



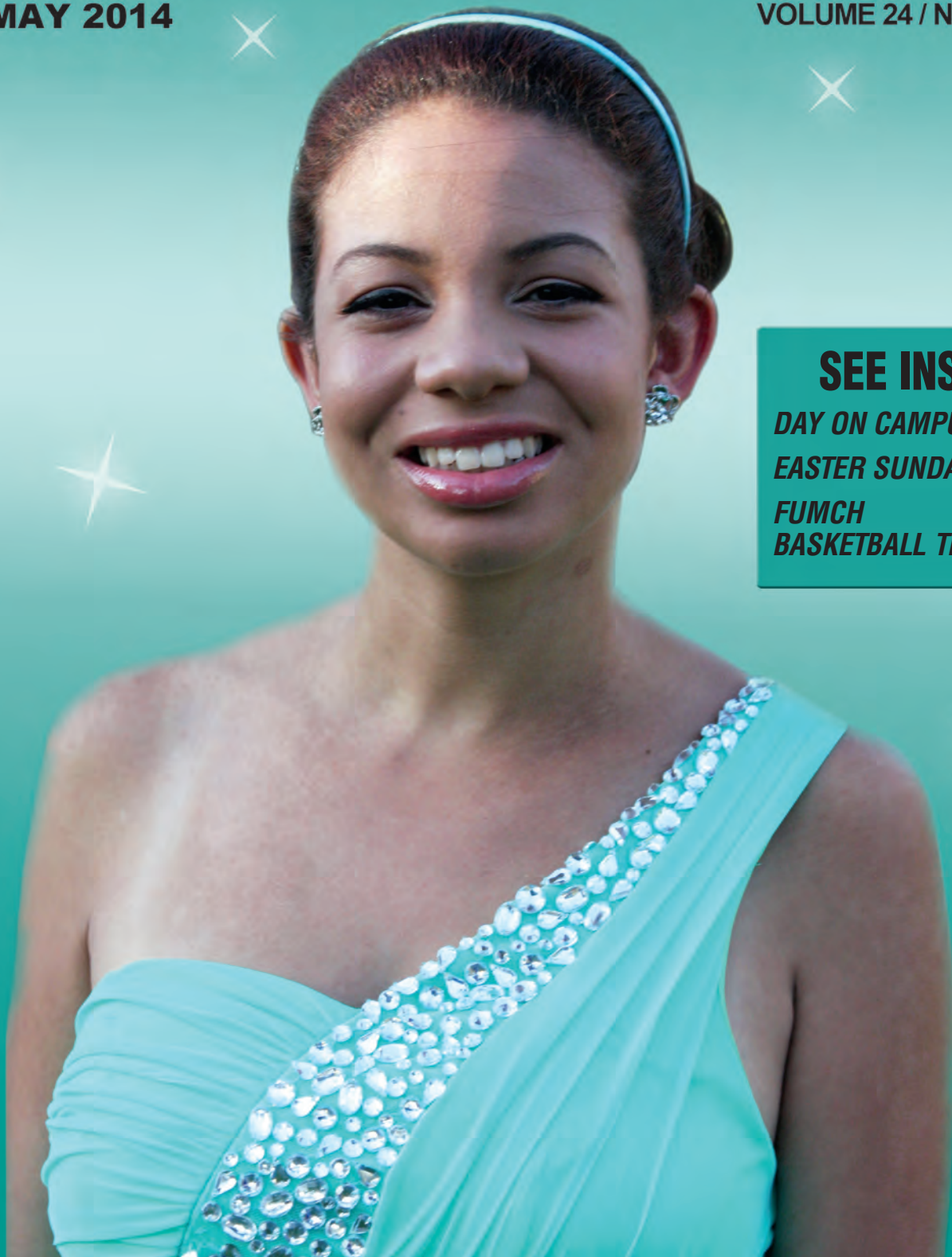
FLORIDA UNITED METHODIST
CHILDREN'S HOME



THE HERALD

MAY 2014

VOLUME 24 / NO. 2



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A WORD FROM OUR PRESIDENT

BECKY DOTSON

PRESIDENT & CEO

Dear Friends,



You may have noticed the beautiful young lady on the cover of The Herald. She is just one of several residents that were able to send to prom this year. While Prom is a very important event for most teenagers, it is especially important to our children.

