

July/August 2014

the Children's Voice

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

"IT'S NICE TO
FINALLY BE
IN A STABLE
HOME."

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FIFTH SUNDAY IS
AUGUST 31ST

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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

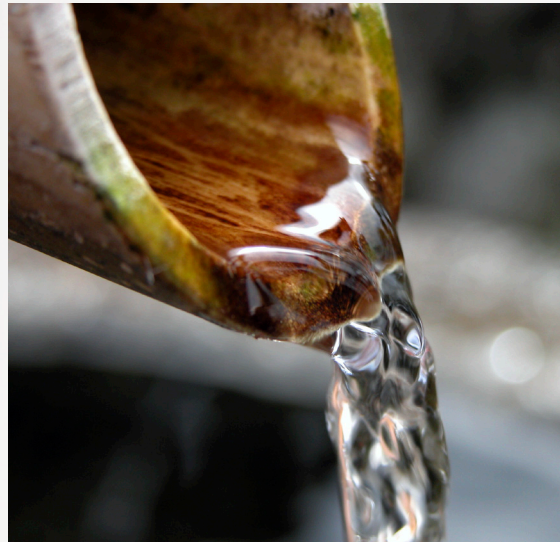
We serve Christ by providing for the physical, emotional, educational, and spiritual needs of children and families.

The Kentucky United Methodist Homes for Children and Youth is accredited through the national Council on Accreditation (COA).

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

www.kyumh.org

From the President's Desk:



Some of you are old enough to remember a chorus with me. We sang it as little kids and there were hands motions to go with it. The lyrics proclaimed that "there's a fountain flowing deep and wide." I'm singing it again as I write to you today.

That fountain is overflowing with the love of the Father. His love never ends. The Bible reminds us that nothing is able to stop that flow or

to separate us from that love. Sometimes the guilt of our own wrong choices tempts us to believe that God is mad and that he doesn't care for us anymore. After all, how could He still love us after knowing how we have willfully disobeyed Him, hurt others and ourselves? The fountain is deep and wide. It never stops flowing.

Many of our youth get stuck at this point in their budding theology. In fact, many of their behaviors are their attempt to prove that they are unlovable and broken. Truth be told, I've been there too. Surely God can't love me after some of the things that I've said and done. However, I've come to know that the fountain is deep and wide. It never stops flowing.

What's truly amazing about the fountain of God's love is that it is deep enough to use those wrongs to shape us into His image. I've come to know that in God's great economy, He doesn't waste anything. We receive words of encouragement from time to time that are designed to help us keep going in the right direction. And sometimes we are allowed to endure pain and discomfort to shape our journey. God uses all of this to make us more. It's not always easy and pleasant, but the fountain is deep and wide. We can't see its end. It never stops flowing.

Sing with me and think about His love and goodness today.



Randy Coy
President/CEO



FIVE SIMPLE WAYS

We Need You!

Here are some simple but powerful ways that you can support our work with abused, neglected, and traumatized youth in addition to your financial support.

- 1** Prayer list: Add the children and staff to your personal and the church's prayer list. Ask that God will equip us to serve the children with excellence and that the children will open their hearts and minds to receive His love and our guidance. If you have a dedicated prayer group who would be willing to support KYUMH's mission with regular prayer, we can provide specific prayer requests.
- 2** Invite us to speak: We have lots to share, Invite us to come and speak at your church! Any Sunday or special church gathering in which you need a speaker we will come and bring a scripture-based, inspirational message.
- 3** Kroger & Meijer Cards: Shopping at Kroger (see pg. 5 for details) or Meijer can help support KYUMH! For every dollar that you spend using your shopping cards, Kroger and Meijer will donate a percentage to our agency. There is no expense to you. This last year we received over \$11,000 from Kroger card uses only! To receive a Kroger Plus shopping card or a Meijer 1 Card that will support KYUMH, or to have your current card programmed, please contact us today!
- 4** Volunteer: We have volunteer opportunities for individuals and for groups. The tasks range from painting, weeding, helping with mailings, and lots of other tasks.
- 5** Methodist Home Representative: Volunteer at your church as the Methodist Home Representative if your church does not have someone already. Methodist Home Representatives are crucial to keeping our church family informed and excited about the mission work of KYUMH.

Thank you so much for caring about this ministry! It is through the heartfelt prayers and efforts of wonderful people like you, that this ministry has thrived for 143 years!

