

Sentinel

THE NEWS MAGAZINE OF  *Methodist*
FAMILY HEALTH FOUNDATION

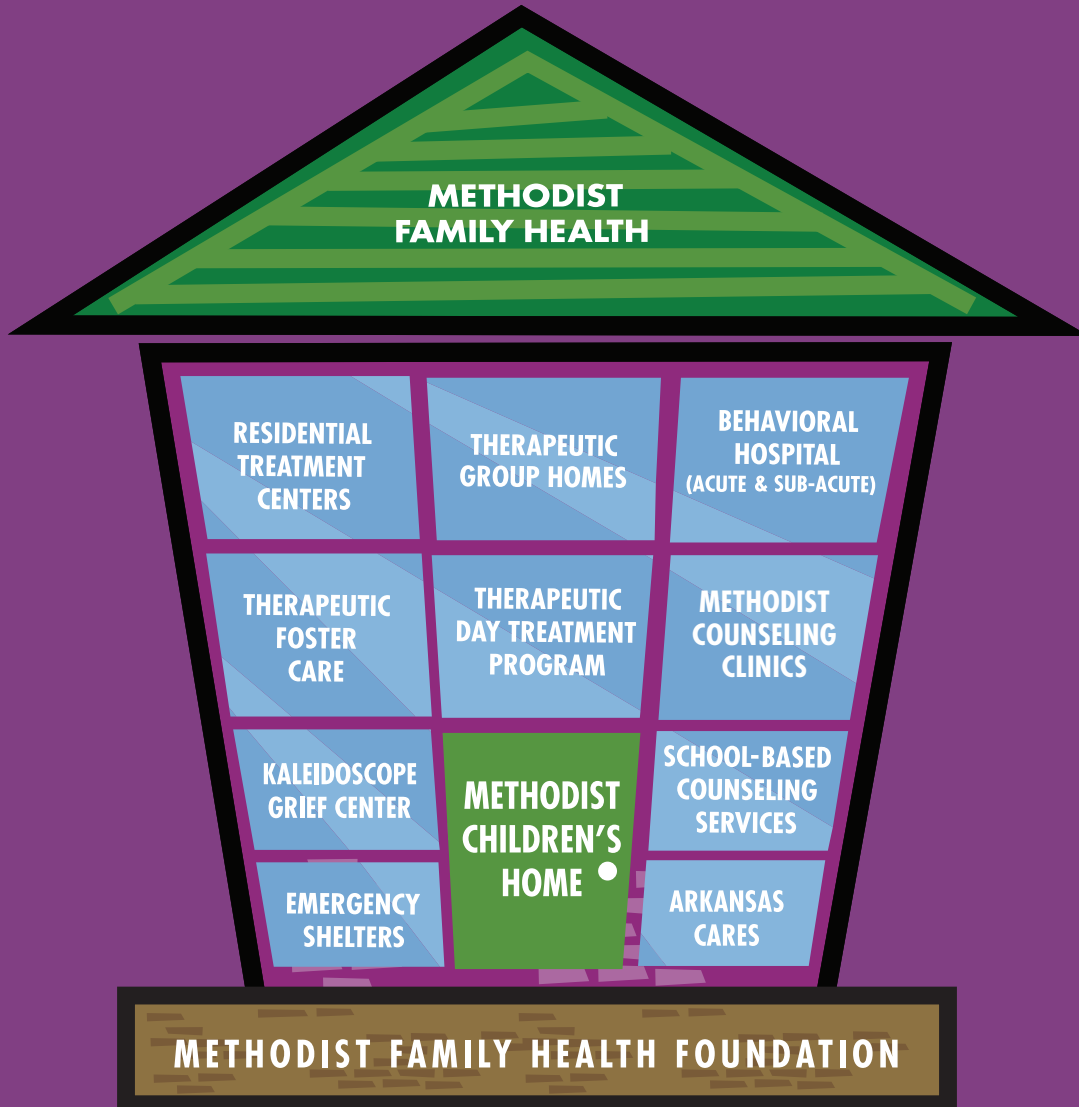
SPRING 2011



Finding Family in Football, Church and Methodist Family Health

Photography by Kelley Cooper

REBUILDING THE LIVES OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SINCE 1899



