

# Sentinel

FALL 2009

THE NEWS MAGAZINE OF  *Methodist*  
FAMILY HEALTH FOUNDATION



## **Kaleidoscope Grief Center**

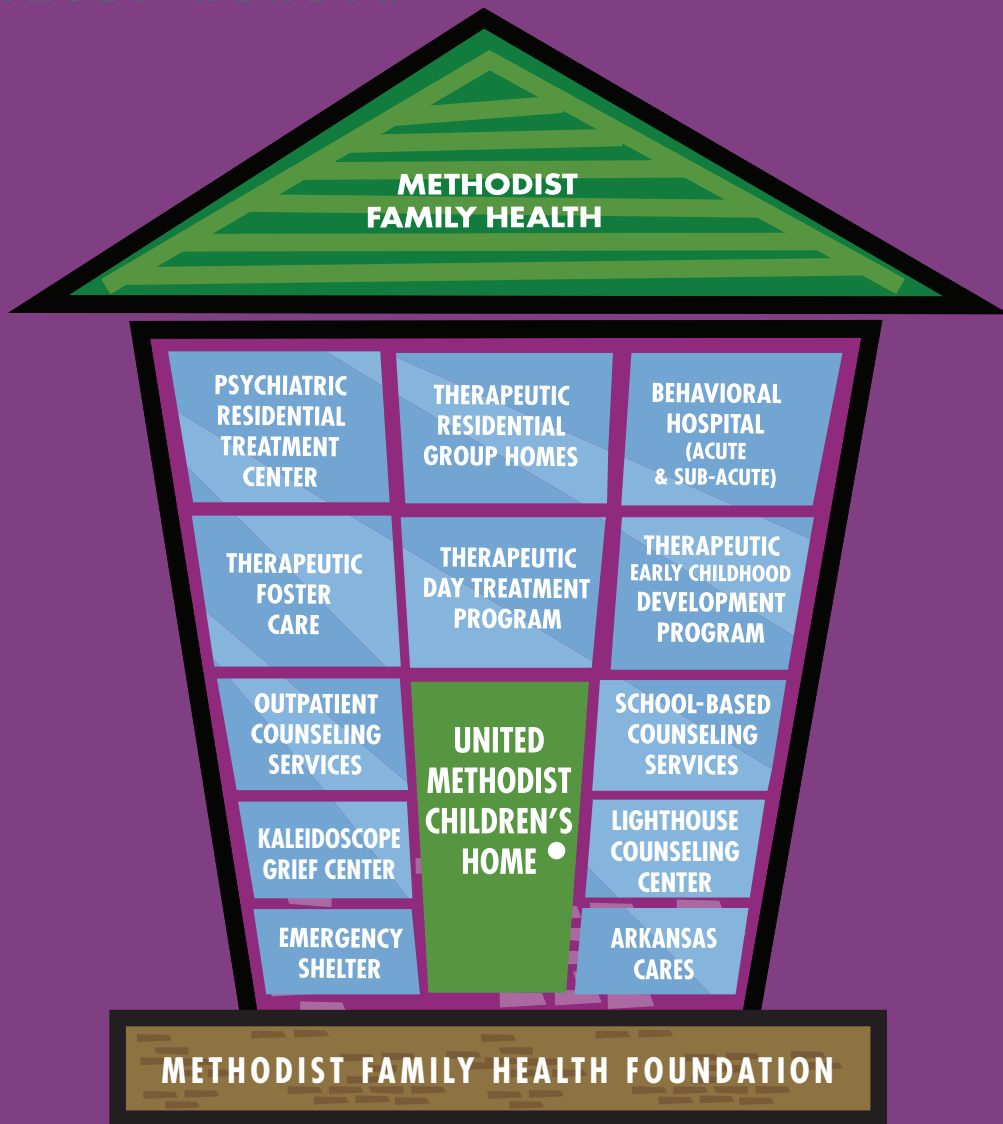
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Welcome to the fall edition of the *Sentinel!*

Thank you for your support of our Walk for Children and Families. The generous donations from our sponsors and individuals, as well as the participation of the Methodist youth groups and families, made our 3rd annual event the best ever! Over 700 participants walked the bridge, and the money raised will go toward an outdoor therapeutic play area for the Methodist Behavioral Hospital children and programs throughout the continuum.

