

Sentinel

SPRING 2009

THE NEWS MAGAZINE OF  *Methodist*
FAMILY HEALTH FOUNDATION

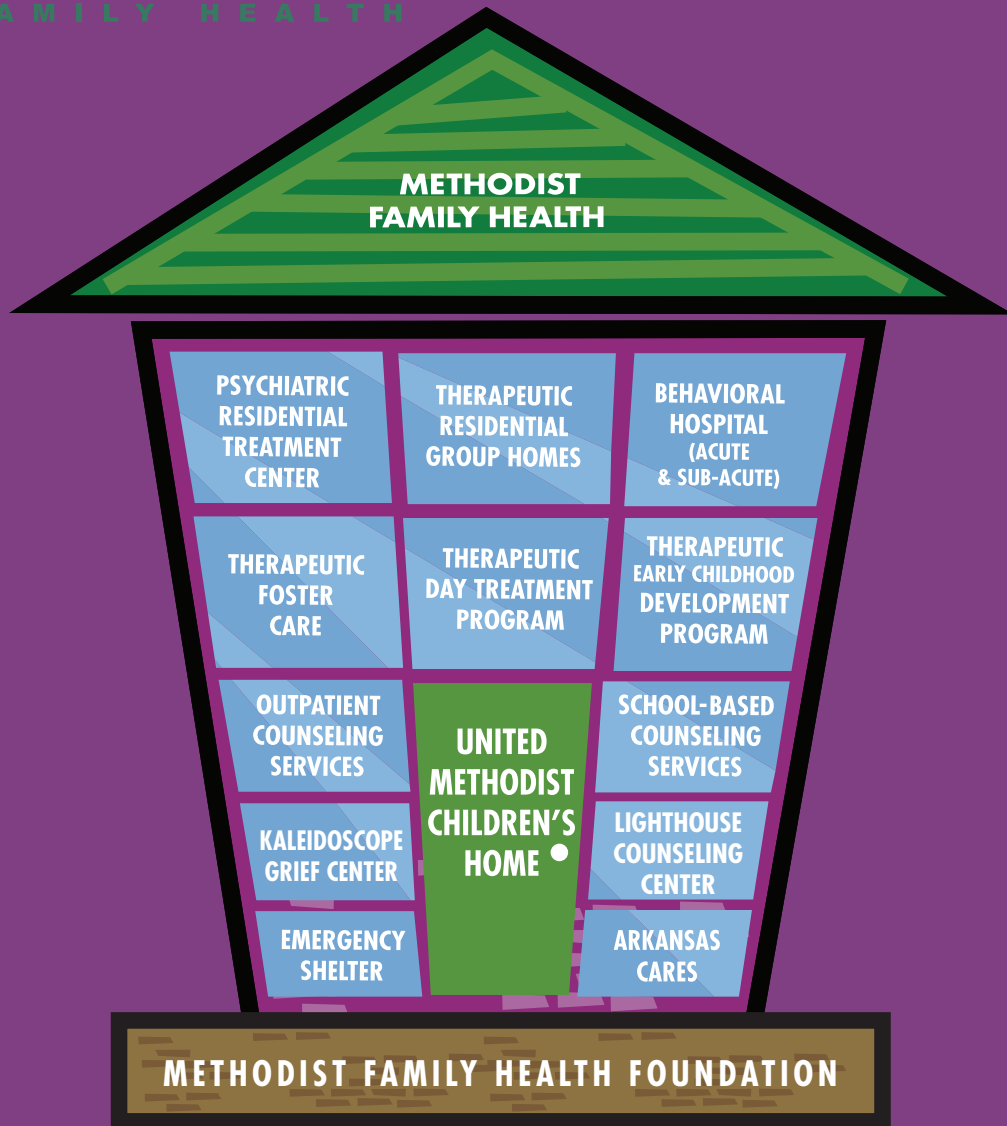


Educating the Kids of Arkansas CARES

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Walk Fund New Children's
Home Playground**



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Welcome to *The Sentinel!*

Thank you to all of our churches and individual donors who made the 2008 Christmas Campaign extraordinary. Your generosity honored the campaign's theme "Embrace Our Tradition of Christmas and Connect to a Child."

