

2024
Summer

News@Home



A Century of Hope and the Evolution to Teaching-Family Model

A century ago, the Children's Home arrived in Lebanon with 23 orphans, most under age 12. From the day we opened our doors, the young people in our care have contended with an ever-changing world. As their needs have evolved, we've continued to meet them where they are and with the support to help them thrive.

In 1959, when many children in crisis were being placed with foster families, the Children's Home began its transition from an orphanage to a 24/7 treatment facility. We added our school in 1972 to educate the children onsite, and it was certified by the Indiana Department of Education in 1981.

In 2011, the Children's Home implemented the Teaching-Family Model of care to meet the needs of our teens, most of whom are from abusive family backgrounds. We've included more about this evidence-based treatment model throughout this issue. It's focused upon modeling and teaching social skills to help our students succeed in school and in the community. They learn how a functional family operates, helping to break the cycle of abuse.

Today, the Children's Home is a sophisticated residential treatment program for teenagers. In addition to providing a safe living environment, our programs include intensive psychological counselling, ongoing education for grades eight through twelve, development of independent living skills for life as an adult, and spiritual growth.

"Train up a child in the way he should go and he will not part from it." – Proverbs 22:6

A Life Has Been Changed

About this time last year, Anna's life had reached a breaking point. She survived a childhood surrounded by drug use and domestic violence before her grandmother took her in. Being surrounded by her grandmother's love didn't keep her from making several bad choices of her own, and a judge referred her to stay at the Children's Home.

When she arrived, Anna had already earned her high school diploma, so we encouraged her to prepare for her independent life after leaving the Children's Home and use the programs and services of our Independent Living Learning Lab. She quickly decided she wanted to become a Certified Nursing Assistant and loves her new job helping seniors in a local care facility.

"The Teaching-Family Model, coupled with the Lab, made a difference in Anna's trajectory," recalled Case Manager Stacy Youngblood. "Our Family Teachers and Lab staff helped her realize she was suited for a job helping people. It was amazing to see she had a servant's heart after all the negative experiences in her young life."

She appeared before the judge again not long ago, confidently asserting, "I am not the same person I was eight months ago." The judge confirmed Anna accomplished every requirement and goal set by the court before issuing an immediate discharge date. It was a happy day.

"I am not the same person I was eight months ago."



A Century of Hope

Dear Friends,

As we look back at 100 years of caring for children in Lebanon, we remember those who planted the seeds. Their prayers, generosity, volunteer leadership, and commitment to sharing God's love with children in crisis have endured.

Those seeds have grown as our approach has evolved to the evidence-based practices of the Teaching-Family Model (learn more about TFM in this issue). Our Family Teachers step in to provide the care that our students' parents could not, and the model's success is evident as the teens grow into confident, independent young adults.

Our approach to developing financial resources to meet the changing needs of society's youth has also evolved. **Our Foundation celebrates its tenth anniversary this year**, and it's humbling to share our lengthy Angie Godwin Society list of generous annual donors (pages 6-7). Their continued support has allowed our leaders to say "yes" to the changing and growing needs of the children we serve. We are thankful to this impressive list of altruistic individuals and organizations who help us save lives.

Join us in continuing to grow our mission into the future by planting the seeds for a new Century of Hope. Please pray for our leaders, our staff, and the students we serve.

Blessings Abound,



Christy Huston
Christy Huston, MA, CFRM, IOM
Foundation
Executive Director



Rich Lapinski
Rich Lapinski, MS
Children's Home
Executive Director/CEO

P.S. Our children need all of us. And we need you.

- 1924** Children's Home moves from Greencastle to Lebanon with 23 orphans.
- 1959** Children's Home begins transition from orphanage to residential treatment facility.
- 1967** Auxiliary to the Children's Home established.
- 1981** Indiana Department of Education grants accreditation to James E. Davis School.
- 1987** Gress Memorial Chapel dedicated.
- 2011** Teaching-Family Model of care implemented. First new family-style home built.
- 2014** Foundation established by founders Mo Thomas, Jim Engledow, and John O. Bodman.
- 2015** New James E. Davis School building dedicated.
- 2019** Final two of six new family-style homes dedicated.
- 2021** Independent Living Learning Lab dedicated.
- 2022** Strategic Plan led by Trustees President Daniel F. Evans, Jr. adopted by Trustees.
- 2024** **The Children's Home celebrates 100 years of serving children in Lebanon.**

From Their Voices

Their Favorite Family Dinner Memory? How About Their First?