Despite all they have been through, going to prom helps them to feel normal. It commemorates a variety of different things as well as representing a path into the future. Thank you to those of you that donated so we could send them to this very significant event in their lives. I have a very special place in my heart for each and every one of our children. You have no idea how much they mean to me and how very much I appreciate your support.

As you open up this latest issue of the Herald, you may notice some slight differences compared to previous issues. I wanted to take a moment to explain to you why we are making some changes.

As the President & CEO, I am always looking for ways to effectively and efficiently steward the generosity of our churches, businesses and individual donors. For the past several years, we have been publishing a twenty four page magazine, four times a year. While this allowed us to print the names of all the generous donors who made tributes and memorials, it was actually costing us tens of thousands of dollars. Dollars that would be much better spent on meeting the needs of our children.

In an effort to save money, we are reducing the Herald to just eight pages. In order for us to continue to share stories about as well as pictures of our children, this format unfortunately doesn't allow room to print tributes and memorials. We will of course continue to recognize your generosity when it comes to making a tribute or memorial, we are simply trying to find a more cost effective way of doing so.

All in all, I'm looking to take care of you, our gracious donors, along with the needs of the young and fragile children living in our care.

Thank you for your patience and understanding and may God Bless you,

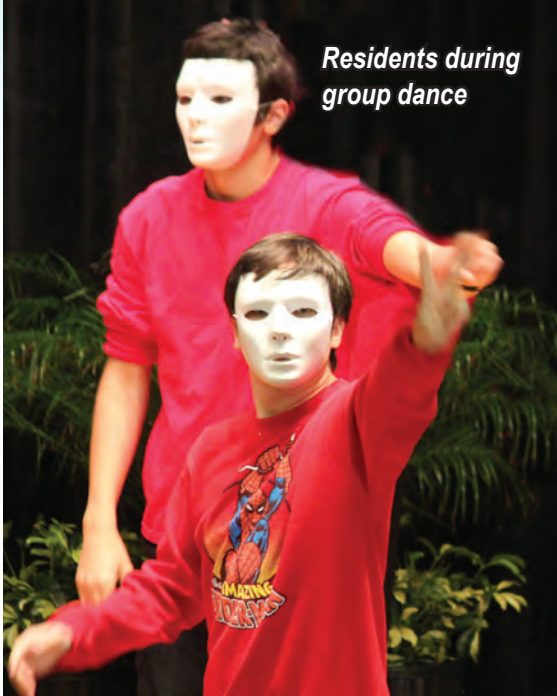
Becky H. Dotson

Becky Dotson
President & CEO
Florida United Methodist Children's Home



2014 DAY ON CAMPUS

On March 15, 2014, over 1,400 friends of Children's Home enjoyed our annual Day On Campus. It is our way of saying thank you to churches and friends of the Children's Home who support us with such generosity. Next years Day On Campus will be held March 21st.



Residents during group dance



Program in gym



Alumni Testimonial



Fun During Group Reggae Song & Dance



Residents Performing



Margaret Morris Recieves Her Award From Ryan Dotson, son of President & CEO Becky Dotson

Awards were given out during the program honoring churches and volunteers for their support. The recipients were as follows: Church of the Year-Evinston United Methodist Church, Pastor of the Year-Reverend Brian Brightly of Lighthouse Church of Boca Grande, Local Church Representative of the Year-Margaret Morris of First United Methodist Church of Oviedo and Mission Work Group of the Year-Ponte Vedra United Methodist Church.

EASTER SUNDAY

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son, Jesus." ~ John 3:16

Easter is a special time of year for our children. This year, they participated in festivities that included Easter egg hunts as well as receiving an Easter basket donated by local churches. Most important, they all had the opportunity to learn about Jesus' sacrifice on the Cross, and what it meant to each one of them.

This Easter, our children also had a chance to learn about themselves. A service was held in the chapel on Easter Sunday. During the days leading up to the service, the Chapel team gathered mirrors and hung them along each wall of the sanctuary. During the service, the children were asked to go to a mirror, to look at themselves, and then write down one word that Jesus' sacrifice on the Cross meant to them.

