

the Children's Voice

A publication of the Kentucky United Methodist Children's Homes • August/September 2025



Join us in quilting together a brighter future for Kentucky children. Read more from our CEO inside.

August 31, 2025

OFFERING OF HOPE

for 5th Sunday



Bringing Hope to Children Since 1871



From the President's Desk

by Julie Hager Love,
President/CEO

My Granny Hager never threw away scraps of fabric. Never. She was a quilter and proudly Appalachian. While she did not pass to me the gift of quilting, she did pass to me a love of quilts. They are a huge part of both my Appalachian heritage and my family heritage. I have quilts that were presents at my wedding and the birth of my children—I am even blessed to have my mother's baby quilt.

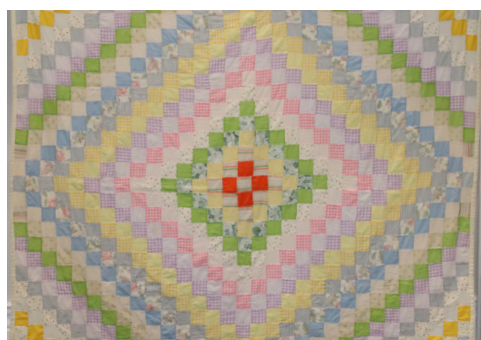
My favorite quilt pattern is the patchwork quilt—I love all the pieces of fabric pieced together into something beautiful, lovely and useful! A quilt is not only beautiful, but it will keep you warm on cold nights. Having a homemade quilt given to you means that someone dedicated hours upon hours organizing fabric and sewing—it means someone cares about you.

Quilts show up in a variety of ways at our Children's Homes. The analogy of quilting is a wonderful way to think about the work of our programs. We are helping children and young people bring together a patchwork of life experiences to create the possibility of a beautiful future. More tangibly, each child who passes through our residential care receives a quilt to take with them as they move on to the next stage of their lives. This is only made possible because so many people share their gifts of quilting with our youth.

Like the pieces of a quilt, when we come together, we all have a unique role to play in making Kentucky a

beautiful place for children. A recent report, "The Economic Impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences In Kentucky", paints a dire picture of what the future could look like in our state if we don't all take the goal of becoming committed quilters seriously. Together, we can honor the beauty and promise of each child and live with a vision of the breathtaking quilt that can be created when each one is healthy and a valued part of the whole.

Thanks for all you do to work alongside us to quilt a better tomorrow for all of our children.



the Children's Voice

President/CEO

Rev. Julie Hager Love

Public Relations

Rebecca Merrill

rebecca.merrill@kyumh.org

The Kentucky United Methodist Children's Homes (incorporated as The Methodist Home of Kentucky) serves children and families throughout Kentucky.

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

Contact info@kyumh.org for a subscription or to change your mailing address.

Nicholasville Campus

Administrative Offices
1115 Ashgrove Road
Nicholasville, KY 40356
(859) 523-3001

Mary Kendall Campus

201 Phillips Court
Owensboro, KY 42303
(270) 683-6481



Our Mission

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

Our Belief

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

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

Heading back to the classroom

by Rebecca Merrill,
Director of Communications
and Public Relations

It's back-to-school season!

At the Kentucky United Methodist Children's Homes, providing for the educational needs of children is a key part of our mission. **So far in 2025, we have celebrated high school graduation with 28 youth!**

Here are a few ways your support equips KyUMH clients on their educational journeys:

Community-based services

KyUMH partners with Jessamine County, Henderson County, and Ohio County schools to help children and youth where they are. Our staff travels to schools to provide group therapy, psychoeducation groups, individual therapy and case management support. **They become a student's biggest cheerleader** as they work through challenges at school and at home. In 2024, we helped 375 youth through community-based programs!