This year's event was made possible by the generosity of our sponsors: Crews & Associates/First Security Bank, *AY Magazine*, Allegra Print & Imaging, Arkansas Children's Hospital, the Arkansas Conference of the United Methodist Church, Aurora Tactical, Bank of the Ozarks, Chesapeake Energy, Datamax Micro, Hudson Cisne & Co. LLP, Matthews Properties L.L.C., Premium Refreshment Service, Tasty Treats, Quattlebaum, Grooms, Tull & Burrow PLLC and Weaver-Bailey Contractors, Inc.

In this issue you will read about all of the wonderful things that have been going on at Methodist Family Health since the last issue. Our most extraordinary event was the Methodist Children's Home's 110 year anniversary celebration!

Also, during the coming months, the Mental Health Parity Law will be in the national and statewide media. The Paul Wellstone and Pete Domenici Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008 went into effect for most healthcare plans on October 3, 2009. This much-needed law ensures that mental health and addiction services receive equality as part of basic healthcare benefit packages and that the coverage is at parity to medical and surgical benefits. It is now up to the Department of Labor, Health and Human Services, along with the Treasury Department, to address and finalize parity through regulations that coincide with the intent of the Act. We are hopeful that any action taken nationally will have a positive impact on our state and the system of care needed for children and families.

Thank you for your continued support of Methodist Family Health.

Happy holidays to you and your family!

Sincerely,

Andy Altom  
President and CEO





# Kaleidoscope Grief Center

## Focusing on children's grief

**The impact of grief on children and youth is almost always profound.**

**by Jane Dennis**



**A**pril Leslie's life came crashing down around her on Nov. 2, 2007. That's the day her 33-year-old husband, Clark, a conductor for a railway company, died suddenly and unexpectedly of a heart-related ailment.

At age 32, April found herself a widow with a 3-year-old daughter to raise alone. Struggling with her own profound grief, the young mother faced the daunting task of helping her daughter, Hannah, understand and deal with the sadness and the sense of loss that was overwhelming them both.

"As a mom, you want to protect your child and make everything better and make things go away," April says. "Unfortunately, when she lost her father, I couldn't protect her from that."

While making arrangements to bury her husband, the funeral home referred April to a grief support group for adults. However, April discovered the support group comprised mostly older adults who didn't have to help a 3-year-old deal with losing her father. But she soon crossed paths with Janet Breen, a therapist with Kaleidoscope Grief Center.

"I immediately felt a relief knowing I could talk to Janet," April says, "and I quickly went to her and said, 'I have my own grief work to do, but help me help my daughter with all she's going through.' And she was able to help both of us."

The center serves seriously ill and grieving children, teens and their families. Established in 1995 as an independent, nonprofit organization, Kaleidoscope Grief Center merged as a program of the Methodist Family Health Counseling Clinic in January 2009.

"The addition of Kaleidoscope Grief Center to Methodist Family Health's continuum of care brings a new dimension to the services we are able to provide to Arkansas families," says MFH president and CEO Andy Altom. "We are pleased to be able to offer care and support to children and youth facing grief and loss."



Kaleidoscope Grief Center offers a range of services for children ages 5 to 18 (sometimes younger), including individual counseling, peer support bereavement groups, a Kids Club that hosts quarterly social events and a bereavement camp each summer called Camp Healing Hearts. Licensed therapists oversee all programs. The team is rounded out with a hospital administrator, program director and a cadre of volunteers.

The impact of grief on children and youth is almost always profound. "They want a sense of feeling safe and feeling they can trust their world, because their foundation is shaken when they lose a parent," Janet says. "Sometimes children worry that the other parent will die. Also, sometimes they feel they can't openly express their feelings because they'll make others sad again."

## **“People die. Relationships don’t.”**

**— Sarah Cowan, Kaleidoscope Peer Support Group Volunteer**

As a result, grieving children sometimes have trouble sleeping, eating or concentrating in school. Behavior issues often arise — acting out, being easily frustrated or being aggressive. Grades may slip. Depression and anxiety may be apparent.

