

2024
Fall

News@Home



First Step Into New Century of Hope With a New Program

After 100 years in Lebanon, we are taking stock of all the things we've done right and areas we can improve. We've long helped young people emerging from unimaginable trauma, abuse, and neglect to achieve some normalcy, but we'll accomplish even more by supporting them after graduation.

That's why we are launching our first new service into our New Century of Hope, a pilot program for independent living designed for 18-and-older kids who have aged out of our current program and feel they need extra help. We call it the Independence Project. ***The Independence Project*** will support our alumni who need extra help to get on their feet; it offers second chances when they stumble.

In January, we asked some of our graduates to design a program that would help them transition well. They mentioned several things that most of us take for granted, like getting a driver's license, learning to budget, practicing job interview skills, helping with college applications, engaging with churches and therapy, finding safe housing, and meeting with caring adults who can help them navigate these kinds of things.

We are renovating apartments and will launch the pilot program by hosting six participants. As we learn and develop the program, we will expand it, refine it, and share our results with like-minded organizations.

"My people will live in peaceful dwelling places, in secure homes, in undisturbed places of rest."
— Isaiah 32:18



Scan the code to watch a short introduction video about our new Independence Project.

From Addiction to Degree

Growing up, Rachel was bullied at school, and her family was always in turmoil. She became depressed and self-injurious; she skipped school, and she experimented with drugs and alcohol. But it got even worse after her father died when Rachel was only 13.

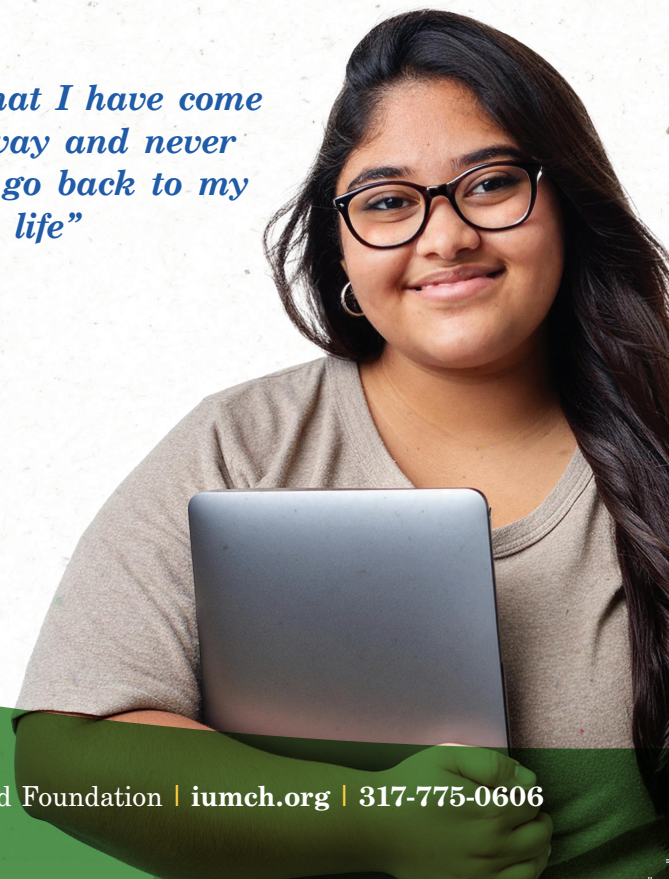
Eventually, she ran away from home and now admits that she, "picked the wrong people to hang out with." Her drug use led to an arrest, and she was sent to an addiction treatment facility. And then, thank God, she was sent to Indiana United Methodist Children's Home to complete her probation.

Director of Admissions Mike May said, "When I first met Rachel, I knew that if she worked through our program, she would have a very positive outcome. And I was right on target with my prediction."

Rachel has made great progress. She currently works in the community part-time and goes to school at Ivy Tech, where she earns As and Bs and has been inducted into an academic honor society. Rachel will graduate in May, 2025, majoring in Psychology and Spanish.

"I feel that I have come a long way and never want to go back to my previous life"

— Rachel



Steps Toward Independence

Dear Friends,

It's becoming more and more clear that our students need steppingstones when they age out of our program. And honestly, it's not just our alumni—lots of 18- and 19-year-olds these days need help transitioning to adult life.

Julia's story highlights the need: Julia had been in the Department of Child Services (DCS) system since she was two years old when her mother's struggles with drug addiction led to an untimely death. After many difficult years of poor foster-home matches, group homes, and even some sexual abuse by a family member, Julia was finally placed at the Children's Home. Julia is smart, but we had to help her develop social skills and self-esteem. And she made wonderful progress.