Residential treatment

At our Nicholasville campus, we are proud to have Ashgrove Academy on site for our residents. **Each resident completes a personalized education plan that focuses on their individual needs.** This approach helps our youth recover from the academic disruption that accompanies living in foster care. In the 2024-2025 school year, our residents completed their classes, went on field trips to the library, participated in service projects, and had hands-on learning experiences like



Thanks to funding from the Good Samaritan Foundation, our community-based staff create comfortable spaces for clients to unwind. Below, a garland represents the academic achievements for our Nicholasville campus residents.



learning basic automotive care and gardening.

Independent Living

For young adults aging out of foster care, education is a critical part of setting them up for success as they take the next step into adulthood. Our staff supports young people as they graduate high school and consider trade school, community college, or a four-year degree.

"Watching the self-esteem of our clients successfully completing their educational milestones is one of the most rewarding things to watch," says Shannon Gillespie, Clinical Director of Independent Living. **"You almost immediately see these kiddos gain a couple inches of height from confidence and fulfillment** as they



Residents enjoyed trips to the local library, including a 30-minute Lego building challenge, where "everyone was a winner," according to teacher Amber Seales. Pictured below, teacher Joe Dodgen preps a workshop on small engine care, and a resident works to plant germinated bean sprouts.



run to bring us their final report of completion."

As we start the new school year, you are an integral part in supporting our youth as they continue their educational journeys! Thank you for making this possible.

Summer Highlights

1-3 During the month of May, we celebrated our employees with **staff appreciation days**. At Nicholasville, the theme was Kentucky Derby and employees competed to see who was best dressed. At Owensboro, staff competed in various competitions, such as cornhole, and posed for silly photos.

4 We were proud to attend the first ever Kentucky Youth Advocates **Together We Bloom Summit**. The Summit gathered multiple like-minded organizations and exhibitors whose mission is to build a brighter future for Kentucky's children and families.

5-7 At **Kentucky United Methodist Annual Conference**, we got to see just how strong our connection is. From our luncheon at Settle UMC to Kona Ice at Kentucky Wesleyan College, we were delighted to connect with our supporters and show how your connection with us impacts the lives of youth across the state of Kentucky.



At the Intersection of Heaven and Earth

by Melissa Brown,
Director of Donor Relations

One time I was reading the memoir of Rev. Eugene Peterson. I loved the description of Jan, his wife. She always wanted to be at the intersection of Heaven and Earth. That meant participating in hospitality and living at the intersection of human need and God's grace. It is "...where neglected children [are] noticed, where the stories of Jesus [are] told, and people who had no stories found that they did have stories, stories that were part of the Jesus story."

I love this idea of the intersection of Heaven and Earth because it is exactly where your KyUMH sits. Because of you, we are able to better meet the physical, emotional, educational and spiritual needs of children, youth and their families. Donors like you have provided a lot of care and hospitality at this holy intersection.

I have been at KyUMH for nearly four years now and have seen a lot of kids who needed to be at this intersection. **They needed a place to be themselves and shape their own stories.** I think of Chandler who carried his sketch book with him everywhere. I think of Anna who

Monthly gifts allow us to stay nimble and meet whatever need is greatest.

played softball. I think of Leanne who enjoyed dinosaur-themed puzzles. They all had the space and time to shape their own stories.

Right now, our greatest barrier is rising costs in every area. Monthly gifts in particular allow us to stay nimble and meet whatever need is greatest. Your support allows us to

sit at the intersection of Heaven and Earth despite economic uncertainty. Every young person deserves to receive the critical support they need. I hope you'll help me break down this barrier by becoming a monthly donor too!

Thank you for your caring about the kids of KyUMH! You can start your monthly donation by visiting our website at www.kyumh.org/donate.



Your used vehicle can help Kentucky youth!

Wondering what to do with your used car, truck, motorcycle or recreational vehicle that you are no longer using? Donating it to KyUMH is easy!

Here's how it works:

1. Call Vehicles for Charity at 1-866-628-2277 or visit their website vehiclesforcharity.org
2. Vehicles for Charity will pick up your vehicle at no cost to you!
3. KyUMH receives funds from the value of your vehicle

Finding a New Normal

Our Community Based Services help youth see a new vision for their future.