Each child wrote different words, including grace, mercy, love, life and freedom. One resident used her marker to write the word forgiveness on the mirror. When asked why she wrote the word forgiveness, she replied, "I recently forgave my parents for all the bad things they had done, and up until that point I was living in great pain, but once I forgave I found great freedom." Praise God!



What made Jesus' death unique was not that he was crucified. What made Jesus' death unique was that he did not stay dead! He conquered death and returned to life. And the power of His resurrection is the game-changer, the event that can radically re-direct the situation our children are living. For many of our youth, each day they live in fear due to a long history of trauma. The good news is for every fear a child carries, there is reason for hope. There is reason to continue on, pursue healing, find peace, and restore their lives!

We hope your Easter was as wonderful as ours. Thank you for your continued love, support and prayers for the Children's Home ministry.

ANNUAL REPORT

2013

"He took a little child and had him stand among them. Taking him in his arms, he said to them, 'Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me does not welcome me but the one who sent me.'" Mark 9:36-37

Dear Friends,

The Florida United Methodist Children's Home has provided children in need with a safe and loving place to call home for more than 100 years. We offer residential, emergency shelter, therapeutic group home, and foster care services. We also provide transitional and independent living programs including a career development center and a community child care and infant care facility. We serve over 300 children every day! This of course does not include the children we will soon be able to serve in north Florida. We are excited to share the progress at our north campus of the Children's Home, the Madison Youth Ranch. The walls are up on the first two residential homes where young people will live and we anticipate they will begin to arrive in the fall of this year.

In 2013, we hosted our annual Day On Campus event in March with over 1,400 in attendance. Our Foster Care Appreciation Day in May brought together many of our foster families for a day of fun and many families also attended our foster camp. Other events included our Annual Alumni Reunion, Christmas activities, numerous mission work teams, many campus tours, hosting various church and community groups on our campus and much more. I am deeply grateful to our Board of Trustees for their dedication and leadership. In June of 2013, Dr. Charles Lever, Senior Pastor of Orange Park United Methodist Church began his term as Chairman of the Board of Trustees. He has been immensely helpful.

Perhaps the biggest reflection of our work here are the testimonials we receive. One of our parents recently wrote, "I am writing this letter to thank each and every one of you at the Children's Home for all the loving care you have given my daughter. The last six months have completely changed our daughter and our family. You have been able to accomplish things that her father and I have been trying to accomplish for the last 10 years." A resident remarked, "Among the hundreds of important things my stay here at the Home as taught me is that there is a plan for every life, a purpose and meaning for everything and for what it's worth, I am sadder to be leaving here than I was to be coming here." I could go on and on with testimonials about the healing and life changing ministry of the Florida United Methodist Children's Home.

Lastly, I would like to express a heartfelt thank you to all the local churches, families, individuals, volunteers and the many friends that helped make 2013 another successful year at the Children's Home. Your Fifth Sunday offerings, individual gifts, honors and memorials, in-kind gifts, wills and bequests and other planned gifts allow us to serve hundred's of troubled, abused, and neglected children each and every year.

Becky H. Dotson

President & CEO

The Florida United Methodist Children's Home



ANNUAL REPORT

2013

2013 SERVICES SUMMARY:

Inquiries for Residential Care information and referral.....	326
Number of children served in residential & shelter care.....	260
Number of children exiting residential care according to plan.....	156
Number of children served in foster care.....	289
Number of children served in Early Child Education	420
Number of Volunteers.....	1050

OPERATING REVENUE

Contributions	\$11,536,737
Fee for service.....	\$4,120,627
Childcare Services	\$618,140
Other income	\$285,534
Interest and dividends.....	\$687,292
Split-interest agreements.....	\$270,331
Net realized and unrealized gains (losses) on investments.....	\$4,521,150
TOTAL	\$22,039,811

EXPENSES

Program	
Residential Care	\$8,722,348
Independent living and scholarship	\$728,363
Foster care	\$1,009,753
Child care center	\$872,091
Total program services	\$11,332,555
Fundraising	\$1,262,484
General & Administrative	\$1,101,507
TOTAL	\$13,696,546

CHANGE IN NET ASSETS \$8,343,265

For the Fiscal Year ending December 31, 2013, the organizations functional expenses were as follows: 83% Program; 9% Fundraising; 8% General & Administrative.