When she turned 18, Julia told our staff that she was, "done with being in the system," and decided to leave our care. For "system-kids" like her, that isn't unusual. Her DCS team placed her in a foster home for students 18+, but sadly, she decided to leave within a week. Six months later she was homeless, pregnant, and alone.

Julia's desperate story gave our leaders a clarion call to action.

So many of our vulnerable alumni like Julia need extra help getting a handle on successful independent living. And our Independence Project, described on page one, could be just the ticket. The pilot program will get us started. As it grows, we will share our successes with like-minded organizations. Our goals are attainable and it's a way to start making a real difference right away.

We know that the consequence of not offering alternatives like our new Independence Project to our alumni will mean that more young adults will face homelessness, and the foster-care system will have even more Hoosier children who will repeat the cycle.

When our students succeed, Indiana wins.

Thank you for your ongoing prayers and support,

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.

The Reality of "System Kids"

By age 21

- more than 35% of Indiana's foster youth face homelessness.
 - 40% of Indiana's foster youth struggle to gain employment.
 - only 69% of Indiana's foster youth finish high school.
 - 27% of Indiana's foster youth will become parents.
 - 24% of Indiana's foster youth enroll in some form of postsecondary education.
- Nationally, 3% - 4% of former foster youth obtain a four-year college degree.
- Nationally, 2%- 6% of former foster youth earn a two-year degree.
- Nationally, 25% of children who enter the foster care system have parents who were also in foster-care at some point in their lives.

* source: Annie E. Casey 2023 Study, "Fostering Youth Transitions"

From Their Voices

Many of us have mixed feelings about our school experiences—some awkward teenage moments, but some proud achievements, some career-defining lessons, and some hilarious moments. But many of the kids who come here never had good school experiences before arriving at our James E. Davis School. Here are some of their brand-new school memories:

What I Like About School

"I just finished five weeks of summer school and I dreaded going. I always had the summers free, but summer school went by fast and I feel like it was worth it. Mrs. Titus really helped me learn some better ways to work on math and not get so frustrated. During one of the periods, I was the only student she was working with. She knows how to teach!"

— **Bryce**, age 16

"When I came [here], I was behind. Then, Mrs. Landon spent time with me to help me catch up. She knew exactly what to say to help me believe in myself. In May, I graduated, and I have never felt so excited. My family even came and brought my grandma. We also had a celebration dinner and each of us received a laptop computer. They made us feel very special, and it was nice to be recognized for our great work in school."

— **Terry**, age 18

"We had our awards ceremony in May and each student received some type of award. Everyone was fired up and cheering for us. It really made us students feel good. It was the first time I ever got a certificate in achievement for social studies. There were times when I wanted to give up and just coast, but Mrs. McQueen and Miss Erica kept telling me to keep trying. I'm glad I listened, and I feel like I am on a better track in school."

— **Jamie**, age 17

"One of my greatest joys is to see the expression on a student's face when I tell them they've earned their high school diploma. For many of our students, they were told by other adults that they would never finish high school. When they put on the cap and gown for graduation, it is the best feeling in the world. It is such a privilege to help our students achieve their academic goals."

— **Jim Stuart**, Principal, James E. Davis School



Tribute Gifts

We gratefully acknowledge the following tribute gifts received between January 1, 2024, through June 30, 2024. To learn more about how you can make a gift honoring a loved one, please contact the Foundation at **317-775-0606** or **info@iumchf.org**.

Making a tribute gift is a meaningful way to honor your loved one or to celebrate a special occasion. For memorial gifts, we will notify the family about your thoughtful gift; and for special-occasion celebrations, we will inform your loved one of your thoughtful gift in their honor. It's simple! Fund your gift with cash, appreciated stock, or with a gift from your IRA.

In Honor of

Diane and Roger Adams
Franklin Grace United
Methodist Church

Susan D. Bennett
Sandy and Pete Obremskey

**Erelene and Lester Brown's
70th Anniversary**
Jean Zerkel

Rev. Bill Clayton
Ann and Arthur Garceau

Rev. Jim D. Ewing
Judy and Jim Washburn

Jo and Mike Flinn
Alison and Jerry Terry

The glory of God
Linda and James Ralston

Christy, Jim and Joe Huston
Don and Helen Schroeder

Jesus
Anonymous

Marin Krause's 36th birthday
Marlene and Theodore Woodfield

Frances McClellan's 97th birthday
Fran and Larry Paarlberg

Rick
Suzy and Dennis Allen

Lucretia Scammahorn
Sheila Smith

Irma E. Slack
Pam and Brent Bunte
Carrie and Dave Lueneburg
Theresa and Gordon Slack

