

Jean and Helen Fanning

A Mother and Daughter's Search for Hope

In this Issue:

What's Happening Around Methodist Family Health?

A Tribute to Reverend Robert A. Regnier

Board Spotlight: Neill Sloan

Donor Profile: Patsy Mooney

Big Dam Bridge Walk for Children

2007 Christmas Campaign: Reasons to Give





METHODIST FAMILY HEALTH

PSYCHIATRIC THERAPEUTIC **BEHAVIORAL** RESIDENTIAL HOSPITAL RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT (ACUTE **GROUP HOMES** & SUB-ACUTE) CENTER **THERAPEUTIC** THERAPEUTIC **THERAPEUTIC EARLY CHILDHOOD** DAY TREATMENT **FOSTER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM** CARE **PROGRAM** SCHOOL-BASED **OUTPATIENT** UNITED COUNSELING COUNSELING **METHODIST SERVICES SERVICES** CHILDREN'S HOME **EMERGENCY** ARKANSAS SHELTER CARES

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appy Holidays! One of the things we are most proud of at Methodist Family Health is being able to serve those children who are labeled "the most difficult to help." The ministry of this organization has always been to provide the best possible care to those who may need it. We accomplish this through the services we provide in 22 Arkansas cities, serving approximately 300 clients daily in our inpatient venues and

by serving an additional 600 clients daily in our outpatient and school-based venues. Our daily focus remains the same: to provide complete care for children and their families – socially, emotionally and spiritually.

In this issue you will learn about an autistic child who came to Arkansas from New Orleans post-Katrina and the services Methodist Behavioral Hospital was able to provide.

You will also read about other exciting events taking place around Methodist Family Health as well as ways you can get involved individually or through your church.

Our 2007 Christmas Appeal has a theme: Embrace Our Tradition of Christmas. Connect to a Child. We are very proud that, with your help, we have been giving to children for over 100 years. Many years ago, families would come to United Methodist Children's Home and take home a child to spend Christmas with them. Today, we can no longer do that, but we do ask you to "take a child home" in your heart by connecting with a child through giving a donation. We have so many ways you can be involved, and we encourage you to do so.

On a very sad note, we recently lost a great friend and mentor in Reverend Robert A. Regnier. He died suddenly this past August and will be greatly missed by all. I hope you will take the time to read the enclosed tribute to discover what Reverend Regnier meant to our organization and staff. His legacy will live on through the ministry of Methodist Family Health.

Thank you for your concern, love and prayers for God's children who are in our care.

Sincerely,

Andy Altom

President and CEO

Donor Spotlight

Patsy Mooney

Rogers, Arkansas



he past year has been full of change for Patsy Mooney of Rogers, Arkansas. Patsy lost her only son, Jason, in a tragic boating accident on August 11, 2006, at Coose Hollow, where they spent many days together fishing, camping, hunting and wakeboarding. The memories of her son light up her face as she describes his many talents as an artist and his ability to play the guitar.

As a single parent, Patsy reflects back on the loving bond shared with her son. "Jason was my life," she says. "He had such a kind and giving heart. The relationship I had with him was special. He would tell me that I was his mom, dad and best friend. That was precious to me. I miss being called Mom. I miss his humor. I miss the love and respect we shared for each other. I miss Jason."

Since losing Jason, Patsy's life has been tough, but she has found strength in God and in knowing Jason is in the presence of our Lord and Savior. She also found strength, comfort and love from the Therapeutic Group Homes in

Fayetteville and Springdale. Patsy was welcomed with open arms on her first night out to the Boys Group Home in Fayetteville. Teaching-Parents Paul and Avis Frazier shared a similar tragedy with Patsy, having lost their son Jeremy many years ago at the age of 16. The Fraziers shared Patsy's grief and knew how much love and prayers she would need to go on. They continue to give her every bit of love and support she needs.

