

the Children's Voice

A Publication of The Kentucky United Methodist Children's Homes • January/February 2022

Amy experienced God's unconditional love at KyUMH. Now, she believes God has called her to serve others. Read her story on **page 4.**

CELEBRATING

150 

— YEARS OF HOPE —

January 30, 2022

OFFERING OF HOPE

— for 5th Sunday —



Bringing Hope to Children Since 1871



From the President's Desk

by Julie Hager Love,
President/CEO

"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it." John 1:5 (NRSV)

Advent, Christmas and Epiphany are behind us for another year. The example of the wise men stands out to me: they followed a star to Bethlehem to bear witness to the light. In this season, we celebrate light illuminating dark places, God reaching towards us in love.

In 1871, Methodists founded a place to care for vulnerable children orphaned during the Civil

War. They walked into the darkness of destruction and war with the light of God's love. As we move into our 151st year of ministry, God is calling each of us to shine the light of Christ.

We shine the light of Christ by expanding our prevention and family services at a time when Kentucky continues to be first in the nation for per capita child abuse and neglect.

We shine the light of Christ by advocating for Kentucky youth with our legislators.

We shine the light of Christ by celebrating the abundance of support and gifts from our many donors.

The song "Go Light Your World" by Chris Rice comes to mind for me. The chorus illustrates how I see what we are doing together. We are making a difference, lighting up the darkness, together.

Thank you for shining Christ's light with us!

***"So carry your candle, run to the darkness
Seek out the hopeless, deceived and poor,
Hold out your candle for all to see,
Take your candle and go light your world."***

- "Go Light Your World" by Chris Rice

Meet Your Development Team • (859) 523-3001



Melissa Brown

Director of Donor Relations

Melissa joined the Development team in October 2021 as our Director of Donor Relations. She has ten years of experience with Kentucky non-profits and fund raising, and at KyUMH, will focus on building relationships to expand our KyUMH family. Melissa is a United Methodist, a pastor's wife, mom to two boys and an artist. **Contact Melissa to learn more about how you can help Kentucky's kids through KyUMH!**

the Children's Voice

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The Children's Voice

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The Children's Voice is freely distributed to all interested persons.

Contact the Nicholasville Campus for a subscription or to change an address:
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Accredited by:



Our Belief

We believe every individual is an individual of worth, entitled to God's gift of wholeness of life.

The Kentucky United Methodist Children's Homes is accredited through the national Council on Accreditation (COA).

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



The Room Where it Happens

Kentucky's social services are in desperate need of support. We can make a difference by raising our voices, together.

Kentucky ranks first in the nation for rates of child abuse and neglect.

Without a significant increase in financial support, we will allow abuse and neglect to cycle its way through Kentucky's future generations.

A Chronic Lack of Funding

A historical lack of financial support, exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, means that **residential**

treatment homes are under financial strain. State social workers have been underpaid and overworked for far too long, impacting the quality of care youth in foster care receive.

Our Voices Make a Difference

When we lift our voices together to show our leaders that we care, **we can make a difference.** This legislative session, there is funding

available that is desperately needed to support social services in Kentucky.

Please join us in making sure our legislators know this urgent need.

The KyUMH Children's Advocacy Network

When you join our Children's Advocacy Network, we will send you action alerts via e-mail.

These alerts will include specific needs and what to share with your legislators via phone, e-mail or in person. **The more our representatives hear from us, the more they will know how great the need.**

Please fill out the form below and use the business reply envelope included on page 6 to join this important effort.

Sign up for the KyUMH Children's Advocacy Network

Name

Phone

Address

E-mail

City, State, ZIP

Called by God

Thirty years ago, a 14 year-old girl named Amy was given a new way of life and the love of God. Today, she's helping our youth find that new way of life.

by Rebecca Merrill,
Communications/Public Relations
Coordinator

Amy remembers feeling scared to leave her family.

Despite the fact that her home was filled with alcoholism and abuse, "when you're a kid, you still love your parents," she says.