Because of your support, Maya* has found a “new normal” full of hope.

Maya grew up in a home where substance abuse cast a long and painful shadow. Her early years were filled with instability, fear, and moments no child should have to endure.

At the age of 11, she was placed into foster care, carrying with her the trauma of her past and the heavy burden of anxiety and depression.

For years, **Maya struggled to believe that her story could be different**, stating when we met her “that is my normal.”

But that began to change when she connected with KyUMH. Through counseling, case management, and a safe, nurturing environment, **Maya slowly began to heal.**

With time and care, Maya found her voice. She discovered she wasn’t alone. And most importantly, she began to believe in herself. She worked hard to overcome her challenges, and this year, Maya graduated from high school—a milestone she once thought was out of reach.

Today, Maya has enrolled in college and is pursuing a degree in computer science.

Maya was just one of many youth in Kentucky whose view of “normal” is warped by the effects of abuse, neglect and trauma. Thank you for giving KyUMH youth a “new normal”—one where they have hope and a future.

**Maya is a pseudonym. Stock photo used to protect client confidentiality.*



What will your legacy be?

When you include Kentucky United Methodist Children's Homes in your will, you leave a legacy of transformation for young people who have experienced abuse and neglect.

A legacy gift to KyUMH also enables the potential for significant estate tax reduction.

For more information, contact Melinda Ryles-Smith at melinda@kyumh.org or (859) 523-3001.

Churches Helping Children: First United Methodist Church of Mt. Sterling

by John Mark Boes,
Director of Church Relations

One of my favorite passages of scripture is found in John 21. In John 21, we repeatedly find Peter answering Jesus' question, "Do you love me" (John 21:15-17 NRSVUE). Jesus responds each time with the command for Peter to feed his "sheep." Mt. Sterling First United Methodist Church is taking this commandment seriously in their community.

"Mt. Sterling First United Methodist Church strives to care about each person and believes that each person deserves to be treated as a beloved child of God," said Burch. "This is why we choose to offer 'Grace' in this 'Place!'"

This is why Mt. Sterling First has deepened its commitment to caring for the physical, emotional, and spiritual health of all people. Over the past year, they have developed a walking

"Mt. Sterling First United Methodist Church believes that each person deserves to be treated as a beloved child of God."

Mt. Sterling First operates Grace Place, an emergency food pantry, for anyone who needs help in their community. Members of their congregation donate food and other household items to be given away to anyone who finds themselves in the midst of life's tough circumstances. Every bag of food that is given to others is tailored to the family's need. To better care for their neighbors, they will even offer delivery service.

For Rev. Daniel Burch, pastor of Mt. Sterling First United Methodist Church, this is just another way that his church gets to live out its calling.

path that is open to the community, reaffirmed their commitment to young families through supporting a new pregnancy health clinic, and offered affordable daycare for families with low incomes. Mt. Sterling First is tending Jesus' sheep.

If you would like to share ways your church is caring for kids in your community, I would love for you to reach out. You can connect with me at johnmark.boes@kyumh.org. Together, we can ensure that children and families can receive God's gift of wholeness of life.



Mt. Sterling First United Methodist Church's Grace Place is caring for children and families in their community.

Is This a Good Time to Talk to Someone?

How to decide whether it's time for you or a loved one to pursue mental health counseling.



by Shanon L. Stamper, MAE, LPCC
Therapist, Mary Kendall
Community Services

Although mental health therapy is more widely accepted in today's society, there can still be stigma associated with receiving services for one's mental health concerns, especially in the Christian church. However, **knowing when to make the choice to seek counseling can be relatively simple.**

Common situations where counseling can be helpful

Multiple times in life, a person will experience times of adjustment. We may be transitioning from one educational milestone to the next, moving to a new place, changing careers, beginning a new life as a married person, or becoming a parent. I've had clients seek help to navigate these stressful experiences. **There are times counseling can be for a short period of time to seek calm and clarity in moving forward and managing change.**

It is also possible for such stressors to lead to seasons in which a person may experience increased anxiety or depression that falls out of their normal range of functioning. **These questions can help assess the situation:** Am I having trouble with my daily routine? Am I having difficulty taking care of my basic needs? Do I want to no longer exist or wish I had not been born? Do others notice that I am having difficulty or seeing behavioral change? If you answer "yes" to any of these questions, then it is time to seek help.