Acknowledging and expressing feelings is a significant part of the grief process. While adults may be able to verbalize feelings and emotions of grief and loss, it can be difficult for children, especially those as young as Hannah.

At one session, Hannah and other Kaleidoscope friends close to her age made small pillows and included in the stuffing soft foam shapes containing wishes and words of love for the person they missed most. "She can always have this pillow with her to remind her of her dad, and it's comforting," April says. "They find different ways for children to come to terms with their loss. For children, it's easier to color to explain how they feel than it is for them to tell you. It's hard for me to figure out, so it's got to be hard for her."

Today Hannah, now 5, loves going to Kaleidoscope, where she gathers once a week for an hour with a group of three or four other children and two facilitators. "Instead of just talking, they play," says April, who is part of a parent grief support group as well. "They might play with the dollhouse or make something. Simply by playing and doing what little girls like to do, the facilitators can tell if she's angry today or if she's sad, without her even having to say things."

Sarah Cowan has been a Kaleidoscope peer support group volunteer for more than three years. Her job is to "offer comfort and support, an open mind and an open heart," Sarah says. "I frequently leave Peer Support Bereavement Group both inspired and humbled. The kids at Kaleidoscope have taught me to acknowledge my grief and share it with others," she says.

In addition to interacting with her young charges, Sarah says her favorite part about Peer Support Bereavement Group is "the last line of the meditation that Janet Breen reads during the opening ceremony at each meeting. As she encourages us to leave the stresses of our days behind and take time to remember our loved ones, she reads, 'People die. Relationships don't.' I think this is the strongest sentiment I'll take from my journey with Kaleidoscope."



Hannah is comfortable talking about her dad and remembering their time together. “We played in the pool together,” she says shyly, recalling a favorite memory of her dad. “Always playing, weren’t you?” says her mother. “We played on the trampoline, but now we can’t get on the trampoline with him,” Hannah says in a quiet voice.

Kaleidoscope Grief Center has been a haven of healing and hope for April and Hannah. “It’s definitely going to be a lifetime challenge,” April says. “The life we knew before Nov. 2, 2007, is gone. But thankfully, we’ll always have that memory. And talking about it actually makes it much easier.”

“We’ll both have to deal with this forever,” April says, looking down at her daughter, “but it’s going to affect her in different ways than it affects me. I can’t make it any easier. All I can do is help get her the tools to make it better.”

To learn more about the Kaleidoscope mission, visit these websites: [www.kaleidoscopekids.org](http://www.kaleidoscopekids.org) • [www.methodistfamilyhealth.org](http://www.methodistfamilyhealth.org)

# KALEIDOSCOPE GRIEF CENTER

## Bidders Raise \$46,000 at Healing Hearts Auction

The word is getting out! Kaleidoscope Grief Center, a program of Methodist Family Health, celebrated its 11th annual Healing Hearts Auction at the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church on Friday, September 18, with more than 250 guests in attendance. The event brought in \$46,000. Emcee Anne Jansen kept bidders happy as they perused the unique live and silent auction items. Jansen has supported the organization for many years and personalized the evening with her inspiring words. Auctioneer Craig O’Neill entertained guests as he called the bids on some great getaways to wonderful vacations.

The beautifully appointed ballroom was decorated with children’s silhouettes, beautiful flowers and twinkling lights. Table after table held silent and live auction items to delight everyone from travelers to art enthusiasts to those in need of a delicious meal and some pampering! Complimentary cocktails and heavy hors d’oeuvres, along with music and dancing, made the evening particularly enjoyable.

The event was made possible by the generous assistance from our sponsors, donors, volunteers, board of directors and staff. Kaleidoscope Grief Center is a nonprofit organization and program within the Methodist Family Health Continuum of Care. Kaleidoscope Grief Center offers innovative services to seriously ill and grieving children, teens and their families. Programs include ongoing Peer Support Bereavement Groups, Camp Healing Hearts Grief Camp, Kids Club and more.