Amy was separated from her siblings and felt that the foster families she lived with did not genuinely love her. Because of this, she pushed her foster families away "before they could hurt me."

When Amy arrived at the Kentucky United Methodist Children's Homes (KyUMH) at age 14, she tested the staff to see if they truly cared for her.

KyUMH proved different than her foster homes.

"That was the first time that

if I messed up, the next day was a new day, and it wasn't held against me," Amy says. The staff helped Amy

the ones who showed me no matter how hard I pushed them away, they were right there," says Amy.

"KyUMH brought God into my life."



The chapel where Amy felt God's presence was a cornerstone of the Versailles campus. Spiritual life is offered to residents, never forced.

rebuild her trust in others. Two volunteers, Laurie and Karen, welcomed Amy into their home for weekends and holidays. "They were

The forgiveness and unconditional love she found at KyUMH began to change Amy's heart.

At chapel one night, while listening to the hymn "Amazing Grace," Amy was overwhelmed by emotion—God was calling out to her. "That is when I was saved," Amy recalls. "KyUMH brought God into my life."

After leaving KyUMH, Amy describes her life as a "twisted road" as she aged out of foster care and began life on her own. **In hard times, she would remember the love of the staff at KyUMH.** "I didn't know how much it would make an impact on me," Amy says.

She still carries with her the things she learned at KyUMH. As a parent, she has family dinners focused on connection, just like she did in the cottage at KyUMH. She still stays in touch with Laurie and Karen and remembers their examples, and knows that she is worthy of God's love.

Today, over 30 years later, Amy has a degree in psychology and wants to help others. She believes God wants her to make a difference for people who have gone through hard times, like she has. She says, "I want to be that person who, when someone looks back, says, 'Amy never let me push her away.'"

You have helped thousands of children like Amy over the past 150 years! Help continue our ministry with a gift today.



SCAN ME



"But now, O Jacob, listen to the LORD who
created you. O Israel, the one who formed you
says, '***Do not be afraid, for I have ransomed you.
I have called you by name; you are mine.***'"

Isaiah 43:1 NLT

Celebrating the Holidays at KyUMH



Thanks to your generosity, we can provide some classic holiday traditions for the youth and families we serve!

For Thanksgiving, some of our residents and staff gathered for a meal of turkey, dressing, potatoes and more. They shared what they were grateful for, including their families, friends, KyUMH staff, and the simple blessing of life.



1 Our residents and staff share what they are grateful for. **2** Ashley Williamson and Robin Campbell enjoy their Thanksgiving meal. **3** Dining Hall staff Fred Davis, Jeremy Conn and Josh Conley created a wonderful meal! **4** Friends from Sulphur Well UMC delivered wish list items as a Christmas gift. **5** These gift cards and many others helped purchase Christmas gifts for our youth and their families! **6** Volunteer Lily Kesten and other students from Asbury University helped decorate for Christmas.

At Christmas, our Friends of the Children groups sponsor a special dinner and gifts for each child. Several volunteer groups along with staff decorated our campuses to make them feel festive.

Thank you for the many ways you support our youth during the holidays. You help them make new, happy memories!



Go Light your World



by Melinda Ryles-Smith,
Vice President for Development

*"So carry your candle, run
to the darkness/Seek out the
hopeless, deceived and poor/
Hold out your candle for all
to see/Take your candle and go
light your world."*

This song by Chris Rice that Julie referenced in her letter reminds us that **God is calling us, you and me, to be his instruments of love and healing on this earth.** I believe he is calling us to care for children in need around us.

Right now **Kentucky's children are not free to just be children.** For many, poverty, addiction, food insecurity and instability at home creates an environment where they cannot thrive. Kentucky does not have enough social workers to adequately meet the needs of children and their families. Additionally, the COVID-19 pandemic

has drastically impacted resources available to many families in our state.

Imagine how different the lives of thousands of young people would have been had it not been for the founders of KyUMH who, 151 years ago, followed God's call for the sake of orphans and widows in their community.

