

2025
Summer

News@Home

Experiential Learning Prepares Students for Independence

Work-based learning (WBL) prepares our students for real-world experience, fusing academic and technical skills and improving employability. WBL at the Children's Home includes mentoring, on-the-job learning in part-time community jobs, and academic experiences, all with the goal of turning theory into practice to help our students transition to the workplace or postsecondary education.

At our James E. Davis School (JEDS) students choose from one of our three Pathways classes: Critical Thinking and Argumentation, Creative Sports, and Dramatic Literature. Completing one of the three WBL Pathways class offerings is a graduation requirement.

According to JEDS Interim Principal Tegan Gavin, "Pathways allows our students to gain knowledge and skills by working for an extended period to investigate and respond to an authentic and complex question, problem, or challenge. They learn 'real-world' tactics and experience what it takes to accomplish an important task. When I was an English teacher, my class focused on critical thinking. [Students] had to create a business plan for a start-up company, which included designing the building space. My favorite part is seeing their in-depth presentations in front of other students, teachers, and community members, and the accolades they receive. It is one of those moments in teaching that I will not forget."

This summer 16 Children's Home teens are employed part-time in the community, and our Family Teachers make sure the teens are properly dressed, arrive on time, and even help with transportation to work. Each student is required to open a bank account and save 75% of their earnings, helping them learn about budgeting and personal finance. **All with the goal of preparing students for independence.**

Our Alumna Shares Perspective

Chyna Gates earned her BA in nursing from the IU School of Nursing in December 2024. She is the first recipient of the Foundation's postsecondary scholarships to complete a four-year college degree. She graduated from the Children's Home 11 years ago and returned in April to address the annual meeting of the Auxiliary Ambassadors.

"At first, I was just trying to make it through and survive..." – Chyna

"Looking back, I was scared", she said about her first weeks at the Children's Home. "I was intimidated by the Teaching-Family Model. But I very quickly felt like family. Now, my Family Teachers will forever be my family. At first, I was like, ugh, consequences!? Are you serious? But now I tell people all the time, I got my coping skills here. My peers today don't have that coping skill."

"At first, I was just trying to make it through and survive, and I think I have survived. And I've also realized how many kids don't realize what's possible."

Continued inside on page 7



Dear Friends,

As students everywhere head back to school, our newsletter stories share that we do more than teach reading, writing, and arithmetic. We prepare our students for real-world opportunities (read about this on page one). We provide direct exposure to workplaces and adult responsibilities, helping them understand the context of their studies and helping them build confidence to make informed decisions about their futures.

When our students arrive on campus, many are behind their peers in academic credits earned, often by more than two or three grade levels (read about our special academic services that help them catch up and graduate on page 5). Our programming is designed to equip our teens with essential soft skills—like coping, leadership, communication, teamwork, and time management (read what our teens say about this on page 3). These skills build resilience and a strong work ethic, qualities that help them succeed in school and are highly valued by employers.

Thanks to our donors, we also offer alumni post-secondary scholarships to continue their academic or vocational pursuits, (read about our scholarships on page 5).

Our programs are expanding to include educational and therapeutic programs for teens who need extra help with sober living (read more about our Recovery Home on page 7). As the Children's Home grows, we will continue to provide new opportunities for the changing needs of our students.

Thank you for advocating for our teens in prayer, and for supporting them with your donations. Because when our teens and young adults succeed, Indiana wins.

Blessings Abound,



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



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

Huston to Retire; Fagan Named New Foundation Leader

In May of this year, Christy Huston, Foundation Executive Director, announced her intent to retire in September. "This has been the best chapter of my professional life, and it has been a privilege to serve our children's mission." She is stepping down after leading seven years of tremendous Foundation growth.

Huston joined the Foundation in 2018, bringing vast experience in nonprofit management. During her leadership, the Foundation's assets have grown more than 68% and more than \$13.5 million in contributed support has been granted to support Children's Home services and grow its mission. Additionally, Huston led the expansion of the Foundation's scholarship program, and launched the annual Indiana Children's Champion awards program giving recognition to volunteers, churches, and organizations that support the mission.

Huston told members of the Board, "God has guided our work, and His is the glory for the growth of our children's mission." She added, "I'm grateful to our generous donors, Foundation Board, Home's Board of Trustees and my colleagues at the Foundation and the Children's Home for their partnership."