Methodist Family Health CEO Andy Altom and his wife, Myra, with Foundation board member Lynn Staten.



Board member Jane Hardin (left) visits with fellow board member Jan Snider and her husband, Ted.

# Donor Spotlight

## Karon and Bill Mann

by Jane Dennis

Little Rock, Arkansas

**I**t's good to have friends like Karon and Bill Mann! The Manns are busy and involved in family, church, community and professional organizations, yet they still find time to be loyal friends and supporters of Methodist Family Health.

"We appreciate the Methodist Family Health approach to service, with the Christian love and care for the whole family," Karon says. "That holistic care for families is what makes MFH special."

Karon and Bill are actively involved as members of Pulaski Heights United Methodist Church in Little Rock.

Bill, chief deputy city attorney for the City of Little Rock, is a member of the MFH Board of Directors. A member of the Arkansas Bar Association, he is a leader of the association's Mock Trial program, which gives high school students a taste of the legal profession. He coaches teams in the Miracle League youth baseball organization for children with special needs. He is a longtime volunteer with Arkansas CARES, an MFH program that serves mothers with addictions and their children. Next year, he begins a two-year term as president of the Psychiatry Advisory Board for the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences.

"What I tell everybody is I get a lot more out of it than what I put in it," Bill says of his community service. "You feel like you're doing something God wants you to do."

Karon is vice president of finance and administration for Mangan Holcomb Partners, a Little Rock marketing, advertising and public relations firm. She is a member of the Board of Directors of the Women's Division of the United Methodist General Board of Global Ministries and former president of United Methodist Women in Arkansas. Among her varied church work, she served as a delegate to the 2008 United Methodist General Conference.

As a friend to MFH, Karon says she "looks at it as my opportunity to fulfill what God has called me to do and how God has called me to be in missions and to use the gifts and graces I have in whatever best way I can."

A family issue drew the Manns close to MFH. They sought the help and services of MFH as their teenage son, who's now 25, dealt with some difficult emotional health issues. "We appreciate the services that Methodist Family Health offers," says Karon, "probably because of our personal experience with how difficult it is to find treatment and services for your child when they have needs."

At MFH, Bill says he has met "a lot of great people who have a positive attitude toward mental health and emotional health issues. And they're just good people to be around."

The Manns applaud the services offered throughout the MFH system, from the day school and group homes to the acute psychiatric hospital and other programs serving families. "Methodist Family Health is a safety net for people who otherwise wouldn't have any place to go," Bill says.

The Manns have also been pleased to contribute financially to the construction of a special addition at the Fillmore campus: a storm shelter for the Emergency Shelter. When they learned of the need for a shelter, Bill said, "that really struck a chord with me and touched my heart." He has vivid memories of taking shelter in a neighborhood storm cellar while visiting his grandparents in Searcy. "In this part of the country, a storm shelter is a real need, and I wanted to do this for the children."

For this gift, he opted for a worry-free monthly bank draft. The MFH Foundation "made it so easy," he says. "The monthly draft allows me to make my contribution without having to think about it." He highly recommends the monthly draft as a convenient method for designated charitable giving.



Karon and Bill Mann



# Board Spotlight

## Ernie Butler

Little Rock, Arkansas

by Jane Dennis

**A**s a child, Ernie Butler Jr. spent many Saturday afternoons playing with orphaned children living at the Methodist Children's Home in Little Rock. His parents would drive to the Fillmore campus and offer to entertain one, two or even three children for the day. "We'd have lunch, go to a movie, go out to the ballpark or something like that, and then take them back," Butler recalls.

That childhood experience – a lesson in caring for others – has come full circle. Butler, now 81, is a faithful member of both the Methodist Family Health Foundation Board and MFH Board, and he brings not only a long history with the organization, but a lifetime of business and finance acumen and experience.



A young Ernie Butler poses with his dog outside the Methodist Children's Home.

A member of Little Rock's Pulaski Heights United Methodist Church since 1937, Butler spent the bulk of his 41-year professional career with Arkansas investment powerhouse Stephens Inc., which he joined in 1957. He retired as senior executive vice

president in 1998. Today, he operates I.E. Butler Securities Inc. as a partner with his son, Ernie III.