In this spring issue of *The Sentinel*, we are excited to feature the childcare and preschool program that serves the children of the Arkansas Center for Addictions Research, Education and Services. CARES focuses on breaking the cycle of maternal addiction. The program can care for 33 mothers and 50 children at a time for up to six months. On page 2, you'll learn more about the special educational setting for the youngest children in the CARES program.

For more than 15 years now, the CARES program has been providing comprehensive, coordinated family treatment services to decrease maternal addiction and lessen addiction's harmful effects on children, families and our community. Most women served by the program enter CARES either pregnant or with young children, single, poor, unemployed, and with health problems and legal difficulties ranging from child protection cases to drug-related arrests.

Although they have many obstacles to face, the children in the CARES program have daily successes and are learning how to break the addiction cycle one day at a time.

Also in this issue, you'll find that we've moved our listings of individual donors, honorariums and memorials. Beginning April 6, you can now find these listed quarterly on our website at www.methodistfamily.org.

As we started the New Year, Methodist Counseling Clinic integrated two existing programs – Kaleidoscope Grief Center in Little Rock and Lighthouse Counseling Center in Jonesboro. Please join me in welcoming both programs to the MFH family. We look forward to the continued success of these programs and reaching more children across the state.

Thank you for your role in rebuilding the lives of children and families in our care.

Sincerely,

Andy Altom
President and CEO



Zadie and Kaleb Farrell have fun playing in the dress-up area of the Child Development program on the CARES Fillmore campus.



Second Chances

The children of Arkansas CARES have a special place to learn, play, heal and change for the better

Melissa Farrell will tell you she believes in miracles.

As a participant in Methodist Family Health's Arkansas Center for Addictions Research, Education and Services (CARES), Melissa has been given a second chance. The mom of two young children, Zadie, 5, and Kaleb, 8, Melissa is one of 33 mothers in a six-month program to break the cycle of maternal addiction.

Established in 1992, Arkansas CARES serves addicted mothers, their children and their families. While mothers learn to battle their addictions, they also gain valuable parenting skills and are given the tools to create healthy family situations. Children in the program find stability, love and consistent discipline while receiving valuable services, such as mental and physical health services.

Part of the CARES campus (on Fillmore Street in Little Rock) is an on-site early learning childcare center for children 0-5. The center is where Zadie and her fellow classmates learn to control their emotions and begin to quickly appreciate the benefits of consistency, discipline and unconditional love.

"We offer a bunch of 'extras' here at our program, but our kids play and create just like at any other preschool," said Elizabeth Sadler, director of education for the MFH Child Development program. "A big misconception about us is that we're different. But we have circle time, story time and snack time just like everyone else."

The program accepts 16 infants and 40 toddlers and preschoolers and is open to children outside the CARES program. Many of the CARES children have been at the center since they were born. "We encourage our CARES moms to leave the kids in the program even after they are done with their stay. This place is often the only place that offers complete stability for these children."

In fact, Sadler said, some of the hardest moments for the teachers and staff at the center are when a mother takes her child out of the program. "We just become so close to these children and see how our services are truly impacting their lives."

Melissa Farrell can't agree enough. "This place is a Godsend." Melissa checked herself into the CARES program the week of Thanksgiving 2008 after her 23-year-old daughter read about it and suggested she call.

Melissa's ongoing battle with drugs and alcohol had completely taken over her life, and she was just moments from losing her two youngest children.

"What is special about this place is that my children can see me changing," she said. "I came here for drug treatment, but we're all three getting so much more. I'm learning how to parent, and they are learning about structure, schedules and discipline."

Before CARES, it wouldn't be out of the ordinary to find Zadie and Kaleb up late at night taking care of each other. Melissa's 23-year-old daughter was more of a mom to the children than Melissa was. Now, after school, the kids are picked up in the afternoon and spend quality "Mom and Me" time with Melissa before eating dinner, finishing homework, taking baths and going to bed at an appropriate time.

"Kaleb definitely fought all of the structures and rules when we first got here," Melissa said. "Now, both my babies are thriving, and we're functioning as a real family."