Melinda Refes Smith

VP of Advancement



“I’ve
got people
here for me.
*It’s nice to
be in a stable
home.”*

“ANDRE”
Current Resident

By Heidi M. Weaver,
PR & Communications Coordinator



13-year-old Andre had parents whose lives were spinning out of control. His father, an engineer for a technology company, was an alcoholic and addicted to drugs, along with Andre’s mother. Both of them were in and out of jail. Andre couldn’t sleep at night because of the drug-related turmoil in his house, so he began skipping classes so he could rest. He also began acting out. After being suspended multiple times, a school counselor intervened for Andre to determine what his home situation was like. Andre was removed from his home and transported to an emergency shelter. Andre remembers being angry. He missed his basketball game that day and he wasn’t able to participate in the championship game later in the season.

For the next four years, Andre was placed in more than ten foster homes, several group homes, and a multitude of respite care placements. Andre was exhausted. “The hardest part is adjusting to feeling like you’re at home. It took at least a week to feel acclimated.” It was tough, he says, to constantly be “waking up to people you didn’t know.”

Some situations were worse than his home life, with foster parents who neglected or abused him. He remembers arriving at one foster home only to be locked in a basement for days on end. Andre didn’t tell anyone though, because he didn’t know who to trust. Andre grew tired of switching schools all the time, never knowing when he was going to be moved again. “They tell the foster parents not to get too close to the kids,” he said. “You

feel like you don’t have anybody.” Finally, at the age of 17, Andre came to the Kentucky United Methodist Homes for Children and Youth. For the first time, he found some stability. The program, which helps teens ages 17-21 to transition successfully out of foster care services and into building stable lives for themselves, was just the thing Andre needed.

Now 20-years-old, Andre says, “I’ve got people here for me. It’s nice to be in a stable home... It makes you feel empowered being able to say you have your own place and not really having to worry about it.” The independent living program covers Andre’s food, rent, and other needs so he can invest his energy in building a future for himself through his schooling and job. “I was afraid of the real world, in a way,” he said, “but I got a job and have been working ever since.”

KYUMH also provides counseling to Andre to resolve the hurts and trauma he has experienced over the years.

Andre has been promoted to a manager at his job, which he works full-time on the third shift so he can still go to college full-time. He is currently pursuing his bachelor's degree at a local university and hopes to finish his masters in social work, so he can help other kids like him. Andre has also met the love of his life and they plan to marry next summer.

Andre is thankful for the support of Earl Washington, Director of Child Placing Services in the Independent Living Program of KYUMH. They get together regularly to talk about things like work, school, the future, and what sports teams they're rooting for. "Earl is more of a mentor to me than anything else. I think that would be good for a lot of foster kids, someone stable in their life to help them work through whatever hardships are there," Andre says. "I learned from him how not to be bitter. He's used all his experiences (from growing up in foster care) for a lot of good. I'd like to be like that."

KROGER CARD CHANGES!

Kroger has changed the way you help support KYUMH.

Beginning September 1, 2014, you will no longer use a Kroger gift card to donate to our agency! Last year we received over \$11,000 of free money from proceeds raised by Kroger cards, so please follow these instructions to keep your Kroger purchases supporting us!

In place of gift cards, Kroger Plus savings cards will now be programmed to benefit the non-profit of your choosing. You can sign up for a card or program your current card by following these simple steps online, or call us for assistance.

1. Visit www.kroger.com/communityrewards
2. Scroll down to find your location and click "Enroll Now"
3. Sign in to your account online or create an account
4. Find and select our organization (The Methodist Homes of KY, Inc. or The KY United Methodist Homes for Children & Youth), and click "Save"

Thank you for your ongoing support!

HONOR YOUR LOVED ONES!

Did you know you can make a donation to support youth like Andre in honor or memory of someone you love? Celebrate or commemorate loved ones in the following ways, and we will mention them in our upcoming Children's Voice Newsletters!

DONATE USING THE ENCLOSED ENVELOPE OR ANYTIME AT KYUMH.ORG.

GRADUATIONS

ANNIVERSARIES

BIRTH OF A CHILD

MILITARY SERVICE

BIRTHDAYS

PASTOR APPRECIATION

WEDDINGS

♥
METHODIST HOME
REPRESENTATIVE
VOLUNTEER
REGISTRATION

♥
Be the liaison between
your church and
KYUMH.