Board of Directors
METHODIST FAMILY HEALTH

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| Mr. Michael Millar
Searcy
Chairperson | Dr. Charles Clogston
Little Rock | Rev. C.E. McAdoo
Texarkana |
| Mr. Bill Mann
Little Rock
Vice Chairperson | Bishop Charles Crutchfield
Little Rock | Mrs. Jamilyn Noble
North Little Rock |
| Mr. Ritter Arnold
Marked Tree | Mr. Jim Dunn
Fort Smith | Mrs. Sally Riggs
Little Rock |
| Dr. Karen Ballard
Roland | Mrs. Jane Hardin
Little Rock | Mr. Neill Sloan
Lake Village |
| Mr. Harry Clerget
Little Rock | Rev. Phil Hathcock
Little Rock | Mr. Donald Weaver
Conway |
| | Mr. Bill Johnston
Heber Springs | |

Board of Directors
METHODIST FAMILY HEALTH FOUNDATION

- | | | |
|---|---|-------------------------------------|
| Mr. Michael Millar
Searcy
Chairperson | Mrs. Jane Hardin
Little Rock | Mr. Neill Sloan
Lake Village |
| Mr. Ritter Arnold
Marked Tree | Mrs. Becky Kossover
Little Rock | Mrs. Jan Snider
Little Rock |
| Mrs. Leslie Bailey
Fayetteville | Mr. Nathaniel Noble
North Little Rock | Mrs. Lynn Staten
Little Rock |
| Mr. Frank Cox
Little Rock | Mrs. Anne Powell-Black
North Little Rock | Mr. Cleifton Vaughan
Little Rock |
| Dr. Mary Good
Little Rock | Mr. John Rutledge
Little Rock | Mr. Donald Weaver
Conway |



elcome to the *Sentinel!*

Thank you for your generous support during our 2010 Christmas Campaign. The gifts we receive at Christmas, and throughout the year, are greatly appreciated and enhance our ability to meet and exceed our clients' basic needs. It's wonderful to know that there are so many people in our communities, churches and within our own organization who contribute to this mission.

You may or may not know that my journey at Methodist Family Health began nearly 20 years ago when my wife and I moved into the Searcy Group Home with our three little boys. Being teaching-parents was a new experience for both of us, and we often heard people say, "It takes a special kind of person to do what you do." That may be true, but it also takes a special kind of community to support our efforts to do what we do.

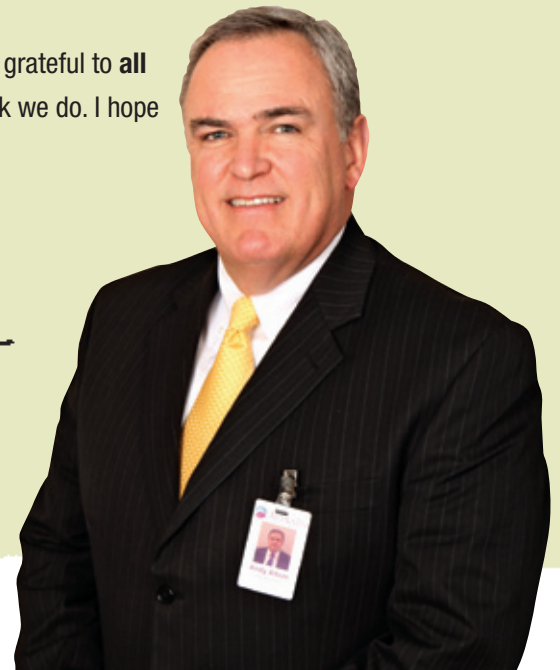
In this issue, we highlight a young man, Markeyvus Mays, who knows all about community support. Markeyvus lives in Heber Springs and has become a household name in that community because of his talent as a football player. Markeyvus' success is due, in part, to the wonderful support he receives from Methodist Family Health, his coaches, his teammates and members of the Heber Springs United Methodist Church. You can read his story on page 2.

You can also read about another example of community support, our 2nd annual Get Up & Give collection, on pages 8-9. Throughout Lent, we asked individuals, churches and other groups statewide to collect necessity items needed by the children and families in our many programs. Then, the week following Easter, we set up collection sites at each of our counseling clinics across the state. We also held a celebration/collection event on May 1 at our Little Rock Methodist Counseling Clinic. The effort was wildly successful. In all, we collected more than 100 storage bins filled with items needed by those in our care.