Now is our time to carry the torch of our founders into the future. It is our time to be bold enough

to envision a future for children as God intended: One where families have the emotional skills to nurture their children properly. One where Kentucky prioritizes children, as evidenced in state legislative priorities, and city and county initiatives to preserve families. **We must invest in healthy, happy families**

to assure that the next generation is nurtured and has the tools necessary to be content and productive citizens.

Is God calling you to be a light in the world through your Kentucky United Methodist Children's Homes? Then please consider one or more of the following:

1) Become a legislative advocate: Sign up for the KyUMH Children's Advocacy Network to receive

legislative alerts via e-mail so we can let you know of issues important to our advocacy for children. Clip and mail the form provided on page 3.

2) Give an extra gift: Make a financial gift so that we may continue to meet the needs of the children and families we serve. You can

give online at kyumh.org/donate

3) Pray: Add the children, staff and Board to your regular prayer list.

4) Volunteer: Volunteer to be the KyUMH Ambassador in your church if no else is serving in that role.

5) Give a legacy gift: Consider including KyUMH in your will to leave a legacy of healing and hope for children in Kentucky. Please get in touch with me at (859) 523-3001 to learn more.

Any one or combination of the above can move KyUMH into the future and fulfill our mission to provide for the physical, emotional, educational and spiritual needs of Kentucky's children and families.

May God bless you in 2022 and may God make clear to you how you can be a light in this world.

Mentoring makes a Difference

by Corrie Merricks,
Development and Volunteer
Coordinator

I like to say that our residents at the Kentucky United Methodist Children's Homes are just regular kids. They are like my kids, and they are like yours—they love Marvel movies, popular music, sports, and UK basketball. They are fun, funny, and sometimes shy.

They have also been through some of the hardest things you or I can imagine—to have a child sit across from you and tell you their story can be heartbreaking and also transformative.

Mentors are volunteers at KyUMH's campuses who step in, sit with residents, and hear their stories. Sometimes that looks like going for walks together, playing Uno together, or just sitting in silence.

Studies of adverse childhood experiences demonstrate that **for a young person with a difficult history, having even one non-parent adult who takes a genuine interest in them can heal some of the negative impacts of trauma.** Mentors are participants in healing!

Their commitment to and interest in their mentees plays a significant role in our residents' transformation.

We ask mentors to practice "presence" in the lives of their mentees—**our youth need caring adults who are willing to be present in their lives** more than they need gifts, clothes, shoes, or any material thing.

"[Mentoring] has given me an opportunity to share my love, gifts, talents, knowledge, and wisdom."

- Melinda N., mentor at KyUMH (pictured at right)

What's often surprising is that mentors benefit from this relationship as much as our residents do. Melinda Nunley, mentor to a 15-year-old girl, says that mentoring "has given me an opportunity to share my love, gifts, talents, knowledge and wisdom while gaining new insight into the challenges many of our children face on a

daily basis. I look forward to each visit, the continuance of a new friendship and the amazing feeling of being right where I am supposed to be in that moment." Melinda tells me often that visiting with her mentee is the highlight of her week.



In Matthew 25, **Jesus tells us that he identifies with the most vulnerable**—the hungry, the sick, the prisoner—and he invites us to see himself in them. In a lot of ways, even though our residents at KyUMH are "regular kids," they are also the "least" Jesus talks about. None of that is their own fault—they are

simply children who are vulnerable because of their circumstances or the choices of the adults in their lives.

In his sermon, "On Visiting the Sick," John Wesley claims that spending time with the "least" forces us to recognize our inadequacies and lean on God for help. He says that "before ever you enter upon the work, you should be deeply convinced that you are by no means sufficient for it; you have neither sufficient grace, nor sufficient understanding, to perform it in the most excellent manner. And this will convince you of the necessity ... of flying to the Father of Lights, the giver of every good gift, for wisdom."

Indeed—mentoring isn't easy, but thanks be to God that he is with us! He helps each of us when we come to a challenge for which we are not enough.