Become the "voice for
our children" to the
congregation

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

♥
Mail to Ken Proctor in
the enclosed
business reply envelope

MEMORIALS

(May 7, 2014 - June 25, 2014)

Rev. Graham L. Abbott

Leslie Abbott
Glen & Pam Perkinson
Merle & Lana Westrick

Margie Ammons

Vine Grove UMC-
Keystone SS Class

Bruce David Bender

Tom & Carol Bassett
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Cooper
Harold & Lucia Crawford
Dorothy Cunningham
Jim & Beth Dapp
Paul & Agnes Doss
Bob & Lila Fleming
John & Louise Girvin
Lawrence & Elizabeth Jewell
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Kimbrell, Jr.
Marilyn Ligon

Bill & Marilyn Lindstaedt
Sally Y. Morgan
Lois Perry

Mr. & Mrs. William A. Robertson

Robert & Lucy Rodes
Greg & Debbie Sparks
Gary & Missy Specht
Marilyn Specht
Traci Specht

Brian & Maria Sullivan
Mr. & Mrs. Vern Woods
Marion Wright

Bethel V. Venton

Jenny Fugate

Wayne Berryman

Sandra A. Berryman

Bernice A. Best

John & Gay Lafferty

Ralph Boswell

Joseph G. & Sondra Fischer

Eugene 'Shorty' Branham

Gene Toler

Frances H. Burkholder

Dick & Leigh Burnett

Melvin Carter

Providence First

Martha Collins

Linda Bendorf

Norman Cortese

Arline Cortese

Winnie R. Cowgill

Charlene 'Noni' Davern

Jack & Adrienne Guercia

Tracy Blair Haus-

State Farm Insurance Office

Westminster Village Kentuckiana

Alma Gregory Creger

Noah & Lucille Gregory

James Creger

Noah & Lucille Gregory

Jack V. Curtis

Barbara S. Curtis

Rev. John A. Dean

Bennie Bloebaum & Rita

Robinette

Noah & Lucille Gregory

Bobby Higginbotham & Ann

Perkins

Charles R. Rice

Cheryl Rice

Whites Creek UMC

Robert DeVore

Emily DeVore

Joshua James Drury

Mildred Hodson

Paul & Alma Duvall

Jerry & Davie Greer

John M. Elder

Nettie Elder

Steven B. Estes

Gene Toler

Robert Fiene

John D. Riley

Shirley Fischer

Florence First-Beacon SS Class

John D. Riley

John & Edith Foree

John C. Foree, Jr.