Family dinners are a beloved tradition for most of us, but something many of the students at the Children’s Home have never before experienced. As an integral part of our Teaching-Family Model of care, they learn to shop and prepare meals with the other residents of their homes, then gather around the large dinner table to break bread and catch up on the day’s events. It’s a new tradition they’re quick to embrace for many reasons, among them:

“The food here is better than any place I’ve ever lived. I like helping cook the meals, too.”- Jasper

“I’m not used to eating three meals a day. I can honestly say that my stomach never growls.”- Andrew

“I love how we have theme nights for dinner. On a Monday night, we may have Mexican food and on Friday night, we may have Italian food. The variety is awesome.”- Keisha

“I’ve learned some cooking skills from my Family Teachers. I barely use the microwave anymore.”- Rafael

“I always ate in front of the TV and had to get used to sitting around a dinner table and talking.”- Trevor

“I like how we all eat together at one long table with our Family Teachers. We usually say a prayer before we eat. We also have to help set the table and clean up but I’m glad we have a dishwasher.”- Deshawn



The Lamberts and girls from Meyers Home gather around the dinner table for a special meal featuring Indian cuisine.

“My favorite meal is steak and baked potatoes. Our Family Teachers like us to eat colorful food so we eat a lot of fruits and vegetables. It’s fun to go shopping together. I can usually be found in the cookie aisle.” - Jacob

“Many great meals and conversations take place at the dinner table. There is no television, no cell phone, just real conversation. This is a new experience for most of our students.”- Daniel Clay, Family Teacher



Betsy and Andy Lambert, Family Teachers in Meyers Home, enjoy sharing cooking skills with the girls.



Angie Goodwin Society

Donors of \$1,000 or more – in one gift or **throughout 2023** are recognized below as Angie Godwin Society donors. Miss Godwin was the founder of the Home 109 years ago. Her vision has endured because of generous donors like you! **Thank you! To learn about being included in 2024 contact the Foundation at 317-775-0606**

Gifts of \$100,000 and above

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Kathleen Truitt
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Donna and Steven Wantz
Sue and Wayne Weise
Janet Young

Thank you!

"The Lebanon Children's Home has been a part of our community our entire lives. The services offered to the Indiana youth who have experienced very rough early challenges are expanding and continue to help these students find unique and successful paths in adulthood. We wanted to help them find their personal success stories."

Sigmon and Jane Myers, Angie Godwin Society Donors, Lebanon, IN

Students With Difficult Backgrounds Thrive with Teaching-Family Model

Helping students find happiness and learn skills for independence takes a lot of love – and a proven approach to caring for those who come from tough places. Since 2011, what’s known as the Teaching-Family Model (TFM) has been at the heart of how our Family Teachers and other staff members meet the needs of these young people.

Family Teachers are professional parents who receive advanced training in the TFM. They live with students in each of our six family-style homes, guiding them and modeling behaviors from morning until bedtime. Other trained Family Teachers provide relief overnight and on weekends.



The Shipley family

“Our boys feel safe and cared for, and we can give them the stability they so desperately need.”

Dustin Shipley

It Only Took a Yard Sign

Lexi and Dustin Shipley were driving past the Children’s Home one day and saw a “Hiring Family Teachers” yard sign. “An unseen power called us to the Home,” Dustin recalled. I think we were meant to drive by the campus that day.” The idea of supporting teens in a homelike environment appealed to the Shipleys, who have been serving the Julietta Home’s young men for eight months. Anderson University alumnus Dustin’s background was in sales, while IUPUI grad Lexi had worked in office management. Their 2 1/2-year-old daughter, Isla, and two dogs accompanied them, and recently welcomed another little baby girl.

The Shipleys appreciate the proven effectiveness of the TFM. “We know it’s a proven method to help young people heal from abusive backgrounds,” Lexi explained. “Our boys feel safe and cared for, and we can give them the stability they so desperately need.” Dustin noted that TFM has helped with parenting their own daughter. “When Isla has a meltdown or tries to manipulate us, we refer back to our training as Family Teachers and find better ways to handle our own parenting challenges.”

The couple appreciates the paternal tendencies the students display. “They’re very caring and protective around our daughter,” said Lexi. “It’s also been interesting to observe how protective they were of me as an expectant mother. I give all the glory to God.” Watching the students successfully complete treatment brings joy to the couple, added Dustin. “We hope we have a positive impact on their lives. As Family Teachers, we try to show them a healthy example of what marriage can be and what it takes to be loving and caring parents. We are privileged to serve as Family Teachers and feel blessed that a simple yard sign brought us here.”



“I am so excited to find my dream job. I’m working in a daycare center for little children.” Amber

Employment Improves Teen Mental Health and Path to Independence

“I am so excited to find my dream job. I’m working in a daycare center for little children.” Amber is one of more than a dozen Children’s Home students who work part-time in the community.