I know I speak for all of our employees when I say we are so grateful to **all** of the communities – large and small – who support the work we do. I hope you feel as appreciated as you are.

Sincerely,

Andy Altom
President and CEO



One Family,



One Heartbeat.

By Alyssa Anderson

Photography by Waren Olmstead Sports Photography

This is the motto of the Heber Springs high school football team, and all of the players know it well. They hear their coaches say it; they see it on the weight room walls; they live it on the field.

And yet, their star player, Markeyvus Mays, didn't actually grow up in a traditional family. He was separated from his biological family when he was young. He was in and out of different homes throughout much of his childhood.

But Markeyvus found a family – several families, actually – when he moved to Heber Springs two years ago. He found a family in his football team, the Panthers, playing tailback and breaking two school records during his junior year. He found a family in the Heber Springs community – especially the United Methodist Church, whose members have embraced Markeyvus. And he found a family in Methodist Family Health, an organization that has taken him in and shown him stability he never knew before.

“Markeyvus is a great inspirational story,” says Heber Springs head football coach Steve Janski. “To face that kind of adversity in his life and then find a niche in a small community like this – there’s no doubt that he’s had a huge impact on our community, and our community has had a huge impact on him.”

Markeyvus never played on a football team before moving to Heber Springs.

“They brought him up here to see if he’d be interested in playing,” Coach Janski remembers. “He’s a very quiet kid, very shy, but I knew he had some athletic talent. He ran a 40-yard dash for us, and he had some speed. But I really didn’t know he would blossom into the player that he has.”

Markeyvus was in the ninth grade then. This year, his junior year, he broke two school records: rushing record and all-purpose yard record. He was named All-Conference and All-State, received the team’s “Offensive Big Play” award and was honored as Arkansas’ Athlete of the Week by the Little Rock Touchdown Club.

“He’s one of the best high school football players in the state,” says another of Markeyvus’ coaches, David Farr. “And he’s just a good kid. He has great character. He works really hard – harder than most kids his age are willing to do. We’re really proud of him.”

Markeyvus’ face lights up when he talks about football and his teammates. He says they work hard and their coaches push them, but they also have fun together.

Several times a year, Coach Janski plans activities for the team, such as going to Wild River Country and playing paintball, so they can get to know one another better. They learn to depend on each other on and off the field – as teammates, as family.

After high school, Markeyvus says he wants to play college football, possibly at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville. He says another reason he wants to go to college is so he can get a good job later on.

Markeyvus has a big support system when it comes to his studies. Netta and Kevin Thomas, members of the Heber

Springs United Methodist Church, have been tutoring Markeyvus and another boy, Javorn, since last year.

Kevin, born and raised in Heber Springs, is a huge sports enthusiast and wants to see his local football team succeed on the field. He also wants to see Markeyvus and Javorn succeed in their lives.

“I love seeing the boys participate in our sports programs and do so well,” Kevin says. “But, for the boys to succeed in life after high school, their education is the top priority.”

The Thomases’ relationship with the boys goes beyond academics. Netta calls Markeyvus and Javorn “her boys.” She and Kevin welcome the boys into their home for holidays, take them out for their birthdays and just truly care about them.

“They are part of our family and it is hard to imagine not having them around,” Netta says. “Our children, Hannah and Zach, feel like they have two brothers and have learned so much by having them around. It is truly special!”

Several other church members have similar relationships with other boys in the local Methodist Family Health program.



Photography by Waren Olmstead Sports Photography

“Our church has done a wonderful job of not just wrapping their arms around Markeyvus but that entire Methodist program,” says Coach Janski, who is also a member of the church.

It’s a reciprocal relationship. Markeyvus and the other boys spend a lot of time giving back to the church and community that has helped them so much. They attend Bible study and participate in church activities throughout the week. They help out during community dinner every Wednesday. They do landscaping projects for elderly church members. They pick up cans for the Humane Society.