The Boys Home welcomes Patsy every Wednesday night with eight hugs (one from each boy) and a dinner cooked by Patsy. At dinner, stories are told, songs are sung and joyous laughter always fills the house. These are the moments Patsy now cherishes. She has been a huge influence on the boys and girls in both homes, showing them love, attention and, most of all, being the person the kids lovingly refer to as Aunt Patsy. She treats the kids to back-to-school shopping trips, birthday presents and supports them at their school sporting events. She has now become like a mother to so many of the children and Methodist Family Health is forever grateful for her kindness in blessing these kids.

While thinking of Jason, Patsy says, "There will always be a hole in my heart for my son, but I know that my heart has grown bigger because of loving these kids. The Lord has truly blessed me with a new family. He truly opens a door when a window is closed. Walking through is difficult, but love never fails."

The memory of Jason Mooney will live on through the love, time and gifts Patsy shares with these children. Jason is definitely smiling down on his mother as she cares for so many.

Board Spotlight

Neill Sloan

Lake Village, Arkansas



14 years

Why do you choose to serve?

Rev. Regnier asked me to serve, and I also did it for the children. Children need a second and third chance. MFH provides the best environment for that! MFH also provides a good Christian environment for the children.

What do you bring to the board?

According to MFH President and CEO Andy Altom, "Neill has a terrific mind for this ministry and throughout the years he has supported the efforts of our employees through his leadership as a past board chairman. He continually supports our efforts with his participation on committees and special functions. He is wonderful to work with."

Which MFH service gives you the most pride?

The Behavioral Hospital in Maumelle. The stories of the children needing help and having such severe behavioral and emotional problems touch my heart. It breaks my heart to know that if we don't give them the skills to change their home life, help them build self-esteem and many other needed skills, their lives won't change!

What is your most memorable moment with MFH?

I have two I would like to share! The first one is seeing the Behavioral Hospital survive while I was chairman of the board. We put everything at stake for this program to complete the continuum. The continuum needed this program. The second is the 100th anniversary and when the twin sisters came back and told their stories. Those children who came back were happy, strong adults!

What is your hope for the children?

I just hope that when they leave our care that they have the self-confidence they need to have a chance at becoming a productive adult. Children need love, and many chances!



Building Relationships

Arkansas Methodists Gather at World's Longest Pedestrian Bridge

By JANE DENNIS, Arkansas United Methodist Editor

With the churning waters of the Arkansas River swirling 65 feet below, more than 250 persons stepped confidently across the new pedestrian bridge that sits atop Murray Lock and Dam in Little Rock. They were there to show support of Methodist Family Health, a ministry to children and families in Arkansas since 1899.

The Aug. 3 "Walk for Children" was held at the Big Dam Bridge, touted as the world's longest pedestrian and bicycle bridge built and designed specifically for that purpose. The \$12.8 million structure, which opened



in 2006, spans threefourths of a mile and connects Little Rock with North Little Rock.

Methodist Family
Health hosted the
first-time event in
partnership with the
Arkansas Conference
United Methodist
Council on Youth
Ministries. More than

100 volunteers were on hand to ensure that everything ran smoothly.

Participants donned orange event T-shirts and hiked across the bridge and back, where pizza, bottled water, frozen treats and live music waited. Later, many youth took part in a conference-sponsored all-night "lock- in" at a local water park — welcome relief from the sweltering

96-degree temperature.

"It's very hot," said 15-year-old Kelsey Brock of Smackover, who walked crossed the span with her friend Stephanie Clements, "but it's still fun." They came with a large contingent from the youth group at Smackover United Methodist Church.

"It was easy going over, but coming back I had to stop and rest," said a red-faced, perspiring Taylor Keller, 15, a member of First United Methodist Church in Camden.

Kristin Beall of Maumelle made the trek with her two children, Bram and Madeline, and their Scottish terrier, Geni.

David Moseley, senior pastor of First United Methodist Church, Pine Bluff, took big strides across the bridge, pushing his granddaughter, Katherine, in a stroller.