It is important to note **a person of any age, any background, at any time can experience traumatic events** that require professional support to process. On a personal note, I experienced a traumatic car accident which affected my life. I developed Post Traumatic Stress and needed help moving beyond the pain and emotional tragedy that physically affected my daily activities. I can attest to the effectiveness of my profession. **Counseling helps us to heal and overcome tragedy.**

How should Christians approach mental health counseling?

You may also think, "Well, I know the Wonderful Counselor, Jesus, so why should I need help outside of my relationship with Him?" Valid question for a Christian to ask. It is true that Father God sent us a Helper, a Comforter, in the form of the Holy Spirit. Take note, He also gives us encouragement to engage with others. Notice Proverbs 20:18 says, "Plans are established by seeking advice..." which expresses the importance of wise counsel and good plans. While a seasoned counselor or therapist may not necessarily give "advice," they will be able to help a client make plans and establish treatment goals for their personal growth or healing from traumatic events.

With all of this in mind, I would like to ask you, is it time for you to reach out? Do you want to establish goals and move forward, or move in a different direction in your life? If so, please seek help. We all need to talk sometime.

KyUMH can help!

Visit kyumh.org/counseling to learn more

 **Mary Kendall**
COMMUNITY SERVICES

 **MENDING POINT**
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES

MEMORIAL GIFTS

May 1, 2025 - June 30, 2025

Carrie Adams

Jared Mattingly

Marjorie Jo Garrison Allen

Gary & Nancy Craft

Kerry & Ann Justice

Wes Marion

Mary D. Stevens

Carolyn Wyant

James & Dorothy Applegate

Harry T. Applegate

Cathy Arnett

Karen Spicer

Peggy Bell

Linda H. Walker

Rev. Dr. Don Benningfield

Jeff & Carol Day

Faye Berry

Wayne Berry

Jewell Berry

Wayne Berry

Suzanne Berry

Wayne Berry

Wanda Berry

Wayne Berry

Donna Boggs

George Davidson

Edna Boswell

Sondra Fischer

Betty Bowles

Audubon Park UMC

Elsie Brown

Shawn & Leann Majors

Effie Buchanon

Ramona Arterburn

Mike Burd

First UMC of Munfordville

Shirley Buzderewicz

Eugene Buzderewicz

Robert & Kathleen Calder

Carol Calder

Chris Campbell

Lucille Gregory

Marty Collins

Loretta Hunter

Dr. Gene Cook

Dr. Dewey & Mrs. Robin Dean

Veva M. Crace

Vicki M. Rice

Jim & Alma Cragar

Lucille Gregory

Lorraine Criswell

Lucille Gregory

Beulah Taylor

Steve Cruce

Paul & Jill Akridge

Mrs. Betty Curry

Pleasant Hill Community

Church

Ruth Williams Davis

Patsy Wilson

Rev. James Dill

Roger Dill

Margaret Dill

Roger Dill

Doris Fielding

Jared Mattingly

Owen Fielding

Jared Mattingly

Suzanne Foster

Darnall Foster

Bertha Fultz

Linda Browning

Beulah Taylor

Bobbe Fultz

Jared Mattingly

Carolyn Gabehart

Harrodsburg UMC

Mr. & Mrs. Clarence Gilley

James & Carole Smith

Dennis Graven

Sammye Graven