Foundation President Mo Thomas thanked Huston for her leadership. He noted that she has positioned the

Foundation for continued growth through her mentorship and vision.

"Christy's retirement this year, against the backdrop of the Children's Home growth and expansion and its celebration of 100 years in Lebanon is meaningful," said Thomas. "We are proud that the Foundation has played a pivotal role in sustaining and supporting the Children's Home growth. Christy helped establish the professionalism of the Foundation's operations. And now she is passing the baton at the close of the Home's centennial year in Lebanon, as we begin A New Century of Hope."

The Foundation's Board has named the Foundation's Development Director, Tom Fagan, as the new executive director. Huston's decision to remain in her role until September will allow for a smooth transition.



From Their Voices

At our James E. Davis School, we prepare our teens for a life of independence. Pathways classes help our teens build confidence in their abilities and envision a future beyond their current circumstances. Our teachers take pride in witnessing the students improving their soft skills and becoming more confident during their presentations and public speaking.

"In our Pathways class, we had to develop a business plan for a new start-up company. We even had to design the building space to meet the needs of the company. I have thought about going into social work or counseling which means I could have my own business someday. This class helped me to understand the corporate world a bit more, and that it takes people with all kinds of knowledge and skills to make it work. When we presented the plan in front of the students and teachers, I was proud of what we accomplished in the class.— **Belinda**

"I could have my own business someday."

"Since I want to be a paramedic, I decided to create my own health-care clinic from the ground up. I had to write a business proposal and figure out the financing. I did research and my goal was to design a clinic to help with non-emergency situations. I had to do my presentation in front of some of the local Lebanon business leaders. This project solidified the fact that I do not want to be a 'paper pusher' and sit in an office all day. I want to be on the front lines and help people. This project also helped me get ready for an interview with a military recruiter. My hope is to serve as a combat medic in the near future."— **Conner**

"I was in Mr. Fischer's Pathway class, which focused on dramatic literature. We had to analyze theatrical productions and literature. I went out of my comfort zone and did some acting and public speaking in front of the whole school. I was nervous, but I was told that I accomplished something

"This project gave me confidence."

incredibly special, and that made me feel great. Plus, I no longer have stage fright. This project gave me confidence, and I know I can do better things in the future." — **Marcus**

"I was in Mr. Fischer's dramatic literature Pathways class. He made the project fun and interesting. I was nervous to perform skits in front of people. But Mr. Fischer gave me positive reinforcement, and I came out of my shell. I felt like the kids in the school thought I was super serious and reserved, but I made them laugh and smile during the theatrical skits. That felt really good and they saw another side of me. We even got a standing ovation!"— **Stella**

"It was such a pleasure to see the students go from not believing they could perform in the skits to receiving a standing ovation on the stage in our gym. Many of our students struggle with stage fright and fear public speaking. Sometimes they struggle with pronouncing certain words, and they become self-conscious. At times, they also struggle while working with others. However, this class helped them conquer some of their fears. It was a joy to see their personal growth and self-sufficiency through acting." — **Mr. Fischer**, Pathways, History and American Literature Teacher at JEDS

"It was a joy to see their personal growth"

Make a Will Month



August is the perfect time to create or update your will. As you do so, we invite you to consider making a simple, powerful gift to Indiana United Methodist Children's Home. Your generosity helps us continue to provide a safe, healing and learning environment well into the future—without affecting your current finances. Creating a legacy of compassion, purpose, hope, and help can be easy and flexible. As you discuss your gift plans with your family or attorney, ask us for sample language to include in your will. Or attend our Legacy Planning Seminar on October 14 (11:30 AM–1:30 PM) on our campus. **If you have already included IUMCH in your estate plan, or if you would like more information about our October session, contact Tom Fagan, 317-775-0606 or via email tomfagan@iumchf.org.**

Tribute gifts

We gratefully acknowledge the following tribute gifts received between January 1, 2025 -June 30, 2025.

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.

Ready to
Make a
Gift?