Most walked, some jogged, and some stopped along the way and snapped photographs. Everyone was hot but smiling at the accomplishment of making it across and back on a humid August evening.

Some participants worked in advance to secure financial pledges for their participation; others paid a \$20 fee to take part. Coupled with

support from a host of corporate sponsors, the event raised \$23,000 for Methodist Family Health.

"We hope the Walk for Children increases awareness for Methodist Family Health, not just with Methodists but with the corporate community," said Andy Altom, president and CEO. "We want to get the word out about our services, how we've grown and all the different ways that we can help families around the state."

The organization has changed dramatically since its beginning in 1899, when its mission was to serve as an orphanage and find loving homes for children in need. Today, Methodist Family Health provides comprehensive behavioral healthcare services to children and families. The organization's continuum of care includes a psychiatric residential treatment center, therapeutic residential group homes, acute psychiatric hospital care, foster care services, day treatment program, early childhood development program, outpatient counseling services, emergency shelter and school-based counseling services. A program serving mothers with addictions and their children is the newest addition to the organization's services.

United Methodist churches and individuals have been loyal supporters of the organization throughout its history, particularly at Christmas when drives are held for the United Methodist Children's Home, which now falls under the Methodist Family Health umbrella.

Altom said he views the Walk for Children as "a great friend raiser" for a vital United Methodist ministry that serves children and families.

The picturesque pedestrian bridge, which at night is bathed in different color combinations of lights, was selected as the location for this inaugural event because "it is a new, exciting attraction for Arkansas," said Maggie Beeler, director of special programs for Methodist Family Health.

But beyond the novelty of the bridge, she said the purpose of the Walk for Children was "to create better awareness of the behavioral healthcare services available to children and families across the state of Arkansas, as well as continuing to raise funds to better serve the more than 600 kids and families currently in our behavioral hospital, shelter and outpatient and residential centers."



What's Happening at MIFH?



St. Mark's Baptist Church renovates CARES library.



Camp Tanako 2007



Bryant UMC visits MCH for spirituality service.

St. James VBS plants flowers at Emergency Shelter.

Camp Tanako 2007

MFH Adds 5 Behavioral Instructors to Jonesboro's SUCCESS Academy

Methodist Family Health has placed five behavioral instructors into classrooms at the SUCCESS Academy located on Fisher Drive in Jonesboro. The primary role of the instructors is to reinforce appropriate positive behaviors and respond to inappropriate behaviors through teaching interactions focused on targeted skill development. The SUCCESS Academy is an alternative learning center for children in grades K–12 who are referred from eight school districts in Craighead County. The behavioral instructors join a team of therapists, case managers and psychiatrists who together provide services for children at the Academy who suffer from emotional or behavioral disorders.

The SUCCESS Academy has three primary goals for each student: improve student behavior patterns and self-management through positive reinforcement; motivate students to remain in an educational setting with improved attendance and improved academics; and increase parent involvement in meetings and family counseling sessions through significant parent-staff interaction and parent-school-student contracts.

Methodist Family Health staff members facilitated training for SUCCESS

Academy teachers and staff the week before school started. The comprehensive training included nonviolent crisis intervention, CPR and implementation of the Teaching-Family Model. The Teaching-Family Model is a well-researched model used by all Methodist Family Health programs and emphasizes the positive teaching of functional skills and behaviors. Research has proven that a 4:1 ratio of positives to negatives works best when treating children.

"I can see some real benefits and opportunities," says Karen Curtner, director of SUCCESS Academy. The behavioral instructors are making a tremendous impact on all of our lives in the school, especially with teachers and students. I already want more behavioral instructors! I am so pleased to have added the SUCCESS Academy as one of the programs within the continuum of care."

It's a perfect fit," says Andy Altom, president and CEO of Methodist Family Health.