Sadler said the structure and discipline taught at the preschool level is especially important for children who have been living with little to no rules. The mental and behavioral health services provided to each child also helps them better control their emotions. The 3-5-year-old classroom is an Arkansas Better Chance (ABC) for School Success program, which helps ensure a high-quality early childhood focus.

Staff-to-children ratio is kept low in order to ensure that each child is provided a high level of care. All staff members have previous childcare experience and are fully trained in the Teaching Family Model. In fact, several of the staff members have been with the center since it opened 20 years ago.

"We have the most dedicated staff of any childcare or preschool," Sadler said. "It takes a special person to work with these children and see some of the things that we see. We all have a passion for these kids and really believe in the family-focused recovery approach."

Melissa says going through recovery with her children by her side has been amazing. "I am almost 90 days clean, and my children have been able to see me travel this path and reach this goal. We're all coming out of this together."

Donor Spotlight

Riggs Benevolent Fund

Little Rock, Arkansas

The Riggs Benevolent Fund of Little Rock, Arkansas, has been serving the needs of children and families for more than half a century. Fortunately for the children of Arkansas, the Riggs family has steadily grown its fund over the years.



Keith Riggs and the Riggs Family provided the dirt work for the new playground at the Children's Home in Little Rock.

It all began in 1962 when Keith Riggs' grandfather, Reverend J. Edwin Keith, became superintendent of the United Methodist Children's Home (UMCH) in Little Rock. During the 1960s and 1970s, the UMCH was filled with orphans that found brothers and sisters in each other, giving the children a much-needed sense of family and love. A fond memory for Keith included visiting his grandparents at the UMCH, playing with the children and even celebrating his birthday one year with them.

Many years have passed, and the faces of the children and families in the care of Methodist Family Health have changed, but the loving and financial support from the Riggs Benevolent Fund has remained the same. The Cress and Riggs families of the Riggs Benevolent Fund understand the needs of the children, mothers and families in our care.

Family members are involved with the Methodist Family Health Board of Directors, the Walk for Children and Families Committee and many other volunteer positions.

One member of the Riggs Benevolent Fund, Sally Riggs, shared why Methodist Family Health is her family's passion. "It all began with a phone call from Andy Altom, CEO of Methodist Family Health. Andy shared with me the importance of every child, every mother and what MFH does to better their lives. He told me about the skills they are taught to go on to college, be a better parent, find a job or whatever might be the next step or next need in their life.

"Methodist Family Health is successful in changing lives for the better and getting those who are struggling back on their feet. From the moment I met Andy and he showed me the many programs of MFH, I was hooked. My family and I feel helping others has made our lives more fulfilled."

The Riggs and Cress families believe in giving back to the community, changing lives and making a difference by giving of their time, talents and gifts. We are thankful for their support of our many programs here at Methodist Family Health.



Riggs Benevolent Fund provides much needed computers to the Day Treatment School in Little Rock.

Board Spotlight

Jan Snider

Little Rock, Arkansas



Jan Snider

How long have you served on the board?

I am newly elected – October 2008.

Why do you choose to serve on the board?

I have a deep-seated compassion for children – especially those who are vulnerable.

What do you bring to the board?

Extensive business experience and numerous years of working in the governance of nonprofits.

Which MFH service gives you the most pride?

They all fulfill so many needs to children of all ages. The fact that in almost 110 years, MFH has grown from an orphanage in downtown Little Rock to now providing a full continuum of care for children all across the state speaks loudly about the heart that this organization has for its mission.

What is your most memorable moment with MFH?

Remembering that approximately 80 years ago, my mother and her sisters were orphaned and placed at Methodist Children's Orphanage on Elm Street in Little Rock. It was a positive experience for them during a time of uncertainty.

What is your hope for the children of MFH?

I hope that across the state of Arkansas there's an ever-increasing awareness of the multitude of services that MFH provides to children. These services will greatly impact not only the lives of the children, but the community as well.

HIGHEST CONGREGATIONAL GIVING 2/01/2008 – 1/31/2009



"It is exciting to be a part of a ministry to children and youth that is local and in Arkansas. We give direct help to the Magale Boys Home, and it has been exciting to see how we've helped these young men. We have a desire as a church to share God's love through the children in your care. I want to encourage all churches to step up and help this vital ministry!"