If you'd like to consider being a mentor or supporting our mentoring program, please get in touch with me at (859) 523-3001! Jesus says that when you spend time with our residents, you're spending time with him.

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Gina Wilcoxson
Pinkerton

Bobby Wilson
Patsy Wilson

William L. Wright, Jr.
Betty J. Wright

What will your legacy be?

Charitable giving through your will is a stress-free way to invest in Kentucky's next generation.

Clip and mail this section using the enclosed envelope to learn more about how your legacy can empower KY's most vulnerable youth!

Please send me information on:

☐ Charitable Annuities ☐ Giving in my will ☐ Capital Campaign

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Birthday: ____ / ____ / ____

Email: _____



HONOR GIFTS

September 1, 2021 - November 30, 2021

Dr. Tom Abell
Dennis & DeeDee
Faulkner

Dr. Nicholas Ajkay
Dennis & DeeDee
Faulkner

Dr. Ben Alderdice, Jr.
Dennis & DeeDee
Faulkner

Dr. Ben Alderdice, Sr.
Dennis & DeeDee
Faulkner

Roger Arnold
Mark & Cathy Dearing

Megan Baker
Charlene V. Baker

Sue Jane Bane
Emerson Plummer

Dr. Charlie Becknell
Dennis & DeeDee
Faulkner

Connor Berg
Mary K. Miller

Judy Boswell
James & Anne Roberts

Jim & Jessie Boyd
Bob & Susan Butler

Jim Brumfield
Mary K. Miller

Bro. Ben Cain & Family
Jean D. Sapp
Carpenter

Dr. Shea Cheuvront
Dennis & DeeDee
Faulkner

Carolla Cocanougher
Harold & Patricia
Burton

Rev. Beth Ann Cook
Rev. & Mrs. James A.
Williams

Dr. Samir Cook
Dennis & DeeDee
Faulkner

**Ransom & Betty
Cooper**
Rev. Richard
Chamberlin
Tom & Teresa Sharp
Seeley

Dr. James E. Criswell
Larry & Teddi Powell &
Family

John Dixon
Bob & Susan Butler

Bill & Ann Dunning
Lorena M. Ritter

Dr. Magdy El-Kalliny
Dennis & DeeDee
Faulkner

Dr. Amir El-Naggar
Dennis & DeeDee
Faulkner

Omar & Edna Emmons
Bob & Susan Butler

Dr. Rick Farmer
Dennis & DeeDee
Faulkner

Jim & Pat Farris
Bob & Susan Butler

Ester Felt
Mary K. Miller

Sara 'Candy' Fitzpatrick
Deborah Gillenwater

Dale Ford
D. B. Jacavino

Rick & Julie Harmon
Bob & Susan Butler

**Rev. Don & Mrs. Irene
Hatton**
Rev. Richard
Chamberlin

Hilldale UMC
Rev. Dr. Jay & Dr.
Marian Smith

Jill Hobbs
Robert Haynes

Henry Hogan
D. B. Jacavino

Peggy Hunt
Bob & Susan Butler

Pat & Sharon Jeske
Bob McHenry

Alice Johnson
Helena Kruer

Donald Kaelin
Nancy B. Yates

Dr. Bachar Kassem
Dennis & DeeDee
Faulkner

**Kentucky United
Methodist Children's
Homes**
Mike & Tracy Miller

Dr. Amtullah Khan
Dennis & DeeDee
Faulkner

Jewell King
Neon UMC

Nancy Knox
Doris Daugherty

Helena Kruer
Alice M. Johnson

Bill & Elaine Littleton
Emerson Plummer

Rev. Julie Hager Love
Watkins UMC

Chuck & Sandy Lueke
Bob & Susan Butler

Wanda & Kayla Mantela
Bob & Susan Butler

**David & Connie
Matthews**
Richard & Marjorie
Wilson

**Randy & Cindy
Maynard**
Wenda Weeks

Victoria McClary
Mary K. Miller

Rev. D. Merricks
Mary K. Miller

**Rebecca (Hurshman)
Merrill**
Elaine Bishop Trent

Rowan Mulcahy
Sid & Peggy Galbaugh

Dr. Margaret Napolitano
Dennis & DeeDee
Faulkner

Betty Jane Pitzer