A certified public accountant by trade and a member of numerous advisory boards and agencies over the years, he joined the MFH boards in 1997 at the request of Bob Regnier, former president and CEO of MFH.

"I was always impressed by the Children's Home and would tell people about it," Butler says, noting that he made small financial contributions to the home from the time he first

began earning a paycheck. "I don't know another nonprofit organization in the state that's 110 years old and has operated continuously."

While he is proud of the expansion of services and growth of MFH, Butler knows what's at the heart of the organization. "As a board member, I don't take any credit because it's the employees who are responsible for the success. You're there to try to help, oversee and do whatever you can to support the employees."

Butler does, however, work to ensure that the board's decision-making process is always guided by answering one simple question: Is this the right thing to do for the kids? And the most important thing, he says, "is that we don't give up. We will continue to do our best to provide the care for any child who needs us."

The concept of a continuum of care revolutionized the approach to services of MFH, Butler says, and he applauds its use. He is proud of the expansion of services and innovations in areas such as Magnolia, Helena and Jonesboro. He also celebrates the MFH chaplaincy program and dreams of additional emergency care facilities across the state and more youth taking advantage of college scholarship opportunities offered by MFH. He would like more people to tour MFH facilities and learn about programs and services.

"I have a place in my heart for the Children's Home," Butler says, smiling. "Methodist Family Health is a worthwhile organization, and I'm willing to work and spend my time doing whatever I can to help."



Ernie Butler – Methodist Family Health and Methodist Family Health Foundation Board Member

# What's Happening Around Methodist?

## February

Many Methodist Family Health children in the Central Arkansas area had an opportunity to watch as a group of Arkansas Razorback football alumni played against the Maumelle Fraternal Order of Police in a charity basketball game. The alumni football players hooping it up for a good cause were Clint Stoerner, Anthony Lucas, Fred Bledsoe, Antoine Robinson, Chris Baker and Karl Kidd.



Former Razorback Anthony Lucas signs Dalton Mercer's game program.

## March

St. James United Methodist Church Mission Circle assisted the women of Arkansas CARES in preparing cookies as favors for the 110th anniversary celebration of the Methodist Children's Home. The St. James UMC Mission Circle members generously donate their time on a monthly basis to help the children and families in all MFH programs.

## April

President and CEO of Methodist Family Health Andy Altom was appointed by Arkansas Governor Mike Beebe to the Child Welfare Agency Review Board. The board oversees the licensure of residential, emergency, psychiatric and sexual offender programs and placement agencies, and takes action against facilities found to be in violation of the Child Welfare Agency Licensing Standards Act of 1997.



Andy Altom, President and CEO

The Early Childhood Development program celebrated Arkansas Children's Week by having a family picnic hosted by the mothers of Arkansas CARES to honor and thank the teachers and staff who care for and help educate their young children.



Arkansas CARES children compete in a hula-hoop contest.

## May



Young campers at play.

Kaleidoscope's 4th annual bereavement camp, Camp Healing Hearts – a free camp offered to children and their families who have lost a loved one – was held at Camp Aldersgate. More than 19 families and 50 volunteers throughout Arkansas participated in a weekend of grief sessions, a memorial walk, a ropes course, fishing tournament and much, much more!

Day Treatment's Jessie Davis was chosen to carry the torch and compete in the 2009 Special Olympics Summer Games in Searcy, Ark. Jessie competed in the softball toss and the 100 meter relay.



Jessie Davis with his aunt, Lynn Farmer, and his mother, Mary Davis, at the 2009 Special Olympics.

## June

Children in the continuum came together to participate in the 9th annual Rev. Regnier Memorial Camp located at Camp Tanako in Hot Springs. The youth enjoyed five days together, along with their teaching-parents, therapists and administrative staff. Canoe races, water fights, worship and the annual carnival were just some of the activities enjoyed during a week packed with fun. We offer a special thank you to each of those who supported our summer camp this year. Your gift was truly appreciated!



Andy Altom assists a client with ball toss.