– Rev. Jim Polk, El Dorado First United Methodist Church

El Dorado First	\$ 70,135.00
Pulaski Heights	20,877.00
Dumas First	19,510.00
Camden First	12,660.00
Searcy First	12,045.00
Trinity (Little Rock)	9,019.50
Lakewood	8,852.00
Jonesboro First	8,430.00

Hot Springs First	7,820.00
St. James (Little Rock)	7,465.00
Fort Smith First	6,455.27
Lakeside (Lake Village)	5,400.00
Conway First	5,050.00
Star City	5,035.00
Little Rock First	4,973.85
Christ of the Hills	4,475.00

Hebron	4,355.00
Greenwood	3,528.00
Heber Springs	3,452.36
Asbury (Little Rock)	3,446.00
Fayetteville Central	3,375.00
Paragould First	3,355.00
Benton First	3,065.00

What's Happening Around Methodist?

Play Time

Funds raised from annual walk build new playground for Methodist Children's Home



Methodist Family Health and the Walk for Children and Families Corporate Committee recently showcased to sponsors and friends the new playground built with the proceeds of 2008's walk.

Corporate Committee Chairwoman Becky Kossover says she's extremely proud of the playground addition and her family's role in MFH, going back three generations. "My grandparents were contributors, and my brother and I have honored our retired parents, who are loyal contributors, by establishing the Reverend Robert and Helen Johnson Endowment in their names to continuously support this wonderful organization," Kossover said.

Corporate Committee members and event sponsors made the event a success. Committee members included Chairwoman Becky Kossover, Erin Griffin, Susan Johnson, Vicki Matthews, Neal Moore, Sally Riggs, Anna Kay Williams and Bob Wright.

"All of these people gave very generously of their time and talents to make this playground possible for the children and families in our care," said Maggie Beeler, director of community development for the Methodist Family Health Foundation.

In-kind donors are the unsung heroes of the new playground. Don Weaver with Weaver Bailey Contractors Inc. gifted the asphalt, and Mr. Keith Riggs and the Riggs Family gifted all of the dirt work.

"The entire team of Corporate Committee members, sponsors and in-kind donors are the reason the playground went from our 'wish list' to fruition," said Andy Altom, MFH president and chief executive officer. "The children in our care will benefit every day by having a safe place to play, a slide to slide down and a space to exert their restless energy. Thank you from the bottom of my heart."

Walk for Children and Families Sponsors:

\$5,000

Mason Memorial Foundation

\$2,500

Arkansas Children's Hospital; AY Magazine; Chesapeake Energy; Cornerstone Insurance Group; Fulton Press; Jack Nelson Jones Fink Jiles & Gregory, PA; Matthews Properties, LLC

\$1,000

Arkansas Methodist Church Conference; AT&T; Bank of the Ozarks; Mr. and Mrs. John Bragg; Clear Mountain Water; Dr. and Mrs. George Cone; Cotham's in the City; Crews & Associates; Datamax; Davis Law Firm; Mr. and Mrs. William Gibbs; Tom and April Hesselbein; Hudson, Cisne & Co., LLP; The Hughes Agency; Bill and Iva Krogman; Ms. Patsy Mooney; Mr. and Mrs. Don E. Morey; Munro Foundation; Pettus Office Products; Augustus H. Pugh; Sally and Keith Riggs; US Bank; Victory Dry Goods & Design; Weaver-Bailey Contractors, Inc.

\$500

Don Cole and Family; Frazier, Rickels & Bailey, PA; Lewis Architects Engineers; Quattlebaum, Grooms, Tull & Burrow PLLC; Mrs. Lila K. Riggs; Mr. and Mrs. D.K. Robinson, Jr.

\$250

Boyd Corley Construction; Farmer's Insurance: Mike Clevenger; Pulaski Bank; Smart Structures Distributing, LLC





Jessie Davis of Alexander and Day Treatment Program Director Shelton Walker (not pictured) brought home the Gold Medal after competing in the Special Olympics Golf Tournament this summer.



Vilonia United Methodist Church hosted a holiday party for the Vilonia school-based program.



Vallie Cole of Fayetteville generously donates her time and talents to make quilts for each Group Home, Foster Care and Counseling Clinic client in Northwest Arkansas.