Avis and Paul Frazier, also members of the Heber Springs United Methodist Church, head up the Methodist Family Health program in Heber Springs. Over the last two years, they have shown Markeyvus what it means to live with stability, structure and love.

Avis says they have seen tremendous growth in him during that time.

“A year ago, you’d barely even hear him talk; now you hear him singing regularly,” she laughs.

“He’s starting to discover himself,” Paul adds. “He’s learning how to deal with unknowns. He’s learning what’s acceptable and what’s not. From an athletic standpoint, he has a natural talent that’s phenomenal.”



Coach Janski says it’s a true blessing for the boys and the Heber Springs community to be able to interact and support one another this way.

“That saying, ‘It takes a village to raise a kid,’ it’s so true,” he says. “It takes a wonderful church, it takes a supportive community, it takes a school district of teachers that care.”

“We teach our players that you’re all in the fire together – you’re all one family,” Coach Farr adds. “You can do a lot of things as a family but you can’t do many things by yourself, so depend on your brothers.”



Donors Support the Spiritual Growth of MFH Clients

By Maggie Beeler



Bishop Kenneth Hicks (right) and Rev. Scott Moore lead a Bible study with children in the Arkansas CARES preschool program.

It has always been part of the mission at Methodist Family Health to provide a Bible, Bible studies and spirituality services for the children and mothers in our care. With the growth of Methodist Family Health in recent years, we have turned to churches, friends and donors to help us support our Bible Fund and to provide Sunday afternoon spirituality services. Your help is making a difference to many, and we hope you will continue your support.

In 2010, more than 134 Bibles were given to our children and mothers, 129 Bible studies were attended by those in our care and 80 spirituality services were available to those wanting to worship. We could not have done this without your help. Below are letters from two of the clients whose lives you have touched:

“When I first arrived at Methodist, I was nowhere near being a Christian. That was the last thing on my to-do list! But for some reason, I had a little spark that made me want to go to Bible study on a Monday night. At first I was a little bored, but then it got very interesting. No one judges me, but the clients who were Christians and Pastor Scott encouraged me enough to just take a look at the Bible. Now, they didn’t pressure me to become one of God’s many daughters, but they just spoke with me. I asked for a Bible and in 2-3 days I had my very own. I started reading, and from that point, I just believed. The spirituality groups are AMAZING! I just feel so comfortable going to them and being able to share my love for Christ with people who are very open. Spirituality groups are so uplifting and very fun! It gives us something to look forward to! I never thought something so great could happen to me. But it has and a lot of it has come from the Methodist spirituality groups!” – Summer, age 15

“Through my time at Methodist Children’s Home, I have found myself learning new things. One of those new things that I have found out is the spirituality services that they offer. The lead teacher that teaches is Pastor Scott. He has taught me about God and his miracle ways and how he can save us. One thing that I’ve come to know that Pastor Scott has taught me is that when you rededicate your life you do not have to go to anyone but God and have that special prayer with him. Also, one thing that we talked about is death, which was a touching subject for me. I lost my mother 10 years ago and to tell my story has taught me to become stronger in the Lord.” – Latesha, age 17

If you would like to donate to the Bible Fund, please use the envelope in this magazine, go online to www.methodistfamily.org or contact Maggie Beeler at (501) 661-0720.

Board Spotlight

Bill Johnston

Heber Springs, Arkansas

A member of the Methodist Family Health Foundation staff typically writes this feature, after spending some time visiting with a member of our board. But Bill Johnston did such a beautiful job of answering our questions that we decided to present his story Q and A style. Below, learn about his background and passion for the work being done at Methodist Family Health, in his own words.



Bill Johnston

First, tell a little bit about your background. I was born in Little Rock and went through the sixth grade at Thomas Jefferson Elementary in Cammack Village. In 1960, my family moved to Heber Springs, and I finished high school there in 1966. My dad had just started his own highway construction business, Rock Products Inc., in 1963. Both

he and my mom were originally from the Heber Springs/Pangburn/Tyler area, and both sets of my grandparents lived in Pangburn at the time, so it was like coming home for them.