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 tribute in their honor. **It's simple! Fund your gift with cash, appreciated stock, or with a gift from your IRA.**

In Honor of

Susan D. Bennett
Anonymous

**Dedicated Staff
& House Parents**
Carolyn Hathaway

Marcia Forsythe
Kathy and Dr. Steven Hockett

Chelsea G
Anonymous

Cathy Gwaltney
Sylvia Abrell

Ivadel Hannah
Mary Lou Long

Christy Huston
Chaplain Eldon Smith,
Jr. Lt. Col (Ret)

Phyllis Newton
Diana and Don Green

**Gary Roberts, Ret.
IN Conf. United
Methodist Church**
Chaplain Eldon Smith,
Jr. Lt. Col (Ret)

Dr. Virginia Swift Singer
Dalia and Elliott Keen
Gloria Shannon

Rev. Herb Wingard
Phyllis Lane
Bette Jean and Jerry Taylor

Jan True
Alisa and Rudolph Nylund

Rev. Tom True
Alisa and Rudolph Nylund

In Memory of

Pat Adkins
Family of Pat Adkins
Charlene Swank

Mrs. Arizona L. Busch
Sarah and Larna Spearman

Jean M. Bardonnor
Mary-Jo Shaw
Jean Zerkel

Shawn A. Boyd
Elise Taylor

Mr. and Mrs. John Burton
Elaine Routh

Charles Cochran
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Lorie L. Coy
Jack Coy

Bishop Michael J. Coyner
Marsha Coyner

Marion Cronkrite
Marion and Daryl Halverson

Sandra Day
Dr. Ginny Swift Singer
and Don Singer

Alys Dickerson
Dr. Glen and Mrs. Lana
Lehman

K. Joan and Dallas Dinger
Mandy and Brett Newman

Rev. Richard Lee Eisinger
Debby Austin
Dr. William Eisinger
Jean and Ray Gotshall
Gayle Hersch
Deb Hornaday

Katie and Irving Paul
Sisters in Christ: Jean Ellis,
Dee Cazares, Lynn Morris,
Donita Keidel, Lorraine Hoss,
and Sandy Bradley
Elizabeth and Robert Tansey
Sylvia Woods

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Ann and Ralph Foley

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Jennie Lutes

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Don Singer

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Tony Marchiando

June Smith Nessler
Dr. Ginny Swift Singer
and Don Singer

Russ Nicoles
Joyce Windhorn

Maxine Patterson
Bonita and David Flora

**Jane Ann and
Walter Pickering**
James Pickering

Jesse Rhoades
Frances and James Price

**My parents Ethel and
Dale Richardson**
Kay Franscoviak

Ruth and Clarence Rott
Nina and Al Babich

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Joan and Donald Shepherd

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Audra and Clayton Sipes
Betty Calhoun

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Matilda "Ginger" Swenson
Elizabeth and Larry Lammers
Phyllis Lauter
Ramona Paulsrud
Ann Fleming Tannehill
Judy Zinn

Mary Tangeman
Sylvia Abrell

Ronald Wakefield
Gloria Barron
Barbara Crawford
Rev. Sandy Harlan
Linda and Brent Hartman
Erna Foertsch
Joann and Reed Mann
Susan Steva
Connie and Bob Wiley

Robert L. Weaver
Joyce and John Weaver

Wilma and Jesse Wheeler
Anonymous

Caryl Wilhoite
Helen Dennis

Thank you!

What's Special about our James E. Davis School?

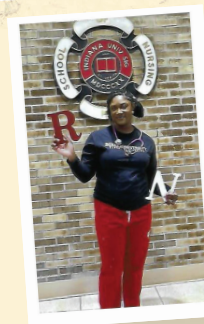
In many ways, the James E. Davis School (JEDS) on the Children's Home campus resembles other schools in the state. It is fully accredited by the Indiana Department of Education, follows the same graduation requirements, and offers many of the same academic classes taught in other high schools. The school serves students in grades 8-12, and academic credits earned by students at JEDS are transferable to all public schools in Indiana. The modern building constructed in 2015 was funded by the Foundation.

However, JEDS distinguishes itself with smaller class sizes compared to typical public schools. While the average student-to-teacher ratio in Indiana is 16 to 1, JEDS maintains a ratio of just 7-8 students per classroom. And for the students who are too far behind to earn a traditional diploma, JEDS teacher Janet McConnell is dedicated to assisting them in meeting the requirements for the high school equivalency (HSE) exam.



Many of our grads tell us they are first in their families to earn a diploma.

Specialized teaching and personalized accommodations help our students graduate.