NaTasha Howell, who coaches the students in applying for jobs and becoming successful employees, sees their confidence improve when they succeed in the workplace. “The Lebanon community and surrounding areas have been great about hiring our students and giving them a chance to succeed. In fact, one of our former students worked at Walgreens and the manager said he was one of the best employees she had.”

Social skills learned through the Teaching-Family Model are practiced in their jobs. Skills like accountability, taking initiative, keeping commitments, and working as a team are skills needed for success on our campus and in the workplace. They also learn how to give and receive feedback in their daily interactions within their family-style homes and in their jobs.

The students take great pride in receiving paychecks and having savings accounts. “The students must save 75% of their earnings and when they leave the Children’s Home, they have accumulated a nice balance,” explained NaTasha. “We also want them to learn the importance of budgeting and not overspending.”

Jamie works at one of the local coffee shops. His Family Teachers tell us he has acquired excellent customer service skills. “I like talking to people and making sure they like their coffee,” Jamie said. “I opened a savings account, and it keeps growing, which makes me happy.”

Building confidence!

Children’s Home Volunteer and Miss Indiana USA

If Haley Jordan Begay looks familiar, we’re not surprised. Maybe you saw her teaching students in her Plainfield High School classroom. You might have watched her on camera at an Indianapolis Indians game or on ESPN+.



Or it might have been the stage of the 2023 Miss USA pageant, where our enthusiastic volunteer proudly represented the Hoosier State as Miss Indiana USA.

Haley has a servant’s heart and is volunteering to create videos to share the impact the Children’s Home is having on our students’ lives.

“My late mom Susan always served others in everything she did. I got her heart, and I love helping people. In my sports career, I like to mentor young reporters I work with whether it’s looking over their personal or school projects or allowing them to shadow me at games. This year, I took on high school broadcasting teaching because being in a position to assist others in a career they might be interested in is so fulfilling to me.”

Why the Children’s Home? “I was a long-time volunteer for domestic violence shelters and think it’s very important to give back. Whether you can donate your time, money or participate in a project that would be helpful for a cause like the Children’s Home, it’s all meaningful work that can help others.”

If you’d like to watch her video about the Teaching-Family Model, scan the QR code or visit <https://www.iumch.org/our-services/teaching-family-model/>



What is Your Legacy?

2024 Legacy Seminar

Have you thought about giving from your IRA? Is setting up a charitable gift annuity good for you? Join us online or in-person for a free seminar to gain insights into tax-wise charitable and estate planning strategies. Learn about opportunities to help make your charitable impact as meaningful as possible while also considering ways to maximize your tax savings.

When:

Tuesday, October 15, 2024
11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. (Includes free box lunch)

Presenter:

Manet Shettle
President, United Methodist Foundation of Indiana

Where:

Indiana United Methodist Children's Home
515 W. Camp St.
Lebanon, IN 46052

RSVP:

317-775-0606, or tomfagan@iumchf.org

Topics:

The seminar will focus on issues we all face as we make our charitable and legacy plans, including specific issues for people who are landowners or have farm assets. Tours of the campus are available afterwards with discussions about the services and programming to help improve the lives of children.

Meet Kylie

When she first came to the Children's Home nearly a year ago, Kylie told her therapist, "People have treated me like I'm not worthy or valued throughout my life."

If you met Kylie today, the first thing you'd notice is her outgoing personality, her lively spirit, and her infectious smile. "Now I feel better about myself and where I am heading," she told us.

"After being at the Home for a while, I feel like I am part of a family, which is a new feeling for me," Kylie added. "The other seven girls I live with are like sisters and the Family Teachers treat me like good parents should."



Indiana United Methodist
Children's Home Foundation
Hope Has A Home in Lebanon

iumchf.org

Contact for Home:

515 W. Camp Street, Lebanon, IN 46052 | 765-482-5900

Contact for Foundation:

9333 N. Meridian Street, Suite 222, Indianapolis, IN 46260
317-775-0606 | info@iumchf.org

Want to Learn How the Children's Home is Changing Lives?

"Visiting the Indiana United Methodist Children's Home in Lebanon helped us to see for ourselves the dedication of the staff to make a warm, welcoming home for teens to feel God's love, hope, and peace. With the housing, school, life skills training, counseling, field trips, activities, and access to spiritual growth opportunities, they've created a haven with the necessary resources for these teens to move into a bright future," said Rev. Laura Marine, Pastor, Herbst United Methodist Church, after touring in April.



Join us for a tour of our campus or invite us to speak to your church group or civic group. We are flexible and can accommodate your schedule. **Contact Tom Fagan at 317-775-0606, or tomfagan@iumchf.org.**

