



## 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.

### **Housing**

With 72 units of safe, affordable housing, individualized case management, and a positive living environment, UMCS helps individuals and families create stability for their everyday lives and set goals for their future.



### **Childcare**



The Growing Tree Children's Center offers 1<sup>st</sup> shift childcare to families in our housing and the surrounding neighborhood so that children can be cared for while parents work, go to school, or meet other basic needs. Our center is a 3-star, state licensed facility that offers quality childcare, age-appropriate activities, and early literacy programming.

### **Resources**

Families in poverty struggle with meeting many basic needs. Our Family Resource Center focuses on helping families with a number of resources including an emergency food bank, Senior Stock Boxes, clothing bank, hygiene products, and other resources.



### **Community Engagement**



Developing community and sustainability within a community is a challenge for a family when dealing with poverty. Through initiatives such as the Washington Park Partners and other community projects, UMCS works to help families used to transiency put down roots and develop connections & support systems within the community.

### **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).