## July

Employees of the central Arkansas region of Enterprise-Rent-A-Car sponsored a Build-A-Bear event for children in the Early Childhood Development program. The employees and children had a wonderful time together.



Children in the Early Childhood Development program gather to hear the next direction in "Bear-May-I."

## August



Early Childhood Development children enjoy their newly created Tricycle Track from the proceeds of the Walk for Children and Families.



Lucie Hughes is no ordinary 7-year-old! Lucie chose to ask her friends to bring school supplies for the kids at Methodist Family Health in lieu of presents for her birthday party. We appreciate Lucie so much for thinking of our kids, and we would love for others to follow Lucie's wonderful example and consider doing the same thing.

## September

Andy and Myra Altom, Ashley Coldiron, and Ashley and Greg Carper represented Methodist Family Health at the BancorpSouth golf tournament reception on September 23.



Derick Warrick, Phillip Aviotti, Mark Holder and Larry Witherspoon participated in the BancorpSouth golf tournament on September 24. Proceeds from the tournament benefited Methodist Family Health and five other local charities.



Thanks to a generous donation by Jane and Bill Hardin, 11 kids from the Early Childhood Development Center attended a performance of "Mr. Poppin's Penguins" at the Arkansas Arts Center. The Hardins have provided tickets to all of the preschool children for the entire season's performances in memory of their friend Dr. William T. Murray. Our children look forward to attending "Merry Christmas Mouse" in December.



## 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.



Jon and Lewese Ahrens Mount Ida, Arkansas	Eric Rob & Isaac Little Rock, Arkansas	Jennifer Lang Little Rock, Arkansas	Kurt and Trish Searvogel Sheridan, Arkansas
Andy and Myra Altom Heber Springs, Arkansas	Dr. Rita Galloway Little Rock, Arkansas	Judith and Charles Long Jonesboro, Arkansas	Pauline Shields Rector, Arkansas
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Arkansas Wildlife Officers Association Taylor, Arkansas	Alan and Dana Garland Jonesboro, Arkansas	Mason Memorial Foundation Springdale, Arkansas	Nancy and Neill Sloan Lake Village, Arkansas
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† Deceased

## 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 one-time gifts of \$25,000 or more to the Methodist Family Health System.




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Myra M. Abrignani Estate	Mary Sue Hanna Estate	Morris H. Oakley Estate
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Kathleen Arnold Estate	John A. Henson Trust	Cora J. Owen Estate
John Randolph Barnett Estate	Julia Mae Jackson Estate	Ruth Pyles Estate
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\* Denotes New Gift

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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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Andy and Myra Altom	Kenneth and Willa Howard Endowment	Earl and Nancy McClure
Anonymous (2)	Walter B. Huff Estate	Velma E. Shaffer Estate
O'Neal Davidson Estate	Geneva I. Hughes Estate	Juanita Spurlin
Nina Hammond De Grandis Estate	M. Beatrice Johnson Estate	Warren Family Trust
Marjem and John Gill	Billy Gene and Jonelle Ryan Jones	
Griffin Family Trust	Geneva T. Kuhn – Rose Charitable Remainder Trust	



# Children's Home Alumni Share Fond Memories

By Heather Hahn

When Harold Jones first came to live in the Methodist Children's Home, the 7-year-old felt as small and anxious as a latter-day Oliver Twist. That is, until he walked into the home's dining room. "I looked around and thought, 'I've never seen this much food,'" he recalled. "I didn't believe there was that much food in the whole world, and I thought I'd died and gone to heaven."

More than 60 years later, Jones, now 71, credits the Little Rock ministry with not only keeping him well fed but also providing him with a firm foundation for a successful career and a lifelong faith.

Jones, a member of Lakewood United Methodist Church in North Little Rock, was among more than 30 home "alumni" who exchanged fond memories at the Children's Home's 110th anniversary celebration.

A reception on March 15 in the home's recreational therapy center drew supporters from around Arkansas and even out of state. They came to honor the ministry's past accomplishments and witness how Methodist Family Health is still transforming lives.

Captola Smith-Swain was the oldest former resident at the event. She first arrived at the home as an 8-year-old with her two brothers in 1929. "It made me be as good and as old as I am," the 87-year-old said with a laugh. "It was a healthy place to be. We ate well. We prayed and went to church."