"I really appreciate Andy's vision and all the support from the Methodist Family Health team," Ms. Curtner added.

Jean and He

A Mother and Daughter's Search for Hope

ypical. And such was life for Helen Fanning's first two years. Normal baby stuff: cooing and laughing and making new sounds, then progressing to language and forming new words daily. Life – as a healthy, rapidly developing toddler.

It was subtle, at first. The constant chatter and growing vocabulary slowed. To Helen's mom, Jean, it was noticeable, certainly not alarming. Maybe it was a hearing problem. That would explain why two-and-a-half-year-old Helen wasn't picking up any new words. So Jean had Helen's ears checked. Her hearing was perfect.

"At first, I noticed that Helen wasn't learning new words," Jean said, "but then she started losing words she already knew. Her behavior started to change as well. She became more introverted, preferring to be alone. She was starting to exhibit odd behavior."

Autism: the brain development disorder characterized by impairments in social interaction and communication, and restricted and repetitive behavior, all exhibited before a child

is three years old. That was the diagnosis, and the end to Helen's – and Jean's – typical life together in New Orleans. And that was *before* Hurricane Katrina arrived.

After Katrina destroyed their home, Jean loaded what little they had left into her car – along with Helen, now 10 years old, and her 16-year-old son, Trevor – and drove north to Rogers, Arkansas. Uprooted and moving to a strange place was not exactly therapy for Helen.

"Most people with autism like structure and don't adjust well to change," Jean said. "Well, our lives were turned upside down. We lost our home, we lost our city and we were living with my sister in a town we had never visited. Helen had to endure a lot of change, which is not easy for her."

A month later the Fannings moved into an apartment in Bentonville, then into a FEMA-provided home in Rogers. Trevor, who missed his friends and hometown, returned to finish high school in New Orleans, moving in with his dad, whose house had escaped the floods.



len Faming

Helen's mood and behavior deteriorated. Rapidly. She became violent, hurting herself and others. And to make matters worse, Jean was unable to find a doctor who could manage her daughter's worsening condition. In fact, the treatment regimen made Helen so sick and volatile, Jean eventually drove three hours to the emergency room at Children's Hospital in Little Rock. Doctors there referred Helen to Methodist Behavioral Hospital in Maumelle, where she spent three days. The hospital opened in September 2001 as part of the Methodist Family Health continuum of care. The facility contains an acute unit – for patients who pose an imminent risk to themselves or others due to psychiatric illness and whose length of stay is generally around 10 days – and sub-acute units – for patients who exhibit chronic behavior or emotional issues such as running away or prolonged depression and who stay on average 90 days.

Those three little days made a big impact on Helen and left a lasting impression on her grateful mother.

"Helen was much better after her stay," Jean said. "She was more agreeable; you could see a big difference. The hitting and spitting episodes became less frequent. The doctors and staff were all so caring, and they treated both Helen and me with respect."

Returning to Rogers, Jean found herself facing the same issues as before her trip to Methodist Behavioral Hospital. According to Jean, the clinic treating Helen did a poor job of managing Helen's medicine, and to make matters worse, they treated Helen with no respect. Now in a plastic helmet, complete with face guard to prevent spitting on others and slapping her own head, Helen was at an all-time low.

"On what turned out to be our last visit there, the doctor even suggested that Helen sit in the car outside while we visited since Helen had hit their walls and a staff member on a previous visit," Jean said. "I realized how miserable Helen was and that it was time to get back to Little Rock for more help. By then, she was lashing out at others, unprovoked, spitting at and pinching me and anyone else who happened by."

Again, Children's Hospital referred the Fannings to Methodist Behavioral Hospital, where this time Helen would stay for eight days under the care of the loving, experienced staff, including Dr. Scott Hogan. Dr. Hogan monitored Helen and adjusted her medicines as she made slow progress.

"I am very proud to be part of the team that allowed this family to stay together, going the extra mile to treat patients that other hospitals refuse to care for," Dr. Hogan said. "It is so very important to take care of all the children who come to us for help, including the gravely disabled and very challenging patients."