Trinity United Methodist Church in Little Rock hosted a Christmas luncheon for the women and children of Arkansas CARES. Vilonia United Methodist Church hosted a holiday party for the Vilonia school-based program.



In fall 2008, Board Member Jane Hunt Hardin received the prestigious Philanthropist of the Year honor by the Association of Fundraising Professionals.



Methodist Family Health recently added two programs to the Methodist Counseling Clinic outreach. The Kaleidoscope Grief Center in Little Rock and the Lighthouse Counseling Center in Jonesboro offer a variety of counseling programs to the community. Kaleidoscope – located in the Prospect Building at 1501 N. University, Suite 680 – will offer grief counseling and peer bereavement support services. The Lighthouse Counseling Center now offers outpatient counseling, along with school-based services.



MFH children Ruben and Justin take time out for a picture with former NFL star Tiki Barber.

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	Judith and Charles Long Jonesboro, Arkansas	Nancy and Neill Sloan Lake Village, Arkansas
Andy and Myra Altom Heber Springs, Arkansas	Rita Galloway Little Rock, Arkansas	Mary Trimble Maier Fayetteville, Arkansas	Tom and Elizabeth Small Little Rock, Arkansas
Anonymous (6)	Craig and Alicia Gammon Vilonia, Arkansas	Mason Memorial Foundation Springdale, Arkansas	Bob and Lynn Staten Little Rock, Arkansas
Arkansas Wildlife Officers Association Taylor, Arkansas	Alan and Dana Garland Jonesboro, Arkansas	Vicki and Hal Matthews North Little Rock, Arkansas	William A. and Genevieve H. Strong Pine Bluff, Arkansas
Paul Arnold Nashville, Tennessee	Mary Lue and Bill Gibbs Camden, Arkansas	Chad and Angela McLain Brinkley, Arkansas	The W.P. Sturgis Foundation Arkadelphia, Arkansas
Rebecca and Ritter Arnold Marked Tree, Arkansas	Gill Elrod Ragon Owen & Sherman Law Firm Little Rock, Arkansas	Mike and Karen Millar Searcy, Arkansas	Patrick and Cindy Tenney Springdale, Arkansas
Steve W. Babcock Paragould, Arkansas	Sean and Mary Glancy Little Rock, Arkansas	Carl Miller, Jr. Little Rock, Arkansas	Roger and Jo Anne Utley Sherwood, Arkansas
Bill and Virginia Ball Searcy, Arkansas	Margaret Glover North Little Rock, Arkansas	Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Miller Hazen, Arkansas	Wal-Mart Store #5244 Little Rock, Arkansas
Mr. and Mrs. Marion Berry Gillett, Arkansas	Mr. and Mrs. Charles B. Hagaman Hot Springs, Arkansas	Mr. and Mrs. Don E. Morey Little Rock, Arkansas	Amelia and Donn Walters Little Rock, Arkansas
Harry Blanton, Jr. Benton, Arkansas	Carolyn M. Henslee Little Rock, Arkansas	Mr. and Mrs. Don S. Morton Des Arc, Arkansas	Don and Debbie Weaver Conway, Arkansas
Jeff and Anita Bogard Royal, Arkansas	Tom and April Hesselbein Little Rock, Arkansas	Alicia H. Mosley Camden, Arkansas	Bud and Julie Whetstone Charitable Foundation Little Rock, Arkansas
John and Barbara Bragg Camden, Arkansas	Donald Hicks Cabot, Arkansas	Theodosia Nolan El Dorado, Arkansas	Kyle K. Wood and Family Pine Bluff, Arkansas
Sid and Sue Brain Russellville, Arkansas	Bishop Ken and Elaine Hicks Little Rock, Arkansas	B. C. Pickens Trust Pickens, Arkansas	John S. and Elizabeth Teague Workman Conway, Arkansas
Robert and Mary Branch Mountain View, Arkansas	Charles and B. Louise Holmes Little Rock, Arkansas	Ella Mae and Edgar Poag † Osceola, Arkansas	Melissa and Keith Wrenn Brentwood, Tennessee
Sonny and Virginia Cade Eads, Tennessee	Asa and Susan Hutchinson Bentonville, Arkansas	Augustus H. Pugh Portland, Arkansas	Ron and Margaret Wylie Clarksville, Arkansas
Sam and Lucille Clark Hot Springs, Arkansas	Hank and Sandy Johns North Little Rock, Arkansas	Tom and Susie Pugh Little Rock, Arkansas	Martha and David Yocum El Dorado, Arkansas
Ashley and David Coldiron Little Rock, Arkansas	James and Harriet Johnson Wilmot, Arkansas	Ramsey, Krug, Farrell & Lensing Little Rock, Arkansas	† Deceased
Dr. and Mrs. George M. Cone Jonesboro, Arkansas	Mr. and Mrs. Robert Thomas Kemper Little Rock, Arkansas	Riggs Benevolent Fund Little Rock, Arkansas	
Janett and Larry Crain Searcy, Arkansas	Becky and Jerry Kossover Little Rock, Arkansas	Mr. and Mrs. Jack Riggs Little Rock, Arkansas	
Bob and Lee Cress Little Rock, Arkansas	Bill and Iva Krogman Star City, Arkansas	Sally and Keith Riggs Little Rock, Arkansas	
Margaret and Kenneth Davis Hardy, Arkansas	Terry and Jean Landrum Scott, Arkansas	Kurt and Trish Searvogel Sheridan, Arkansas	
Don and Ellen Edmondson Forrest City, Arkansas	Jennifer Lang Little Rock, Arkansas	Pauline Shields Rector, Arkansas	
Robert and Pam Edwards Searcy, Arkansas		Shuler Drilling Company, Inc. El Dorado, Arkansas	

