

News from Home

Christmas 2026

Independence Project Duplexes Nearing Approval

A strong beginning to independence is being made a little easier for young adults at the Children's Home. And more space is planned to serve even more. The Children's Home's is following through on its faith-based commitment to continue walking with residents even when they are no longer children.

Since moving into one of our Independence Project apartments this fall, Amy has been building a life she directs. She works two jobs, sets her own schedule and is reaching goals she chose. She isn't doing it alone. Her apartment sits on the Children's Home campus, a short walk from staff who know her. Her Independence Project Youth Success Advisor helps her solve problems as they come.

"I really like it. It really gives me a good head start in life." -Amy

The program's Dream Fee, the monthly contribution she makes to the program, is returned to her when she moves on, helping cover her next set of expenses. Amy named it as another reason she chose our program.

"Walking alongside young adults means providing consistent support, guidance, and encouragement as they navigate independence."
-Cheyy Crist, Youth Success Advisor

Now we are planning to add room for more residents who leave the child welfare system but want to stay close to us as they gain independence. Our planned expansion of the Independence Project will add six duplexes with 12 independent-living units. We await final zoning approval before breaking ground. The Independence Project receives no state funding; it operates entirely on donations. We rely on your gifts to help make this expansion possible.

To learn how you can help, contact Tom Fagan, Foundation Executive Director, at tomfagan@iumchf.org or 317-775-0606.



Conceptual rendering of the planned Independence Project neighborhood.

2026 Children's Champions Honorees

At our *Breakfast With Champions* event, we were able to honor several who have made a big difference for the teens at the Children's Home. Their contribution of time and resources spans decades, and we all would be less without them.

Advocate Award
City of Lebanon

The City of Lebanon has supported the Children's Home since it moved to the community in 1924. In 2025, the city made an exception during a moratorium on new building permits so construction of the Recovery Home could move forward.



Alumni Rising Phoenix Award
Elliott Keen

Elliott lived at the Children's Home from 1974 to 1976. He went on to Culver Military Academy and Purdue University, where he earned a degree in aerospace engineering, and today is a systems engineer. Elliot is a member of our Angie Godwin Society.



Mo Thomas Lifetime Leadership Award
Nancy Harshbarger

Nancy served 20 years on the Home's Board of Trustees, including as Board Treasurer, bringing financial insight from her career in banking. She is a member of St. Matthew United Methodist Church in Frankfort and our Angie Godwin Society.



Agape Award
Kay Franscoviak

Kay leads the Home's Auxiliary Ambassadors as president and serves on the Scholarship Committee, helping youth pursue their educational goals. A retired teacher and school librarian, she is an active member of Trinity United Methodist Church in Lafayette and a member of our Angie Godwin Society.

Community Partner Award
Rotary Club of Lebanon

Since the 1970s, the Rotary Club of Lebanon has included the Home in its mission giving, a relationship begun by Rev. James E. Davis, a former Executive Director who also served as the club's president.

Partner In Christ Award
Calvary United Methodist Church, Brownsburg

Calvary made the largest gift ever given to the Children's Home by a church. The church is a member of our Angie Godwin Society. Its members also volunteer on our campus.

2026 Children's Champion Awards Sponsors

Presenting Sponsor

Daniel F. Evans, Jr. and Marilyn Evans

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16 Residents Already Served in Recovery Home

Recovery has room to take hold, and a life free from substance use becomes possible. Since opening earlier this year, our Recovery Home has served 16 teenagers. Without a residence like this, someone finishing treatment often goes straight back to the same pressures and routines that surrounded their substance use. That is when recovery is most fragile. Our Recovery Home changes what happens next. It fills a real gap in care: a place where teens who have completed substance-use treatment elsewhere can build the daily practices that sustain recovery long after they leave.

"It definitely created another family for me and showed me that I have support. It's a stage in my life that I will always remember and know that I can always come if I need help" -Gracie, Recovery Home Youth



In our Recovery Home, teenagers are not on their own. They live in a therapeutic, family-style residence where counseling, structure, accountability, and steady relationships help them build and sustain recovery long after they leave. Our Recovery Home is licensed and certified by the Indiana Division of Mental Health and Addiction for residential recovery care. State funds support this program. A $138,500 grant from Lilly Endowment Inc. funded a new electronic health record system that launched with the Recovery Home which now supports care in programs across our campus. What began as a vision is now realized: a home where teens can turn the hard work of treatment into the steady, daily practice of recovery.

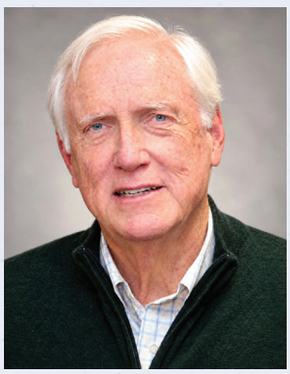
New Board Leadership in 2027



Ryan Dunn

President, Children's Home Board of Trustees

Beginning January 1, Ryan will serve as President of the Children's Home Board of Trustees. He will continue as a member of the Children's Home Foundation Board of Directors.



Daniel F. Evans, Jr.

President, Children's Home Foundation Board of Directors

Beginning January 1, Dan will serve as President of the Children's Home Foundation Board of Directors. He is stepping down as President of the Children's Home Board of Trustees and will continue to serve as a trustee.

Keith Smith will step down as President of the Foundation Board, but will continue to serve as a member of the board.

Giving Tuesday December 1, 2026

Help Give Our Teens the Best Christmas Ever

Many of the teens at the Children's Home will spend Christmas away from their own families. What they find with us is a holiday that is faith-based, safe, and shared. In each residential home, Family Teachers celebrate traditions and stay present through the Christmas season. Teens get to experience what a caring home feels like.



AI enhanced image.

Advent worship in Gress Memorial Chapel with Rev. Perry Montgomery centers on the nativity accounts in Luke and Matthew, and weekly Bible study follows the same story.

This Giving Tuesday, December 1, fill Christmas with care, connection, and a sense of home. Or you can designate your gift to the Independence Project to help young adults build a stable, independent future.

Smart Ways to Give Before Year-End

GIFTS OF APPRECIATED STOCK

When you give stocks, bonds, or mutual funds you have held for more than a year, you can generally avoid capital gains tax and, if you itemize, deduct the full fair market value.

GIFTS FROM YOUR IRA

If you are 70½ or older, you can give directly from a traditional IRA. A qualified charitable distribution is not counted as taxable income, and it can count toward your required minimum distribution (RMD). Ask your IRA administrator to send the gift directly to the Indiana United Methodist Children's Home Foundation.

(Stock and IRA transfers take time for your financial institution to process, so please start early for gifts intended for 2026. Consult with your financial or tax advisor to determine what is best for you.)

MONETARY GIFTS

Give securely online at iumch.org. You can also send checks made to IUMCHF and mail to:

Indiana United Methodist Children's Home Foundation
9333 N. Meridian Street, Suite 222
Indianapolis, IN 46260

Need help or have any questions?
Please contact Tom Fagan,
Foundation Executive Director
at tomfagan@iumchf.org or
317-775-0606

The stories you read about our youths are real. We change names, images, and identifying details to protect their privacy. Occasionally, we use AI to help us share our stories better.

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

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