Helen is a 13-year-old eighth-grader now. She remains a nonverbal autistic child who will need constant care her entire life. Jean lost her job, unable to find care for Helen after school, so the family has moved to West Virginia where they now live with Jean's 90-year-old father. Despite the ongoing struggles, Jean remains a loving mother committed to her daughter.

"She likes going to school and riding the bus," Jean said. "She loves playing in the water and being tickled. We share a lot of happy moments together, smiling and laughing. She is always a challenge, but she is my little girl, and I want to make her life happy and healthy. This past winter, Jean wrote a letter to Dr. Hogan and Dr. Jennifer Lang, the hospital's administrator, updating them on Helen's condition and thanking them for helping her family in their time of need. Following is how she closed her letter:

"I love my little girl and do not want her institutionalized or sent to a long-term care facility. I believe she would not do well there, but will thrive with me at home. I am thankful that Methodist [Family Health] was able to help her condition and wanted to write and let you know. I appreciate that your staff treated her with respect and kindness, which means a lot to a parent of an out-of-control autistic child. To see Helen happier and gentler with me, smiling again and not hitting and hurting herself or others, and not returning home overly medicated or too sedated was wonderful. I imagine you must be one of the few places who could provide such help. Thank you again."

2007 Christmas Campaign

*************** The MANY Reasons to Give ***********

- 6 Therapeutic Group Homes throughout our state that offer a stable environment and family-like atmosphere for troubled kids
- 60 Children in our Acute and Sub-Acute beds at Methodist Behavioral Hospital
- 200 Presents needed for children who will not be with their families for Christmas
- 750 Mothers and children who have "graduated" from the Arkansas CARES program and are working in our communities today
- 108 Years of service to children through United Methodist Children's Home
- 24 Hour care at our Psychiatric Residential Treatment Center that provides care for adolescents 12 17 years of age
- 70 Snacks served daily at our Early Childhood Development Program for young children with behavioral problems
- 10 Beds (4 bunk and 2 twin) at our Emergency Shelter, which is a safe haven for children with nowhere to turn
- 29 Children loved and nurtured through our Therapeutic Foster Care Program this year
 - 1 Child you can help today!



Christmas is a time for families to gather together in loving celebration. Sadly, many children suffer from abuse, neglect and abandonment, and for them, Christmas has no joy. Years ago, families would come to us and take a child home with them for Christmas. Today, that loving gesture isn't possible, but that spirit remains alive through your generous giving. This Christmas, please consider joining in our tradition of helping children by connecting to a child.

Please send your Christmas donations to:
Methodist Family Health Foundation
P.O. Box 56050
Little Rock, AR 72215

EMBRACE OUR Inadition OF Christmas

CONNECT TO A CHILD



The management company of:
United Methodist Children's Home • Methodist Behavioral Hospital
Methodist Family Health Foundation

(501) 661-0720 • methodistfamily.org

Tis the Season for GIVING

There are so many ways to help children and their families through the ministries of Methodist Family Health.

The Gift That Gives Twice

Buy a gift for someone you love at an alternative gift market benefiting Methodist Family Health at your church.

Teach Your Child or Grandchild to Give

Purchase a football, soccer ball or jump rope with your child or grandchild and talk to them about children who might not be with their families this Christmas. Donate the item to Methodist Family Health at 1600 Aldersgate Road, Little Rock, AR 72205.

Monorarium/Memorial Giving

Honor or memorialize someone who has meant a great deal to you. In the attached envelope, you can send a tribute to someone you care for or to the family of someone you hold dear.

Church Giving

Participate in one of the offerings at your local United Methodist Church on December 9th or 16th that will benefit the United Methodist Children's Home.