Son and family
Rita Elliott

Amy, Laura and Mike Sullivan
Diane and Henry Woloson

Rev. Tom True
Alisa and Rudolph Nylund
Anonymous

Rev. Sharon Williams
Dr. Ginny Swift Singer and
Don Singer

Pastor Herb Wingard
Bette Jean and Jerry Taylor

In Memory of

Audrey, Marna and Sonny
Sandra and Jon Robinson

Carol Annette F. Bacon
Anonymous
Norma Alberts
Phyllis Buschman
Rachael and Jeffrey Buschman
Dolores English
Beverly and Lewis Funk
Sandra and Steve Hageman
Susan and Barry Haskins
Marjean and Ron Hathaway
Cindy McDowell
Glenda and Rick Siela
Lynn and Curtis Simonye
Denice and Ron Wilken

Marie Bardonner
Jean Bardonner

Donald S. Baxter
Verna D. Baxter

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J.D. "Smoky" Burgess
Jane Burgess

Dorothy Burton
Rev. Emory Burton

Margaret and John Burton
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Jerilyn Burgess
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Sue and Rev. Dr. James E. Davis
Ann Boss

Cathy Doremus
Dr. Daniel Doremus

Ramona G. Eisinger
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Jim Engledow
Jack Engledow

Lynn Everett
Dr. Ginny Swift Singer and
Don Singer

Maude Felker
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Robin Mills
Susan and Jon Myers
Denise Phares
Christina and Tracy Rogers
Voices of Praise Choir
Kay and Lamar Ziegler

Mary K. Hood
Kay Franscoviak

Linda Johnson
Kenny Johnson

Marilyn Johnson
Anonymous

Carol L. Joslin
Hurschell Joslin

Marshall Kitterman
Kathy and Dr. Steven Hockett

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of names. Please contact the Foundation if there are errors: 317-775-0606 or info@iumchf.org.



Ready to
Make a Gift?

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Wesley Thrift Shop

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**Constance "Connie"
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Wade Turner

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Sharon Wilson

Sandra S. Wiseman
Norma and Thomas Wiseman

Louise E. Woods
Glenn Woods

Thank you!



Overlooking the prayer labyrinth at the Children's Home, Gordon & Theresa Slack are seated on the bench commemorating Irma E. Slack's 100th birthday.

A Tribute to a Volunteer Auxiliary Leader

"In looking for a way to honor my mother, Irma Slack, on her 100th birthday, we could think of no better way than to contribute to the Children's Home, the Home she has loved and supported for so many years. Mom has a very special place in her heart for all the children so greatly served there."

Gordon & Theresa Slack from Zionsville, Indiana



We built the James E. Davis School in 2015,

replacing the first school we built in 1972.

It is fully accredited by the Indiana Department of Education, and is solely dedicated to 8th- to 12th-grade students at our Children's Home. All credits our students earn transfer to all Indiana schools.

Youth typically arrive on our campus three years or more behind their peers in academic credits. Our small class size and specialized teaching helps them catch up and complete their education. Many student are awarded post-secondary scholarships from our Foundation to support their career aspirations.

Staff Profile Kelli McQueen

Kelli McQueen applied to work at our James E. Davis School (JEDS) on the recommendation of a friend who taught here. "I felt that I could make a difference in the school using my special-education degree, and doing what I loved to do: teaching."

That was 20 years ago.

"My favorite memories are of the graduation and awards programs at the end of each semester.... It is very special to watch students earn their degree—students who never thought graduating high school would be a reality—and to witness other students receive their very first trophy or certificate for achievements in school. It is gratifying to be in the business of building people up and JEDS does that for the staff and the students."

Kelli received her BA from Purdue and a Master's Degree in Special Education K-12 Mild Disabilities from IUPUI. She believes the Home's academic program at JEDS is first rate. "I feel that the school program and staff help to create an environment where students are consistently recognized and praised for their strengths, improvements, and achievements, and are supported, encouraged, and validated when they are struggling."

Kelli has witnessed many changes during her tenure, and she credits the Teaching Family Model for making a positive difference in behavior at the school.



"The Teaching Family Model in the homes and also the school, has benefited the youth in learning important social skills ... along with understanding why they are important for real-life situations.... This has been beneficial for teachers and students alike."

For her personally, "The school environment is supportive, encouraging, positive, and fun. It is very rewarding to watch the growth and progress in the students, and to play a part in ensuring that they have a successful experience at school.

"The Children's Home and the school truly make an effort to impact the lives of youth in positive ways and to leave a strong foundation, lasting memories, and a legacy of learning for all students."

Bright futures ahead



"Our teachers are skilled in finding ways to help the students learn. Many of the students need additional tutoring throughout the year, and so we offer a five-week summer-school program. Our Family Teachers in each of the six homes are very supportive of our school and help motivate the youth to do well academically. It takes all of us to step in and help motivate our students to succeed. I have a poster in my room that sums up our feelings at the Home. It reads, 'If God puts a student, youth, friend, neighbor, co-worker, or even an enemy in front of you for a moment, consider it to be a divine appointment and amazing opportunity.' I try to live by that quote each and every day."