Bob & Betty Campbell
Logan Grant & Dylan
Grant

Rev. Teddy Poore
Rev. Dr. Jay & Dr.
Marian Smith

Jessica Gayle Prinz
Kent Veterinary Clinic

**Rev. Mickey & Mrs. Ella
Richardson**
Rev. Dr. Jay & Dr.
Marian Smith

Abenet Satterly
Bud & Sharon Satterly

Elizabeth Satterly
Bud & Sharon Satterly

Dr. Mandissa Sealey
Dennis & DeeDee
Faulkner

Nancy Shafferman
Katharine Shafferman

Corine F. Sherrill
Betty L. Muse

Dr. Greg Sherry
Dennis & DeeDee
Faulkner

Rev. Chuck Shroll
Shelia Nunn

**Kathleen Michelle
Sigmund**
Robert & Brenda Maile

Rev. Dan Smith
Deborah Gillenwater

Trudy Smith
Deborah Gillenwater

Jan Sparks
Lillian Letcher

Jaxson Todd & Braxton
Daniel Stapleton
Shannon UMW

Alton & Betty Warford
David & Kathy Booth

**Rev. Howard & Mrs.
Helen Willen**
1st UMC Hopkinsville-
Friendship Class

Mitchell Wilson
Greg & Margaret
Wilson

Dr. Andrean Woodruff
Dennis & DeeDee
Faulkner

30TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Mike & Tracy Miller
Mike & Tracy Miller

BIRTHDAYS

Bro. Don Bunch
Donnie & Linda Pogue

Marge Burnaw
Lillian Letcher

Ernestine Harp
Mr. & Mrs. Buddy
Brooks

Roxanne Payne
Betty Jane Pitzer

Emily Smith
Patsy D. Wilson

Stephen Joel Wallace
John Glenn & Mary
Alice Wallace

95TH BIRTHDAY

**Imogene Walker
Murphy**
Libby Walker Jones

90TH BIRTHDAY

Evelyn Richardson
Russellville Temple
UMC-Upper Room SS
Class



1115 Ashgrove Road
Nicholasville, KY 40356

Non-Profit
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US Postage
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Lexington, KY



Give to KyUMH each time you buy groceries!

Link your Kroger® Plus card to KyUMH and every time you shop, we receive a donation from Kroger® Community Rewards. We have received up to \$10,000 in a year! There is no cost to you and it's simple to sign up online.

- Visit www.kroger.com/communityrewards
- Sign in to your Kroger account or create one
- Select "KY Methodist Children's Homes"
- Click "Save"

If you need assistance contact us,
(859) 523-3001 or email info@kyumh.org

WISHLIST ITEMS

Your generous donations help meet the daily needs of our youth!

Nicholasville Campus

- Toilet paper and paper towels
- Nitrile gloves (sizes M-XL)
- Laundry detergent pods
- Underwear (new; adult sizes)
- T-shirts (new; adult sizes)
- Sweatpants (new; adult sizes)
- Sweatshirts (new; adult sizes)
- Gift cards (Kohls, Walmart, Chick-fil-a, Burger King, Target)
- Hair gel and hair spray
- Deodorant (men's & women's)
- Art supplies
- Composition notebooks (no spiral binding)

For more information,
call (859) 523-3001 or info@kyumh.org

Mary Kendall Campus (Owensboro)

- Women's deodorant
- Shampoo and conditioner
- Body wash (Women's)
- Toothpaste & toothbrushes
- Women's underwear (adult sizes, bikini style)
- Women's ankle socks
- Paper towels
- Outdoor/portable volleyball net
- Basketballs and volleyballs
- Gift Cards (Kohls, Walmart, restaurants)
- Bulletin board supplies
- Art supplies
- Magazines and books (appropriate for teen girls)

For more information,
contact Roy Hicks at (270) 683-6481, ext. 221