Make a Family Gift

First, you and your family request a list of items that Methodist Family Health needs. Then, you identify a need you would like to fulfill. For instance, new family room furniture (\$3,000) for the Therapeutic Group Home in Batesville; replace the existing fence (\$2,000) for the Therapeutic Group Home in Fayetteville; a new refrigerator (\$1,200) for the home in Magnolia; a storage shed (\$3,000) for the home in Searcy; new carpet (\$5,000) for the Springdale home.

Consider a Bequest to Methodist

Talk to your attorney about including Methodist Family Health in your will. You can even specify which program you would like to receive your gift. If you were moved by the preceding article about the work done with children at Methodist Behavioral Hospital, you could designate a bequest to that program.

Consider a Gift That Gives Back

There are many charitable vehicles that would allow you to place appreciated assets inside and receive a set or flexible amount of money back through the course of your lifetime with the residual or partial residual coming to Methodist Family Health. Speak to your financial adviser about the benefits of a unitrust, annuity trust or annuity.

An Unexpected Opportunity to Make a Gift Through Your IRA

The Pension Protection Plan of 2006 enables taxpayers age 70 1/2 or older to make charitable transfers up to \$100,000 from their Individual Retirement Accounts. This is currently scheduled to be available only through tax year 2007. So if you would like to make a gift to Arkansas CARES through Methodist Family Health to help mothers and their children, or any other program, please contact your financial adviser.

The Christmas Season is all about giving. Please consider enlarging your giving this year to include one of our life-changing program areas at Methodist Family Health. We sincerely appreciate any help you can give and would look forward to speaking with you about any of these giving opportunities. For information, do not hesitate to call Ashley Coldiron (extension 7300) or Maggie Beeler (extension 7299) at (501) 661-0720 or by e-mail at acoldiron@methodistfamily.org or mbeeler@methodistfamily.org.

THE JAMES M. WORKMAN SOCIETY

Reverend James M. Workman, while pastor of Asbury Church in Little Rock, served as the first Agent of the Methodist Orphanage, beginning in 1899. In that role, he was responsible for soliciting, managing and distributing funds for the creation and opening of the Orphanage.

Membership in the James M. Workman Society recognizes an annual gift of \$1,000 or more to the Methodist Family Health System.



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Anonymous (6)

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THE GEORGE THORNBURGH SOCIETY

Colonel George Thornburgh, Methodist layman and successful businessman, is generally regarded as the founder of the Arkansas Methodist Orphanage. Beginning in 1909, while serving as the third superintendent of the orphanage, he led one of the earliest fund drives in Arkansas, an ambitious and successful \$25,000 campaign to erect a new facility to serve as a modern new home of the orphanage.



Membership in the George Thornburgh Society recognizes gifts of \$25,000 or more to the Methodist Family Health System.

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THE COY-ROOTS-TABOR HERITAGE SOCIETY

Mrs. L.W. Coy, Mrs. L.H. Roots and Mrs. E.A. Tabor were three of the earliest benefactresses of the Methodist Orphanage, jointly donating a building and property at 15th and Commerce Streets in Little Rock, which became the first home of the orphanage, opening in 1902.

Membership in the Coy-Roots-Tabor Heritage Society recognizes a commitment to a future gift through trust, bequest or other means to the Methodist Family Health System.



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Honorariums & Memorials

We are grateful to each donor who has contributed in honor or in memory of someone special to help the children and families served by the United Methodist Children's Home, the Methodist Behavioral Hospital, and all other facets of the Methodist Family Health continuum of care.

While every effort is made to ensure the accuracy and completeness of this list, we realize that errors may still occur. In the event that we have erred in some way in the recognition of your gift, please accept our sincere apologies and notify us of the mistake by contacting Pam Stephens at (501) 661-0720 (extension 7301) or at pstephens@methodistfamily.org.