In order to be good stewards of the money donated to Methodist Family Health, we will begin placing listings of honorariums, memorials and individual donations of \$25 or more on our website at www.methodistfamily.org. These lists will be updated quarterly beginning on April 6, 2009.

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.



Myra M. Abrignani Estate	Mary Sue Hanna Estate	Morris H. Oakley Estate
Anonymous (2)	Jane and Bill Hardin	Ellen Orr Estate
Kathleen Arnold Estate	John A. Henson Trust	Cora J. Owen Estate
John Randolph Barnett Estate	Julia Mae Jackson Estate	Ruth Pyles Estate
Marguerite Burgess Trust	Maud Jones Estate	Mrs. Betty Regnier
Myrtle C. Burney Trust	Dorothy B. Keith Estate	Marion and Miriam Rose Trust
Lillian Mae Calvert Living Revocable Trust	Garland R. Kimbro Estate	Vena Shirley Estate
Kenneth Clark Estate	Eva John Kuhn Trust	Shuler Drilling Company, Inc.
Claude Conyers Trust	Cora Littrell Estate	Ira Sides Estate
Ruth O. Dacus Estate	L. A. Logan Estate	Ruth B. Simmons Estate
Helen P. Davies Trust	Nell S. Martin Endowment	Elizabeth H. Snyder Trust
Willis C. Eatman Estate	Edna Earl Massey Estate	W. P. Sturgis Foundation
Conway and Margaret George Trust	C. F. & Vivian McCamly Estate	Alma Welton Trust
J. T. Goggans Estate	Reverend Curtis E. Monroe Estate	Mary Sims Wilson Trust
Maxine S. Gregg Estate	Alline M. Montgomery Estate	Juanita Annette Wood Estate
Hall Revocable Trust	Faye G. Nagle Estate	Madge Woodyard Estate
Iola Nora Hambleton Estate	Lou E. Narrell Estate	Hazel Marie Wright Estate

* Denotes New Gift

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.



Andy and Myra Altom	Griffin Family Trust	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	Billy Gene and Jonelle Ryan Jones*	Warren Family Trust
Marjem and John Gill	Geneva T. Kuhn – Rose Charitable Remainder Trust	

* Denotes New Gift

SAVE THE DATE!

Mother's Day Luncheon Late May



Walk for Children and Families

Aug. 7

Big Dam Bridge, North Little Rock

Kaleidoscope Grief Center Auction

Sept. 18

Greek Orthodox Church, Little Rock



METHODIST FAMILY HEALTH: THE COMPASSION BEHIND THE CARE

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