AFFILIATIONS:

- A ministry related to the Florida Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church
- A member of The United Methodist Association of Health and Welfare Ministries
- Licensed by the State of Florida as a Child Placing/Child Caring Agency by the Department of Children and Families

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FUMCH BASKETBALL TEAM

FUMCH pride is spreading across campus as we cheer on our newly formed basketball team. It all started when staff members recognized the talent some of our residents were displaying in the gym and were motivated to form an official team.

Thanks to all their efforts we now have a registered AAU boys' basketball team that travels throughout Central Florida. Team members must maintain a 2.0 GPA and follow positive behavioral guidelines at school and in the homes, two criteria that are quite an accomplishment when you consider the backgrounds many of our residents come from.

Teachers and House Parents are reporting a remarkable improvement in grades and in behavior for those on the team and Coach Mike shares that he has been able to see the growth in teamwork skills and the boys' ability to work out problems together.

Being a part of the team is turning out to be a motivating force in these residents' lives that is pushing them to achieve more.



SUMMER QUEST

We Need Your Help

Remember those long summers as a kid with nothing to do? Summer Quest is a program that runs nearly every week of summer where our kids learn and have fun. Our residents have an opportunity to learn how to be creative with pottery and other crafts. Therapeutically, they can begin to learn to trust others as they master the ropes course and discover how to work together in team sports. Education and spiritual development don't take a vacation. The kids meet with our chapel staff for spiritual activities and they participate in fun educational activities provided by our education staff.

If you would like to be a part of the Summer Quest team, we could use your financial support and other donations to make this the best Summer Quest ever.

If you are interested in helping please contact Trista Calvin at 386-668-5088 or email her at Trista.Calvin@fumch.org. Thank you and God Bless!



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

We'd like to make it right. Help us update our records. Please correct the Herald label with the information below and mail it back to us or email or call 386.668.5088.

- ☐ Misspelled name
- ☐ Received more than one
- ☐ Wrong address
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- ☐ Add my email address

KEEP IN TOUCH WITH US & READ THE HERALD ONLINE!
Stay up to date with everything at the Children's Home www.allchildrenfirst.org



The Florida United Methodist Children's Home Inc. is affiliated with the Florida Conference of the United Methodist Church.



The United Methodist Associate of Health & Wellness Ministries (UMA) is a national association of United Methodist-related, and other faith-based ministries and of professionals actively involved in promoting quality care in a faith-based setting.

House Parents Needed

We are always looking for House Parents to make a difference in the lives of our children! Please visit our website to see what positions are available and to apply.

Keep up to date with everything at the Florida United Methodist Children's Home by following us on Social Media. We are on Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Pinterest and You Tube.



[Homepage](#)|[Forward to a Friend](#)|[Make a Donation](#)



[Donate](#)

changing the future, one child at a time

5th Sunday Offering

AUGUST 31, 2014

WE APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT!

Please consider leaving a Legacy for future generations at the Florida United Methodist Children's Home.



Call us at 386-668-5088 or email
Jeanne.Griffith@fumch.org.

The Florida United Methodist Children's Home does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, veteran status, marital status, or any other status protected by law except where such protected category is a bona fide occupational qualification (BFOQ), to the extent that someone's needs can be addressed and cared for within the scope of program services with the financial resources of the agency.

FUMCH makes services accessible and available for persons with communication challenges. An equal opportunity employer. Pursuant to Section 286.26, Florida Statutes, any disabled person wishing to access services who may be in need of special assistance should contact cynthia.sierra@fumch.org at least 48 hours in advance of the service or meeting. If you are hearing or speech impaired, please call FUMCH at (386) 668-4850 (TTY) or the Florida Relay Service at (800) 955-8771 (TDD).

Florida Department of Agriculture Consumer Services Registration #CH1628:

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