Richard Garvin

Fran Garvin

Charles Gilbert

Bob & Linda Newell

Rev. A. J. Gilliam

Mary-Catherine Gilliam

Mary Glass

Ray & Kaye Mitchell

Rev. J. H. Godsey

Maxine Godsey

Ryan Hughes

Judy Green

Providence First

Elsie Gregory

Noah & Lucille Gregory

Mr. & Mrs. Owen Gumm

Rev. & Mrs. Gale Wetzel

Berda R. Hall

Deborah Hall Howard

Herbert Hall

Deborah Hall Howard

Edith Reid Harris

Virginia Smith

Rev. J. C. & Mrs. Mamie Harris

Noah & Lucille Gregory

Jared Mattingly

Kathleen 'Ki' Harris

Katherine Adams

Kellie Carter

Betty Jo Fisher

Barbara Goins

Elaine Hammond

Shirley H. Holt

Sue Miller

Leola & Sarah Routt

Fearis Eugene 'Gene' Henderson

Lloyd & Courtney Spear

Vanceburg UMC-Men's SS Class

Pauline Henderson

Dr. & Mrs. E. Ray Throckmorton

Wayne Hester

Ray & Kaye Mitchell

Thomas & Maggie Hignite

Leigh H. Burnett

Judy Hoffman

Ron Hoffman

Rev. Coleman Howlett

Ed & Louise Garrity

Jane Ron Huang

Richard & Lela Barnhisel

Mark & Laura Beaty

Lucy Chyi

Jim & Barbara Criswell

Tom & Wilma Crutcher

Clarence Cundiff

Lee & Melinda Edgerton

Doris Elliott

Robert & Carolyn Figg

John & Louise Girvin

Cheri & Happy Perkins

Jim & Mary Schooler

Paul Sears

Kelly Smith

Sharon Hughes

Maxine Godsey

Ryan Hughes

Rev. Charles L. Hulse

Mr. & Mrs. Frank Greathouse

David & Karen Husk

Rev. & Mrs. Alton Lawhorn

Lewisport UMC

Lewisport UMC-

Fellowship SS Class

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Anna R. Cottrell

Marcus Kidwell

Lloyd & Courtney Spear

Rudy Klapheke

Keith & Becky Clark

Homer & Vera Knight

Elizabeth Knight Montgomery

J. H. & Thelma Lamb

Barbara Lamb

Marie Leerkes

Janice Harper

Don Lippert

Wanda Lippert

Martha 'Nanny' Mattingly

The Jim Mattingly Family

Russell B. McIntyre

Jean D. Sapp Carpenter

Sylvia McQuithy

Virginia Smith

Mary D. McWhorter

Harold McWhorter

Nancy West Lee Millard

Lewisport UMC

Vernon Lee Musgrave

Vine Grove UMC-

Keystone SS Class

Don Muskins

Hilldale UMC

Glendora Myers

Virginia D. Wright

Mary Powell Newell

Evelyn T. Cropper

Loretta Hunter

Lloyd & Courtney Spear

Dr. & Mrs. E. Ray Throckmorton

William C. Northington

Tom, Dixie, Kyle & Blake

Broadfoot

Eldridge D. 'Al' Owens

Kay Adkins

Norman Parsons

Ruth Parsons

Howard Perkinson

Glen & Pam Perkinson

Mr. & Mrs. Eli Peters

Mary Thorpe

Lawrence E. Peters

Mary Thorpe

Phyllis A. Thorpe

Rev. Donald Riggs

Ann Riggs

Ginger Riggs

Mike & Malinda Sosby

Randolph Scott

Richard & Beth Fritz

Noah & Estelle Smith

Virginia Smith

Patricia Y. Steffen

Fred W. Steffen

Madge Swindler

Clyde Swindler

Lois Stone

Stone's View UMC

Bonnie Terrell

Patricia Basinger

Peg Coots

Hawesville UMC-Circle #2

Beckie Thorpe

Mary Thorpe

Rev. J. C. Thorpe

Mary Thorpe

Mr. & Mrs. James Edward 'Shag' Thorpe

Phyllis A. Thorpe

Jerry Thorpe

Mary Thorpe

June Thorpe

Duane & Pat Miksch

James & Linda Scott

Rev. Chris Morgan

Lay Servant Ministries-

BG District

Rev. Chris Patterson

Lay Servant Ministries-

BG District

Phedor, The Therapy Dog

Betty Jane Pitzer

Rev. Mark & Mrs. Rebecca Price

Barbara & Susan Webster

Mia Ryan Queen-Gilliam

Wetzel & Denice Queen

Mr. & Mrs. James Rawlings

Betty Jane Pitzer

Dr. Robert Rice

Dr. and Mrs. Stephen Schnacke

Mr. & Mrs. Randy Rodgers & Family

Betty Jane Pitzer

Joyce Mattingly

Evelyn Tichenor

Marilyn Hopkins

Bob & Mary Edith Tolle

Bob & Linda Newell

Rev. Jack R. & Sally B. Vibbert

The Jack Vibbert

Evangelistic Foundation

Rickey Waddell

Munfordville First

Freida Woodson Wagoner

Ann Stanchina

John Wallace

Mike & Malinda Sosby

John & Margaret Wallace

Stella M. Wallace

Anthony Wayne Walters

Pete & Anne Gross

Doug Ward

Nancy Ward

Steve Warner

Linda H. Walker

Mary H. Watson

Andy D. Watson, Jr.