What began as an orphanage in 1899 has expanded to include a range of behavioral services for children and families across the state. These services include therapeutic foster care, an emergency shelter, outpatient counseling, an acute psychiatric care hospital and a residential treatment center where women struggling with drug addiction can stay with their children.

Altogether, the ministry served nearly 2,500 children and their families last year. The ministry recently opened its newest facility – a school for troubled youth in Magnolia. The school serves kids who aren't able to function in a regular classroom. Students will attend for a semester or two, working on behavioral issues while still getting an education.

Poverty – not discipline problems – is what brought Jones and his older brother, Billy Gene Jones, to the Methodist Children's Home on Jan. 7, 1946. The two had lived with their maternal grandparents on a struggling farm just outside Stuttgart. Harold Jones said the elderly couple didn't have the means or the energy to rear two growing, active boys. The family wasn't starving, he said, "but getting food on the table was sometimes touch and go."

Back then the Methodist Children's Home was inside an imposing red, three-story structure at 1610 Elm St., in Little Rock. Boys slept on

one side and girls on the other. A giant green hedge surrounded the building and towered over the Jones boys.

Harold Jones still vividly remembers how intimidated he was when he first saw the home. But the thoughtfulness of the staff soon put him at ease. "I was never treated any other way than with kindness and respect," he said. His brother echoes that sentiment. "It made my life," said Billy Gene Jones, now 74. "Being put in the Methodist Children's Home, I was given the opportunity to survive. It gave me an outlook on life."

The brothers also participated in the home's move to a group of cottages at 2002 S. Fillmore St., where Methodist Family Health still operates. The elder Jones helped build four of the buildings on the campus. Both men also credit the home with providing them with spiritual grounding. "Everything was centered around church life," Harold Jones said. "Usually the house mothers did devotionals each night."

While at the home, the Jones brothers, like the other young residents, attended local public schools. They both went on to college. Billy Gene Jones, a star athlete, won a track scholarship to Louisiana State University. Harold Jones received a scholarship from the home to attend Arkansas Tech University in Russellville. He also worked at a variety of part-time jobs to pay the rest. After a stint as a cryptographer in the U.S. Air Force, Harold Jones went on to a career in banking. He and his wife, Kitty, now live in North Little Rock.

His elder brother served for 22 years as a U.S. Army aviator before retiring as a lieutenant colonel. He and his wife, Jonelle, now live in Palm Coast, Fla. Says Harold Jones: "Other than meeting my wife, Methodist Family Health is the best thing that ever happened to me."

To learn more about the services provided by Methodist Family Health, visit our website at [www.methodistfamily.org](http://www.methodistfamily.org).

**Watch for these Methodist Family Health stories in the December issues of the Arkansas United Methodist:**

**December 4, 2009** – Heather Hahn interviews Chaplain Scott Moore, director of pastoral care at Methodist Behavioral Hospital in Maumelle, about his ministry with the youth and their families.

**December 18, 2009** – Read the stories of healing and hope that are at the heart of Kaleidoscope Grief Center and its support of seriously ill and grieving children, teens and their families.

**To receive a free digital subscription to the Arkansas United Methodist, go to [www.arumc.org/subscribe](http://www.arumc.org/subscribe) or call (501) 324-8005. Print subscriptions are \$15/yr. Arkansas United Methodist is the main publication of the Arkansas Conference of The United Methodist Church.**

## CHRISTMAS CAMPAIGNS

# Gifts That Give Twice

*There are so many ways to help children and families through Methodist Family Health.*

### Teach your Child or Grandchild to Give

Talk to your child or grandchild about children who might not be with their families this Christmas, and take them to purchase a football, soccer ball or jump rope. Donate the play items to Methodist Family Health.

### Honorarium/Memorial Giving

Honor or memorialize someone who has meant a great deal to you.

### Church Giving

Participate in one of the Sunday offerings at your local United Methodist Church on Dec. 13 or Dec. 20. These special offerings will benefit the children and families of Methodist Family Health.