— Janet Landon, Teacher, James E. Davis School

Just a Trim, Please.

If you were a teacher, would you let one of your students cut your hair? Just thinking about it conjures up a thousand things that could go wrong. But that's the kind of trust Marshall has earned with our teachers.

Marshall, age 18, likes to cut and style hair, and he dreams about owning his own barber shop one someday.

One of his Family Teachers commented, "Marshall will be a great barber. He practiced his barbering skills on some of the boys in our Home. He even cut and styled my hair one day. It builds his confidence when he can practice on us. We are happy to help him prepare for a career that he will enjoy and prosper in."

Although Marshall is on track now, it wasn't easy getting this far. Drug use was prevalent in his childhood home. His parents couldn't care for him, and going to live with another relative led to depression and abandonment issues. By the age of 13, he was combative, running away, stealing, and experimenting with drugs. Soon enough, he



was arrested for robbery. Eventually, when Marshall was ready for a less-restrictive setting, a judge recommended that he serve out his probation at the Indiana United Methodist Children's Home.

Our staff reports that Marshall has made "outstanding" progress with the therapeutic care here. During the May, 2024, graduation and honors ceremony, Marshall received several academic awards. According to James E. Davis School Teacher Kellie McQueen, "Marshall has a kind and gentle disposition. He is intelligent and completed all schoolwork on time. He is very goal oriented and graduated in May."

He also helped his fellow students study for exams. He was so determined to help them pass, he was nicknamed the "drill sergeant".

"I would like to thank the Home for believing in me," Marshall says. "I really want to have my own business, and I think the barber shop is the way to go for me. Someone once told me to find a career that you will love for your whole life, and that's why I want to be a barber. In a few years, I would like to have a family and travel."

I don't know about you, but
I'd be proud to have Marshall
do my hair.



See it for Yourself Time to Tour with Tom

Come visit us! You are always welcome to come to the Children's Home. We are happy to show you around so you can see how you are helping improve the lives of the youths in care. Schedule your visit and walk our beautiful neighborhood-style campus. **Contact Tom Fagan at 317-775-0606, or tomfagan@iumchf.org.**



Leave More than a Memory, Leave a Legacy

Learn How at our 2024 Seminar,
online and in-person

Have you thought about giving from your IRA? Is setting up a charitable gift annuity good for you? Join us on-line 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 AM to 1:30 PM

Presenter:

Manet Shettle, CPA
President, Heartland Methodist Foundation

Where: Online (RSVP to request the link),
or in person at: Children's Home, 515 W. Camp St.,
Lebanon, IN 46052

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

What: 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. Complimentary box lunches will be served. Whether your legacy plans may include the Children's Home or any other charitable organization, we hope you'll join us! Tours of the campus are available afterwards with discussions about the services and programming to help improve the lives of children.

Meet Bryant

When Bryant arrived at the Children's Home, he had little hope for a better future. He had been diagnosed with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, was defiant, and was verbally and physically aggressive.

But the minute he walked into the hallways at our James E. Davis School, he felt a sense of calm as the teachers greeted him on his first day.

"I will always remember how they cared and were so excited when I graduated.... I would have to say that going to the school really changed my direction. And now, in just a few weeks, I'll be moving into my college dorm. Unbelievable!"



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

Children's Home Leader Honored by Governor Holcomb

Long-time Children's Home Leader Mo Thomas was
recognized June 24 as a Sagamore of the Wabash.

As the highest honor the Governor regularly bestows, Governor Holcomb reserves the award for those who have gone "above and beyond" and contributed to their communities or to the state in an extraordinary manner.

As a lifelong Hoosier, Mo has served others in need his entire life. He led the Board of Trustees of the Children's Home as president and as treasurer for more than 30 years. In 2014, Mo was one of three founding members of the Children's Home Foundation and has served as its president since 2018. Mo has also been president of Indy Downtown Kiwanis Club, Meridian Hills Country Club, and chairman of Commercial Division of Indianapolis Board of Realtors, as well as holding multiple leadership roles in several United Methodist Churches in Indiana, and has led Bible study groups in the Hamilton County jail.



Mo Thomas (center) is honored at a June 24 luncheon in Florida. He is pictured with Children's Home Executive Director Rich Lapinski (left), Foundation Executive Director Christy Huston and Children's Home Trustee and Foundation Director Brent Mosby (far right).



Mosby congratulate Mo Thomas for the Sagamore of the Wabash honor.

Foundation Treasurer David Charles and Children's Home Trustee and Foundation Director Brent