Frank Greathouse

Stephanie Greathouse

Elsie Gregory

Lucille Gregory

Noah Gregory

Lucille Gregory

Beulah Taylor

Dennis Brown Hacker

Rita Hacker

Polly Haggard

Phil & Terri Bradley

Bill & Alice Hall

Lucille Gregory

Rev. J.C. & Mamie Harris

Lucille Gregory

Beulah Taylor

Jared Mattingly

James A. & Dianne Harris

Lucille Gregory

Beulah Taylor

Rev. Don Hatton

Mary Huff

Wallace Hatton

Mary Huff

Gina Alleruzzo Hawkins

John & Sandy Rudolph

Louise L. Henderson

Jared Mattingly

Robert C. Hicks

Betty L. Muse

Norma Schiad Hodge

Rev. Dr. Jay & Dr. Marian Smith

Rev. Phil Hogg

Shirley George

Jared Mattingly

David & Henrida Holloway

Shirley Karrick

Juanita Scott House

Bruce House

Leland & Hazel Huffer

Lynda Rowley

Denzil James

Eddie, Teresa, & Ethan James

Patricia Johnson

Jared Mattingly

Johnna Meredith Kennon

Mary Louise Potts

Martha Bishop Kessinger

William & Rena Arnold

Will & Elaine Atkins

Anne Baxter

John & Nancy Bell

Alanson Boden

Linda Carey

Lee Carroll

Mrs. PP Douglass

Frances Evans

Linda Griffin

Donna Hall

Henry & Barbara Hinkle

William & Joan Hoskins

Cassandra Hurter

John & Diane Irvin

Greg & Lana Kessinger

Mark Kessinger

Pope & Betty Ann McLean

Dr. Bruce Nicol

Sarah Salmon

Brett & Billie Jo Setzer

Linda Sweeting

Alice Taylor

Dudley & Betsy Taylor

Tom Wynne & Mary Margaret

Bell

Mark & Shirley Kidwell

Charles F. Dunaway

Viola Kinman

Pamela Taylor

Hobie Landon

Carlyle Ackley

Antioch UMC of Erlanger

Dale Huff

Rosemary Landon

Charles & Judy Rawlings

Doug & Holly Saunders

Charles Langford

Kara Butcher

Brian Lowe

Jared Mattingly

Vienessa Martin

Bobby & Vickie Carson

Judy Gossett

Charles & Jean Reynolds

Lois Ruth McRoberts

Jean D. Sapp Carpenter

Rev. Doug Moseley

Betty Jean Moseley

Tom O'Brien

Gracia O'Brien

Louie Peters

Kaye Mitchell

Tim Peters

Mary Herold

Ben Pulley

Darnall Foster

Eugene & Virginia Reynolds

Jennifer Reynolds

Ronnie Rice

Barbara & Betty Yelton

Mrs. Pat Riticher

Jeffrey & Leah Karger

Betty Rogers

Judy Long

Virginia Rose

Linda Browning

Kendall Beth Royalty

Rita T. Williams

John E. Savage

Sandra W. Savage

Marie Schaeffer

Paula W. Turner

James & Joyce Silvey

Anthony Silvey

Barb Smith

Patti Hall

Mr. & Mrs. Frank Smith

James & Carole Smith

Jean H. Sosby

Earl Sosby

Melissa Ann Spanier

Mary Kay Spanier

Samuel Sparks

South Central District Office

Norbert Stegeman

IN MEMORY OF

Jane Stegeman
Earl Stephens
Jared Mattingly
Bruce & Mary Swearingen
Jessie Lykins
Bonnie Harmon Taylor
Larry Taylor
Donald & Bonnie Taylor
Larry Taylor
L.C. Taylor
Lucille Gregory
Beulah Taylor
Albert O. Thomas
Diana Thomas
Ronald & Amy Thornton
Nancy Wetzel
J.C. Thorpe
Mary Thorpe

Jerry Thorpe
Mary Thorpe
Rickey Thorpe
Mary Thorpe
Rev. Jack R. & Mrs. Sally B. Vibbert
The Jack Vibbert Evangelistic Foundation
Dr. Richard Voigt
Angela Deweese
Gerald Watkins
Sally Watkins
Rev. Gale Thomas Wetzel
Nancy Wetzel
Avery & Georgia Wheat
Ruth Ann Whitehouse
John Walter White Jr.
Steven J. White