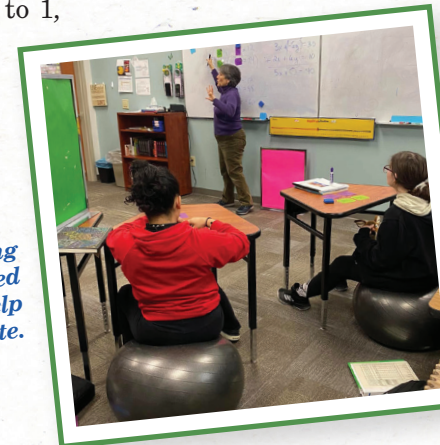
I will forever be grateful for your generosity and support as I completed my degree. I appreciate you guys believing in my abilities. You have helped me achieve my dreams and I will always be grateful that you all are apart of my story

- Chynae Yates RN,BSN

Teaching-Family Model behavior management used in each of the family-style homes on campus is also followed during the school day. The same expectations and consequences prevail in both, and school staff trained as Behavior Interventionists, step in during the school day to individually work with students who need extra behavior help to succeed in their classes. The extra help allows the academic teachers to continue teaching to other students, while the behavior staff provides individual assistance to students with problem behaviors. The result is better academic success for all the students.

JEDS students enjoy extracurricular options like student council, a dance team, and a school newspaper. JEDS students also participate in exciting team competitions each semester to encourage leadership, teamwork, and other similar skills.

There are two high-school commencement ceremonies each year, one in May and one in December. In May 2025, the school celebrated with 10 students, and they became alumni of a school that has helped to transform more than a thousand lives over the years.



Extracurricular activities, like our dance team, improve motivation and leadership skills.

Graduates Earn Postsecondary Scholarships

Thanks to many generous donors, Children's Home Foundation offers several postsecondary scholarships to our alumni. The Foundation oversees several scholarship funds, including: Pulliam Scholarship, Sue Davis Memorial Scholarship, Lemon Scholarship, and Hoffman Family Scholarship.

Together, these scholarships provide crucial support that can significantly impact our teens' opportunities for postsecondary vocational and academic pursuits. If you are interested in establishing a scholarship fund for the students at the Children's Home or participating as a member of the Foundation's Scholarship Committee, **please contact Tom Fagan at 317-775-0606 or tomfagan@iumchf.org**

Volunteers Helping Shape Brighter Futures

Summer Fun, Courtesy of the Auxiliary Ambassadors

The summer vacations that many of us had as kids are not experiences most of our students had before being placed at the Home. Many of our teens endured difficult—sometimes tragic—summer circumstances, and they tell us that vacations were always something for other people, not for them. But the Auxiliary Ambassadors provide funds to ensure summer is fun and filled with memorable experiences for our students.

Summer Enrichment is Fun and Educational

There's no shortage of opportunities for our teens this summer, and many are possible through donor support. Here's a partial list:

- **Parenting Classes**
- **Part-Time Jobs in the Community**
- **Half-day Summer School for Some Teens**
- **Holiday Fun: Juneteenth Celebration and July 4th Parade/Fireworks**
- **State Park Visits: Hiking, Camping and Fishing**
- **Local Enrichment: Indianapolis Zoo, Newfield Gardens, Movies, Swimming**
- **Campus Fun: Staff Softball Games, Bike Rides, Scavenger Hunts, Water Tag, Cookouts and Bonfires.**

This summer, the teen girls and boys in the Independent Living Learning Lab are taking the Responsible Parenting Class. They are responsible for taking care of their interactive simulation babies.



ZUMC Church Gives Positive Summer Experience to Teens

Zionsville United Methodist Church member Jo Flinn attended the Auxiliary Ambassador's Annual Meeting this spring and learned about the Children's Home weekly Canteen (behavior incentive program for the students at the Children's Home). She felt inspired to help and advocated to her church to donate funds for the teens to go to the Indianapolis Zoo this summer.



Volunteer Chris Erwin from Trinity UMC, Lafayette, teaches cooking class to prepare for July 4th.

Going to an amusement park for our teens means more than fun, it demonstrates to them that our supporters feel our teens are worthy of wonderful summer experiences.

Auxiliary Ambassador Executive Committee member Carol Frazier says, "One of my favorite quotes is from Desmond Tutu and it makes me think of the Home and being an

Auxiliary Ambassador. He said, 'Hope is being able to see that there is light despite all of the darkness.' As an Auxiliary Ambassador, we help the students have hope for the future, despite their traumatic experiences. This is also what the Home strives to do and as Ambassadors, we wholeheartedly support their mission."