Diane and I met at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville in November 1968, when the guy she was supposed to ride home with for Thanksgiving break forgot to pick her up. She knew of me but thought my last name was “Johnson,” and she couldn’t find me in the phone book. She finally figured it out, and even though it was pretty late in the afternoon, I was still at my house. I agreed to give her a ride home, and the rest, as they say, is history. It was very foggy that night, and a normal four-hour trip turned into about six or seven, so we had plenty of time to get acquainted. We were married on November 28, 1969, so it was what you might call a whirlwind romance. I graduated in the summer of 1970, and we moved back to

Heber so I could get started with my father in the highway construction business. Our son Ben was born in 1973, and Matt came along in 1976, so our little family was complete.

The construction business rocked along over the years. We expanded the quarrying operation, bought a couple of hot-mix asphalt plants and steadily grew. My father suffered a series of health setbacks starting in about 1983, so I began to take over management of the company around that time. We sold the business to Vulcan Materials Company, a Fortune 500 company based in Birmingham, Ala., in 1999. I continued to work for them for a couple of years, retired again, went back to work and worked until the fall of 2005, when I walked away for good. Grandkids started coming along, we started an ambitious renovation project on a house on Eden Isle, and so I basically didn’t have time to work for anyone else anymore!

When did you join the Methodist Family Health Board of Directors? I have been on the MFH Board since November 2009, although I didn’t attend my first meeting until May 2010.

Why did you decide to join the board? Did you know about the Methodist Children’s Home growing up? I did know about the United Methodist Children’s Home, but I had no idea of its scope and reach in the state. I chose to join the board for several reasons: One, I respected Don Weaver (already a member) very much, and if he thought I was board material and could contribute, I was happy to give it a try. Two, I have known Andy and Myra Altom for many years – in fact, Myra was our babysitter when our boys were little – and have always been very proud of the way they have grown up and advocated for children who are less fortunate than most. From what I’ve observed over the past year, I’ve been very impressed with Andy’s vision and determination, not to mention his intelligence and management skills.

What do you think you bring to the board? I think I bring a lifetime of business experience and charitable volunteer experience to the board. I was on the board of the then-Cleburne County Hospital, when we negotiated with Baptist to step in and assume operation of our struggling hospital in Heber Springs, so I'm not totally unacquainted with hospital operations. I have served on several business and civic boards and commissions over the years, all of which I think contribute to my decision-making ability and general outlook on life.

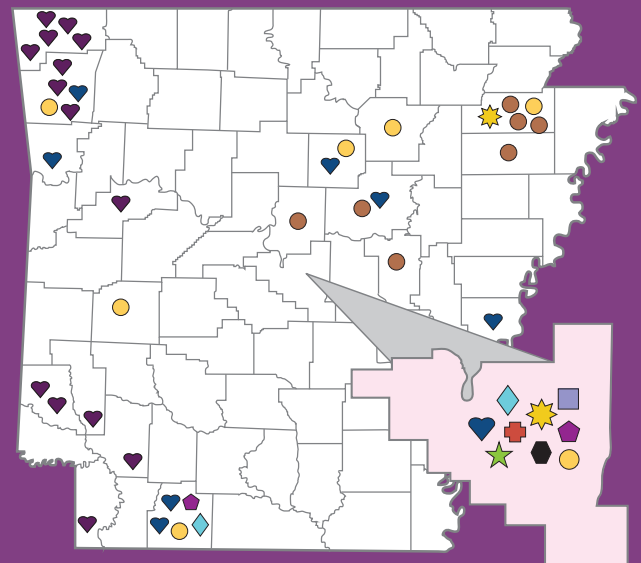
Your church, First United Methodist Church in Heber Springs, has been so supportive of Methodist Family Health. Why do you think the church has taken such an interest in our Heber Springs Group Home for boys? I don't know that the congregation of FUMC is any more caring and compassionate than any other church, but it is certainly a very proactive and supportive group. We always seem to be looking for more ways to serve our community.

Why do you think Methodist Family Health stands out among the many other agencies that serve troubled kids? Because it's not afraid to meet the many challenges that arise, both personal and procedural. I think that MFH shows great vision in its operations and mission.

Why are you proud to serve on the board? I'm proud of the work that MFH does, and I'm proud to be associated with that work. The fact that other board members have welcomed me with open arms has been very gratifying.