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Brown, Bill and Ruth

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Cason, Mildred and Cecil

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Ms. Joy Daymon

Duckworth, Alan Louis

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Mr. and Mrs. Malcolm Duke

Dunaway, Lucy Grace

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Dunn, Lucille

Mr. and Dr. Scott Maxfield

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Flournoy, Joseph Emon

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French, Patty

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Graves, Claude P

Francis Asbury Class - El Dorado First United Methodist Church

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Harris, J. B.

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Hickman, John "Buster"

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Higgins, J.T.

Mr. and Mrs. Jerry England

Hildebrand, Bobby R.

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Hinshaw, Gary Alan

Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Davis

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Johns, Andy

Mr. and Mrs. Jimmy Owens

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Kealer, Sydney

Ms. Mary E. Gleason

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Mrs. Helen K. Midkiff

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Martin, Gladys Ileen

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Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Greene

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Myers, Geraldine

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Mr. and Mrs. John Grigsby

Thieme, Eula V.

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Thompson, Brenda

Ms. Ernestine Davison Tiner, Iim

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Ms. Madelyn Hubbard Trimble, Bill Cooper

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Carmon

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Trower, Mary

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Woods, Tom

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Zaccanti, Helen

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Tribute to

Reverend Robert A. Regnier

n 1991, Bishop Richard B. Wilke named Reverend Robert A. Regnier administrator of the United Methodist Children's Home. The Children's Home was only serving five children at that time. In this new appointment, Reverend Regnier faced a choice: accept the demise, or take necessary action to change the course of the organization. It would have been easy to take the path of least resistance and let the decline continue. However, Reverend Regnier had great vision to see the Children's Home continue the mission established by the 1897 Arkansas Methodist Conference, and by the time of his retirement in 2004, its programs were serving about 200 youth.



Reverend Regnier's devotion to children was the catalyst for his vision for Methodist Children's Home. His friends and co-workers noted the special love he had for the youth in the care of the Children's Home. Reverend David B. Wilson of Hot Springs noted that Reverend Regnier lived for the children.

"Whenever a pastor called about placing a child, he did everything in his power to place that child into the Children's Home," Reverend Wilson said. "He was also excited about adding the hospital to the continuum of care because he knew how much it would help children."

Reverend Regnier's vision reached further than just adding Methodist Behavioral Hospital in Maumelle in 2001 – it extended to the 2003 establishment of Methodist Family Health, an umbrella management company for the Children's Home, Behavioral Hospital, and Foundation.

Reverend Regnier was very proud of the staff, the children in his care and his family. It was important to him that the youth in the Home's care excel to the best of their abilities. He fully believed in the principals of the Teaching-Family Model that emphasizes the positive teaching of functional skills and behaviors. This model is based on proven research demonstrating that a 4:1 ratio of positives to negatives work best on a child. He understood the importance of using positive reinforcement to give youth a good foundation to use throughout their lives and implemented this model of care in the group homes and subsequently in the Residential Treatment Center.

With the help of his wife, Irene, Reverend Regnier built strong loyalty among the Children's Home employees, and later the employees of Methodist Family Health. Andy Altom, the CEO of Methodist Family Health, recalls that Reverend Regnier led by example.

"Oftentimes we would see him on campus in his white shirt and tie running a tractor or backhoe for the maintenance department," Altom recalls.
"Irene always was available to assist in decorating a group home or helping out with whatever was needed. They wore many hats and made the Children's Home a great place to work. He was a great mentor to me personally. He was a great listener to all the staff and advocated for the needs of the programs. He was the type of person who looked for ways to do — not reasons for not doing. He was always open to opportunities to grow the mission of the Children's Home."