To that end, the Auxiliary Ambassadors financially support the Children's Home annual trip to Kings Island. They also support other summer enrichment programs and projects including passes to the local water park.

To learn more about the Auxiliary Ambassadors, contact Susan Bennett at 765-482-5900 or susanb@iumch.org.

Trustee Bob Shea Removes Barrier to Recovery Home



Children's Home Trustee Bob Shea from Indianapolis, was recognized by President Daniel F. Evans, Jr. at the June Trustees' meeting for leadership and creativity in bringing much needed recovery services to the Children's Home teens at least two years earlier than expected.

Shea leads the Trustees Building and Grounds Committee and led planning for the construction of our new ten-bed Recovery Home. He learned last fall that the City of Lebanon placed a moratorium on all new building construction due to increased amounts of water needed in the city for multiple expansion projects. The expected construction delay was anticipated to be two years. Knowing the immediate need for the new recovery services, Shea, a sales engineer at Envelop Group, proposed a campus-wide water reduction plan. He demonstrated net-water savings with low-flow fixtures, (versus current water usage) even after constructing the proposed recovery home. The city agreed, and the construction permit was granted.

Construction is expected to be completed this year, and the new Recovery Home will open in early 2026, allowing the Children's Home to serve more teens and provide critical substance use disorder services.

Chyna, continued from page 1

"They don't see that they have these resources. I tell kids (my patients in my nursing job) I've been in a home, and they helped me do this. It gives them hope, even if I can't babysit them after they leave the hospital. Now that I have made it and I've got the degree and I'm working with the kids, I just can't help but think about how many people I want to be here and to have what I've got."

"I just want to say thank you to everybody..." — Chyna

"I just wanted to say thank you to everybody who's ever helped me. Thanks so much."

Executive Director Rich Lapinski says "Chyna is an excellent role model for our youth. They can relate to her since she has walked in their shoes before. They see what she has accomplished and that gives them hope for a better future as they approach adulthood."

Chyna started her career as a nurse this past spring at a hospital in central Indiana. Scan the QR code to see Chyna tell more of her story in a 3-minute video created when she received the Alumni Rising Phoenix Award at last year's **Breakfast With Champions Event**.



Scan QR code to watch a four minute virtual walk-through



Board of Trustees Expands to Add New Volunteer Talent

IUMCH Board of Trustees President Daniel F. Evans, Jr. recently welcomed two new volunteer Trustees.



Michelle Janney, RN, FAAN, advises and mentors healthcare leaders on strategy, operations, culture and leadership excellence, while impacting community health through service. Her international reputation for expertise in nursing leadership, organizational development, and healthcare

administration has developed after leading nursing and healthcare teams in numerous hospital systems. She recently retired from her role as Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer at IU Health. She has served on the American Hospital Association Board of Trustees, the Joint Commission Hospital Advisory Committee, the Dean's Advisory Board for Herron School of Art and Design, and both the American Red Cross of Central Indiana and the Regenstrief Institute Boards of Directors. Welcome Dr. Janney!



Stephen Moore is a noted expert in property management, having recently retired from Quality Building Maintenance in Indianapolis as Vice President Client Relations/Operations/Compliance. Prior to property management, he served in the hospitality industry for more than 20 years, working

as general manager for multiple hotel brands, including Embassy Suites. He also served in the United States Air Force. He is an active member of University United Methodist Church, Indianapolis, where he serves as Trustee Chair and Mentor for Young Lions Program, among other volunteer leadership roles. He is also member of the Board of Directors for Metro Ministries and an Indiana United Methodist Conference Trustee. He is former Chair of the Board for the Brightwood Community Center. Welcome Mr. Moore!

Meet Jen

Jen wasn't too excited to learn that she would be going to half-day summer school at JEDS. She needs extra help in math, reading comprehension and language arts. When she came to the Home nine months ago, she was academically three grades behind in most subjects. Previous multiple placements made regular school attendance very difficult, and she wasn't thriving in the public school.

According to Jen, "At first, I was not happy that I had to go to summer school. But it is a different experience for me now. This is the first time that I've enjoyed going to school. When the bell rings, I'm kinda sad that school is over and that's a first for me."

"This is the first time that I've enjoyed going to school"—Jen



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

iumch.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