What do you wish more people knew about the organization?
I wish more people knew the extent of the MFH operations (see map on right). I think many people know about the Children's Home, but most people I talk to are totally unaware of the Behavioral Hospital, the home for mothers and their children in Little Rock, and the network of clinics around the state.

MFH LOCATIONS ACROSS THE STATE



- ♥ Therapeutic Group Homes**
 Fayetteville Heber Springs Helena-West Helena
 Little Rock Magnolia (2) Mulberry
 Searcy
- School-Based Counseling**
 Craighead County¹ Harrisburg Hazen
 Jonesboro Nettleton Vilonia
 White County²
- ◆ Day Treatment**
 Little Rock Magnolia
- ★ Residential Treatment Center**
 Bono (near Jonesboro) Little Rock
- ⬠ Emergency Shelter**
 Little Rock Magnolia
- Methodist Counseling Clinics**
 Batesville Fayetteville Heber Springs
 Jonesboro³ Little Rock Magnolia
 Mt. Ida
- ⬠ Arkansas CARES**
 Little Rock
- ⊕ Behavioral Hospital**
 Maumelle
- ♥ Therapeutic Foster Care**
 Bella Vista Booneville De Queen
 Doddridge Fayetteville Fulton
 Gentry Gillham Lowell
 Mineral Springs Rogers Siloam Springs
 Springdale West Fork
- ⬠ MFH Administration**
 Little Rock
- ★ Kaleidoscope Grief Center**
 Little Rock

¹SUCCESS Academy
²Central School District
³Lighthouse Counseling Center

NEW BOARD MEMBER

Methodist Family Health Foundation
 Board of Directors
Leslie Bailey
 Fayetteville

The 2nd Annual

40 DAYS
OF COLLECTING

Get Up & Give

By Alyssa Anderson

Neither thunderstorms nor flooding could keep folks from getting up and giving during Methodist Family Health's second annual Get Up & Give celebration May 1. More than \$2,700 in monetary contributions and 100 large bins of necessity items for the children and families in our care were generously donated by United Methodist Church members and other groups from across the state.

Different from last year's event, this year's Get Up & Give collection was a statewide Lenten challenge. Instead of just giving something up, Methodist Family Health asked Arkansans to share a little something with those in need as well. Throughout the 40 days of Lent, United Methodist Church members and others were encouraged to collect items like socks, underwear, paper towels, toilet paper, books and games needed by the children and families served by MFH. Then, the week following Easter, they could drop off their items at one of six Methodist Counseling Clinic locations in the state.

Participants were also encouraged to attend a celebration event from 2-4 p.m., May 1, at the Little Rock Methodist Counseling Clinic. The celebration was intended to be an outdoor event with live praise music, refreshments and guided tours of the clinic; however, due to stormy weather, it instead became a "warehouse party" in the storage area behind the clinic.

"We knew the weather was predicted to be bad, but we had received so many generous donations earlier in the week that we already considered Get Up & Give a success," said Ashley Coldiron, executive director of the Methodist Family Health Foundation. "We were prepared for a small turnout on May 1 and were totally shocked and thrilled by the people who came out to support us in the terrible weather."

Several people came to drop off items, others came to take tours of the clinic and still others came to volunteer their time. FaithSpring Praise Band insisted on playing at the event, despite us letting them "off the hook" because of the weather.

"We knew you all would be disappointed about the rain, and we just had to do it – we had to come out and play for you," said Kim Johnson, lead vocalist with FaithSpring Praise Band.

Five ladies from Keo United Methodist Church – the church whose ongoing Undie Sunday collections inspired us to hold the first Get Up & Give event last year – volunteered to help sort this year's collected items. The ladies also brought two SUVs filled with items they collected throughout Lent and a generous monetary contribution to MFH.

Frank Cox, Methodist Family Health Foundation Board Member, honorary chair of the 2011 Get Up & Give collection and a member of the popular Little Rock band The GroanUps, was at the celebration and even joined FaithSpring Praise Band for a couple of numbers.

"It was a fun time," Cox said. "I'm grateful to everyone who took part in this opportunity to Get Up & Give their time, love and support to the children and families in Methodist Family Health's care."