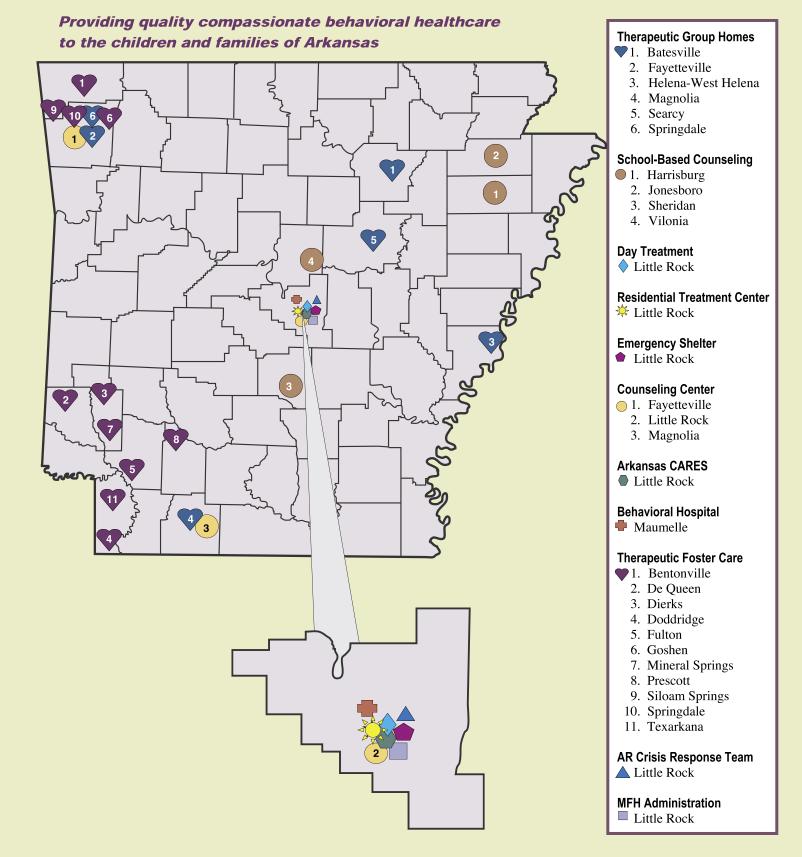
"Reverend Regnier was a great financial administrator as well as a great pastor," said Neill Sloan of Portland, Arkansas. "He was also a very positive and upbeat person who believed that by working hard, anything could be accomplished. He also had a great sense of humor."

Sloan reflects back on a humorous conversation he had with Reverend Regnier about the pine trees at the Children's Home. "There were many pine trees on the campus, and since their age had caused them to become a hazard, Reverend Regnier decided to get rid of all of the pines," Sloan says. "What he did not realize was how much the neighborhood would not like the fact that the trees came down. After numerous calls from area residents, Reverend Regnier planted new trees and put in a sprinkler system to keep them watered. He never dreamed taking a few trees down would stir up such controversy!"

Because of Reverend Regnier's vision, Methodist Family Health's continuum of care continues to grow and offers behavioral healthcare services in 22 Arkansas cities and towns through a wide array of care venues. These currently include Acute Psychiatric Hospital Care, Sub-Acute (Residential) Care, Residential Treatment Center Care, Therapeutic Group Home Care, Therapeutic Foster Home Care, Emergency Shelter Care, Therapeutic Day Treatment School, Early Childhood Development, Counseling Clinic Services, School-Based Counseling Services, and the Arkansas Center for Addictions Research, Education and Services (Arkansas CARES).

Reverend Regnier's legacy will forever live on in all of our hearts and in the lives of the children and families served by Methodist Family Health.

LOCATIONS OF CARE



In Loving Memory of Reverend Robert A. Regnier



The Reverend Robert A. Regnier affected the lives of those he worked with and the children and families served through his tenure at Methodist Family Health. We are honored that he served as President and CEO of Methodist Children's Home and subsequently Methodist Family Health from 1991 to 2004. He was a respected leader in his community and church. He was an adored husband, father and grandfather to his beloved family. And he was an encouraging mentor to his staff. Reverend Regnier's positive influence on the lives of others will continue to be manifested through Methodist Family Health's ministry of rebuilding the lives of children and families in need.

Reverend Robert A. Regnier 1933 – 2007













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