### Consider a Bequest to Methodist Family Health

Talk to your attorney about including Methodist Family Health in your will. You can specify the program you would like to benefit. If you've been moved by the work done with children at the Methodist Behavioral Hospital, Methodist Children's Home, Kaleidoscope Grief Center or Arkansas CARES, you can designate it to a specific program.

### Consider a Gift That Gives Back

There are many charitable vehicles that allow you to place appreciated assets 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 advisor about the use of a unitrust, annuity trust or an annuity.

To donate online, visit [www.methodistfamily.org](http://www.methodistfamily.org).

The holidays are all about GIVING! Consider enlarging your giving this year to include one of our wonderful program areas at Methodist Family Health. We sincerely appreciate any help you can give and look forward to speaking with you about any of these opportunities. For information, please do not hesitate to call Ashley Coldiron (ext. 7300) or Maggie Beeler (ext. 7299) by phone at (501) 661-0720 or by email at [acoldiron@methodistfamily.org](mailto:acoldiron@methodistfamily.org) or [mbeeler@methodistfamily.org](mailto:mbeeler@methodistfamily.org).

## Dear Santa (or Santa's helpers),

The kids and moms served by Methodist Family Health need donations for...

Jump ropes, bikes and tricycles	\$ 5 - \$50
Couches, chairs, dining tables and high chairs	\$ 100 - \$1,500
Ability to offer Channel 1 and PBS programming in our schools	\$ 500 per classroom
Basketball court at Heber Springs Group Home	\$ 3,000
New kitchen cabinets and countertops for the Searcy Group Home	\$12,000
An alarm system for the Springdale Group Home	\$ 5,000
New interior paint for the Fayetteville Group Home	\$ 8,000
Bathrooms remodeled at Methodist Behavioral Hospital in order to make suicide proof	\$ 3,750 each
A shade awning for the toddler/baby playground on the Children's Home campus	\$ 6,500
Outfitting a gathering room at the hospital	\$ 8,000
A new roof for the cottages where our CARES mothers and children live	\$12,000

If you and your family would like to be Santa's helper this year, contact Ashley Coldiron at (501) 661-0720 (ext. 7300).

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## 3RD ANNUAL WALK FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

On August 7, the 3rd annual Walk for Children and Families took place at the Big Dam Bridge in Little Rock and North Little Rock. Eight hundred individuals, families and youth groups came from across the state to walk for the children, women and families Methodist Family Health serves. More than 20 youth groups participated, coming from as far as Mountain Home, Rogers and El Dorado.

The funds raised from the walk this year will benefit all 60 children at the Methodist Behavioral Hospital in Maumelle. The Walk Corporate Committee members chose to build an outdoor therapeutic play area for the hospital and kids as they needed a safe, fun outdoor place to receive therapeutic treatment, build self-confidence, play and learn other important life skills.

Before walking the Big Dam Bridge, participants ate free ice cream provided by Frosty Treats, apples from Metro Foods and drank water provided by Premium Refreshment. The Christine Demeo Band from Hot Springs performed until dark as requested by the many listeners, and more than 1,200 slices of Domino's and Gadwall's pizza were devoured by hungry walkers in less than 30 minutes!

Bob Wright, chairman of the Walk for Children and Families, helped set up tents, handed out pizza and visited with many sponsors at

the event. When asked why he decided to chair this event he said, "I took one look at the faces of the kids at the Methodist Children's Home, and I could see what they were going through. I could see they have lots of needs. If I could help provide for them by raising awareness and funds with the Walk Corporate Committee, how could I not volunteer and help children in need?"



2008's Outstanding Youth Group, Cabot United Methodist Church, poses for a photo at this year's walk.

The Walk Corporate Committee would like to thank the many donors, corporations and sponsors who raised \$56,000 before the event. Day-of donations brought the grand total to \$65,000 raised. Maggie Beeler, assistant director of development, shared that the greatest part of this successful event is 800-plus volunteers and participants compared to last year's 400. "Seeing people come from far distances across the state to help kids and families in need of emotional and behavioral care is so touching," Beeler said. "Those we serve truly benefit from the community and corporate support through this walk."