



## United Methodist Children's Services of Wisconsin, Inc

### *Housing, Stability & Hope for Milwaukee Families*

United Methodist Children's Services is a social service agency established in 1962 by the Wisconsin Annual Conference and the United Methodist Women to address the unmet needs of pregnant teens and their children. Located in the Washington Park neighborhood of Milwaukee, today UMCS addresses many of the basic needs of families living in poverty:

- Safe, affordable housing
- Reliable food sources
- Safe, reliable childcare for multiple working shifts
- Access to quality community resources
- Development of coping skills to address everyday family issues
- Extended supportive services such as supporting access to health care, financial education, mental health & AODA support, transportation, and more



We recognize the difficulty families face in meeting these basic needs, especially when one need is dependent upon another. We know that many families desire a sense of stability and hope for the future, but many lack the skills or resources to overcome the barriers and challenges that they face.

**Based upon our fundamental belief in God's love, United Methodist Children's Services of Wisconsin, Inc. values the dignity, potential, and worth of each individual, and creates a nurturing environment and sense of community in which miracles happen.**

We understand the interconnected nature of poverty and use a multi-faceted approach to address the struggles families face. UMCS reduces barriers to basic needs so that families can focus on developing roots in the community, building capacity to overcome challenges, and meeting their individualized goals.

Through housing, childcare, resources, and community engagement, we act as a stepping stone for families on their way towards stability.

## Community Engagement



Poverty makes it a challenge for families to develop roots in a community—to connect with others, to develop strong ties within a neighborhood, and to invest the time and energy to help improve the community at large. Because of the need to focus on meeting basic needs, engaging in the community often takes a back seat to more pressing concerns for families.

United Methodist Children's Services works to redevelop the Washington Park neighborhood through sustainable community initiatives that work



within the neighborhood to ensure that it's a safe place for residents to live, work, and play. At UMCS, we provide opportunities for families to grow strong roots that create stability. Through case management, community dinners and events, and sustainable community initiatives, families can learn to call Washington Park 'home.'

One current initiative is the Washington Park Partners—a collaboration that leads the community in convening resident groups and community partners to better the neighborhood together. It helps those in the Washington Park neighborhood have a place at the table and a voice to improve their community in the areas of housing, education, safety, health & wellness, arts & culture, park & recreation, and business & jobs. This partnership allows UMCS to offer additional resources to residents and community members.

### *Join Us!*

Our partnerships with individuals, groups, congregations, companies, and other organizations are crucial to the success of UMCS and those we serve. To learn more about how you can help reduce the barriers to basic needs for children, individuals, & families, visit our website at [www.umcs-wi.org](http://www.umcs-wi.org), or contact us at [info@umcs-wi.org](mailto:info@umcs-wi.org).