John Webb

Alice C. Baker

Mr. & Mrs. Carter Wetzel

Rev. & Mrs. Gale Wetzel

Virginia Morris Winsor

Marilyn Faughn

Richard & Beth Fritz

Michael Glowatch

Michael & Sheila Green

Jim & Joanie Heidinger

Anna Kennedy

Lana Marshall

Lexington First-

Belle Bennett Circle

Foster & Joyce Ockerman

Michele Parks

Patricia Parks

Mark & Gina Rose

Nancy Stengel

Norma J. Vaughn

Dorothy Pauline 'Paula' Wetzel Winter

Rev. & Mrs. Gale Wetzel

Aubrey & Clarice Woodward

Marie W. Dorsey

Douglas R. Wright

Anthony & Diane Cherico

Joseph P. Fotos

Jessie Nell Young

Shirley Chester

Joan T. Cross

Ann Huckaba

Carol Rosen

Jim & Ruth Waldrop

Nell Smith

Leslie Boblitt

</

UPCOMING EVENTS



ANNUAL DAY (VERSAILLES) SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13TH

This auction and bakesale event is held by the Friends of the Children Board to help provide the “extras” that make a young person’s stay with us feel more like home. This year’s special auction items include:

Basketball signed by John Calipari
Bigscreen HD Television
Mark Kidd Studio 16x20 water color portrait, valued at \$800
Little Gym birthday party, valued at \$245
Remote control John Deere tractor
Action Chiropractic package, valued at \$430
A variety of food and entertainment gift baskets

GOLF SCRAMBLE (VERSAILLES) FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 19TH

The Versailles Campus Golf Scramble has grown to over 200 golfers from around the region and spots fill up fast! This scramble is held at The Brook Golf Course next to the Versailles Campus.

Sponsorship opportunities and advertising opportunities (starting at \$35) are available to help support the event! For more information on supporting this event or to register, contact Ken Proctor at (859) 879-4038 or via email at ken.proctor@kyumh.org.

9TH ANNUAL BIKE FUN D RIDE (OWENSBORO) SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20TH

The Mary Kendall Bike FunD Day is held annually at the Panther Creek Park Trailhead Shelter in Owensboro, Kentucky. There are four routes from which to select: 15K, 30K, 60K, 100K.

Sponsorship opportunities (starting at \$75) are available to help support this event. For more information on supporting this event or to register for the Bike FunD Ride, contact: Terry Horn at (270) 993-9099 or tsahorn@hotmail.com.

The Kentucky United Methodist
Homes for Children & Youth
P.O. Box 749
Versailles, KY 40383-0749

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Lexington, KY

VOLUNTEER CORNER

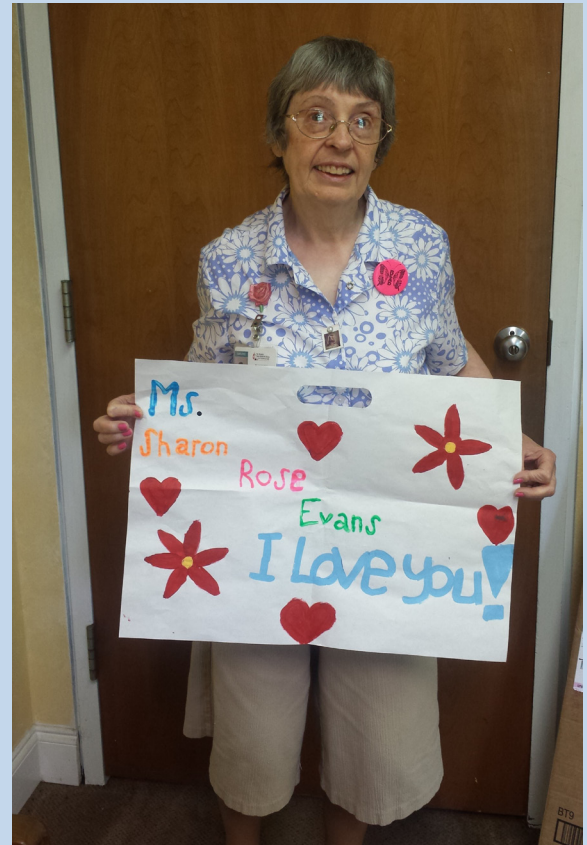


WE LOVE OUR VOLUNTEERS!

Youth from Trinity Hill UMC (Lexington, KY) donated over 111 hours of service on our new Ashgrove campus in Jessamine county doing outdoor cleanup, cleaning the future administrative building, and painting! (pictured in top two photos on the right)



Over 25 volunteers from Team AWOL from First Lutheran Church (Lincoln, NE) donated over 130 hours on our Versailles campus sorting clothes, cleaning, organizing, painting, moving furniture, landscaping, and more! (pictured on bottom and top left)



Faithful volunteer Sharon Evans poses with a poster given to her by one of the youth on our Versailles campus! (pictured on bottom right)