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 Debbie Caswell.....Camp Ground UMC
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 Alphaeda & Larry Wilson.....William N. Luttrell
 Rev. Don & Dr. Linda Young.....Crescent Hill UMC
 Judith Ford

In Memory Of

Given By
 Nellie "MeMaw" Abate.....Andrew, Stacy & Noah Shartzter
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 Sesha, granddaughter of
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 Bertha Fultz.....Beulah Taylor
 Waldo & Bobe Fultz.....Jared Mattingly
 James Gabbert.....Richard & Norma Bensing
 Jimmy Ginter.....Bob & Susan Butler
 William Goldie.....Helen Goldie
 Eileen M. Greene.....David W. Greene
 Jane Greenwood.....Joseph & Teresa Allen
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 Bright"
 George & Fay Edwards
 Fire King (FKI) Security Group
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 C.R. & Ruth Hager.....Nela Marshall
 Richard Lee Hardin.....Elwood & Peggy Tucker
 J. Wayne & Louise Hargan.....W. R. & Mary Morgan
 Cameron & Erin Gregory
 Noah & Lucille Gregory
 James & Dianne Harris
 Jared Mattingly

Children's Day

The Capitol Rotunda, Frankfort, Ky

Thurs, Feb 12, 2009

9:00am til 2:30pm EST



www.kyumh.org
Toll-Free 877-887-4481

Kentucky continues to rank in the bottom ten among states for child well-being. **Be a voice for children!** Put this date on your calendar. Plan to join us for an opportunity to rally for children's issues and show our legislators that we care about our children. **Make your voice heard! Show elected officials that we DO CARE about at-risk children and voters want our tax dollars spent to help Kentucky's most vulnerable.** Other children's groups will also attend including, the Children's Alliance, Community Coordinated Childcare, Kentucky Child Now!, Kentucky PTA, Kentucky Youth Advocates, Kosair Children's Hospital, and much more. **Register today!** Call Melinda Ryles-Smith at 877-887-4481 x244 or email Melinda@kyumh.org.

Living Honors & Memorials

From May 16, 2008 to October 15, 2008

In Memory Of Given By

"Keith, Kristin & Lashae Naszradi"
 Beulah Taylor
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 Mr. & Mrs. Keith O. Emerine
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 Lucille Heinz
 Phyllis B. Hester
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 Eddie, Vicki & Ashley Woodruff
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 Ruth S. Smiley
 Glenn & Mary Alice Wallace
 Jared Mattingly
 Samuel & Kay Adkins
 Gene & Michelle Stewart
 Covenant UM Women
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 Madisonville
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 Hatter
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 Ann Wilson
 Mike & Vonell Anderson
 Charlotte B. Baker
 Samuel & Kay Adkins
 Paul & Terry Yielding


CHRISTMAS WISHLIST


Each year our residents are surprised to receive gifts underneath their cottage Christmas Tree. We want their Christmas memories to be happier than they remember. Our Christmas is dependent on donations from supporters like you.


- Unwrapped donations
- We need gifts by December 15 if at all possible.
- Need items appropriate for ages 12-17.
- Two locations: Versailles & Owensboro, Kentucky.


 Gift Cards – Wal-Mart and Kmart preferred, Movie Theaters in Lexington or Owensboro

 DVDs – Family titles, Rated G


 Music CDs – age appropriate, Christian Rock


 Alarm clock radios, CD Players with Radios


 New Vacuum cleaners


 New clothing for teenagers


 Baseball and Softball gloves, balls

 Baseball hats, jerseys, sport team paraphernalia

 Playstation II games, Wii game systems, fitness and sports games

 Jewelry – watches for boys and girls, contemporary

 Fishing poles, lures, line

 Board games and card games

VERSAILLES CAMPUS 859.873.4481
OWENSBORO CAMPUS 270.683.6481



Mary Kendall Bike FUNd Ride raised \$1500 for the Children's Home. Above Kathy Gates, Phillip Yeiser, David Austin, Buddy Hilliard, and Cris Smith rode.

Terry Horn [pictured right] of Settle Memorial UMC in Owensboro organized the event. "We had 51 registrations for the Third Annual Mary Kendall FUNd Ride and an absolutely perfect day for riding. Each year, we gain more riders and raise more money for the Mary Kendall campus ministries. This year we added a fourth route - 100K. We also added two additional rest stops. Each rest stop was hosted by organizations from Kentucky Wesleyan College.



Schedule A Speaker from the Children's Home

Pastor, Are you going on vacation and need a guest speaker? We bring a biblically based, inspirational message with stories about our kids!



Rev. Randy



Melinda Ryles-



Dean Weber
Chaplain



Roy Hicks
Resources

Call us (859) 873-4481

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