Dr. Howard H. Willen
First UMC Hopkinsville-
Friendship SS Class
Hayden Willett
Jeannette Johnson
Dub Wilson
Wayne & Sherry Golightly
Dave & Deb Oelmann
Ida Scott
Jim & Barbara Sutor
Johnny Workman
Sardis UMC Seekers Class
Nancy Zinn
Alexandria Community Church

BIRTHDAY IN HEAVEN

Peter Deaton Cross
Diana Deaton

HONOR GIFTS

May 1, 2025 - June 30, 2025

Jane Arnold
Sara Walker
Rev. Larry & Mrs. Pam Bouland
Nancy Wetzel
Amy Chapman
Ralph & Bobbie West
Rev. Mark Gibbons
Wm P 'Whitie' Gray
Leigh Ann Maynard
Ralph & Bobbie West
Ruel David McConkey
Rev. Dr. Jay & Dr. Marian Smith
JoAnn McDonald
Anne B. Roberts
Kaye P. Mitchell
Mary Thorpe
Nancy Robinson
Kim Robinson
Elizabeth & Abenet Satterly
Bud & Sharon Satterly
Mrs. Helen Willen
First UMC Hopkinsville-
Friendship SS Class
Rev. Ralph Young
Thom & Melissa Brown
Isabel Grace Zanger
Izetta Bishop

BIRTHDAYS

Mrs. Barbara Arnett
Emily Smith
Steve Call
Linda Scott
Ruth Ellen Chaney
Paul & Shirleen Maynard
Karen Franklin
Linda Scott
Lynn Heist
Barbara Weisbrod
Paul Lambert
Dean Builds, Inc.
Betty Jane Pitzer
Dr. & Mrs. E. Ray Throckmorton
Brue Scott
Linda Scott
Luisa Sears
Linda Scott
Chris Shaffer
Linda Scott
David Shaffer
Linda Scott
Mrs. Patricia Stanley
Emily Smith
President Donald Trump
Patsy D. Wilson
Mrs. Pat Wilson
Emily Smith
Mrs. Barbara McCune
Emily Smith

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Mike & Jonell Anderson - 55 years married
Gary & Nancy Craft
Dowell & Sandra Taylor - 50 years married
William & Norma Barrett

RETIREMENT

Rev. & Mrs. Gary Gibson
Sid & Peggy Galbaugh

MOTHER'S DAY

All Mothers
Memorial UMC

FATHER'S DAY

All Fathers
Bethany UMC
Prairie Village UMC
Stevenson Chapel UWF
Memorial UMC
Valley Station UWF

Looking ahead to Christmas



Before we know it, it'll be time for Christmas shopping!

Gift cards are incredibly helpful for our staff as we make Christmas meaningful for our youth. By sending gift cards, you can provide Christmas gifts for our children and families. Consider collecting gift cards and spread the Christmas spirit to the youth who need it the most.

Please deliver by **November 21, 2025**

Mail to PO Box 930,
Nicholasville KY 40340

OR

Deliver to 1115 Ashgrove Rd
Nicholasville KY 40356

Employee Spotlight!

Join us in celebrating...

Amy Dukes (pictured left in green) for working at KyUMH for 20 years.

Tracy Donovan for working at KyUMH for 20 years.

Roy Hicks (pictured right in blue) for working at KyUMH for 35 years.

Join our team!

View open positions at
www.kyumh.org/careers





1115 Ashgrove Road
Nicholasville, KY 40356

Non-Profit
Organization
US Postage
PAID
Permit #1478
Lexington, KY

MOST NEEDED ITEMS



Sports equipment
School supplies
Cleaning products
Athletic socks and shorts



For our full wish list, visit kyumh.org



Join us for a great day of golf!
Friday, September 5th • Nicholasville, KY
Learn more at www.kyumh.org/golf



Presented by
— THE —
GLENVIEW
TRUST
— COMPANY —