The items collected during Get Up & Give will benefit the clients in MFH's many programs statewide, including the Methodist Children's Home, Methodist Behavioral Hospital, residential treatment centers, day treatment schools, counseling clinics, school-based counseling and more. The timing of the collection was particularly fortuitous for our school-based counseling program in Vilonia, where a tornado hit the week before the May 1 celebration. Approximately 15 client families were affected by the tornado, many with total loss, and some of the money collected during Get Up & Give was used to create emergency kits for those families.



The items collected during Get Up & Give filled more than 100 large storage bins.



Michael Sharp and Michael Bower with FaithSpring UMC help sort donations.



Jamie Morrison, Greenbrier First UMC.



A group of ladies from Keo UMC sort the items collected on May 1.



Mark Johnson with his children, Olivia, Ava and Will. Their mom, Kim, is lead vocalist with FaithSpring Praise Band.



MFH Foundation staff member Pam Stephens helps Rev. Steve Johnson, Hope UMC, unload his items.



Board member and honorary event chair Frank Cox plays "All Shook Up" with FaithSpring Praise Band.



MFH's Vilonia staff used Get Up & Give Funds to purchase emergency kits for clients hit by the recent tornado. Staff members pictured, from left: Gina Thomas, Brian Kelton, Shannon Horton, Tammy Weaver, Tobi Taylor and Amanda Owens.



Mendal Bonsall, Norphlet UMC.



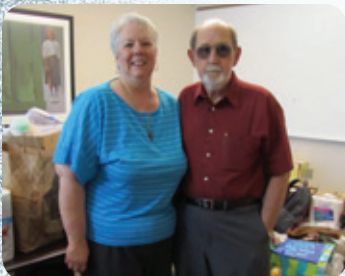
Pastor Harry Hamner holds items collected by the Hampton United Methodist Women's group.



Gloria Rankin (left), Morrilton First UMC, with Ashley Coldiron, executive director of the MFH Foundation.



MFH's Jim Faggion helps unload the large collection of items donated by First UMC Benton.



Rev. Don and Mary Johnson, Greenhill and Lacey UMCS.

If you are interested in participating in next year's Get Up & Give collection, or if you want to support Methodist Family Health now, please contact Ashley Coldiron, executive director of the Methodist Family Health Foundation, at (501) 661-0720 ext. 7304 or acoldiron@methodistfamily.org.

Donor Spotlight

Betty Dickey

Heber Springs, Arkansas

By Alyssa Anderson

Betty Dickey has an adventurous spirit. She enjoys whitewater rafting and snow skiing. She went skydiving in New Zealand for her 70th birthday. She recently taught criminal justice to seamen and seamen on a Navy destroyer in the Middle East. She was the first female prosecuting attorney, first female chief counsel to the governor and first female Supreme Court Chief Justice in the state of Arkansas. But, perhaps, her greatest adventure of all was raising her five children, including an adoptive son and foster daughter who found their way to her from the Methodist Children's Home.

Betty and former husband Jay adopted their son John in July 1966 when he was just a week old. The minister of their church in Pine Bluff, Rev. John Lindsey, was friends with Rev. Edwin Keith, who was head of Methodist Children's Home at the time.

"Rev. Keith called and said, 'We have a beautiful baby boy. How would you like him tomorrow?'" Betty recalls.

At that time, she and Jay had no other children, and they had nothing for a baby. They spent the weekend borrowing and buying baby clothes, even having a baby shower hosted by friends at Floradel Reid's home. "It was a weekend pregnancy – instant parenthood," she laughs.

Local attorney John Gill handled the paperwork, and Betty says she and Jay named their son in honor of the two Johns who helped make the adoption possible: John Gill and Rev. John Lindsey.

For three years, Betty and John were constant companions, bicycling, learning to swim when he was a year old, going

canoeing when he was five and many other adventures. In 1969, Betty had a biological daughter, Laura, followed by a biological son, Ted, a year later.

Their foster daughter, Cindy Brechtel, entered the Dickey's lives more gradually.

"In the fall of 1969, because of John and that connection with the Children's Home, we called to leave some football tickets to a Razorback game," Betty remembers. "When we arrived to drop off the tickets, the Children's Home staff had two 15-year-old girls ready to go to the game with us. One was Cindy. The other was a girl named Jan. The next summer, soon after Ted was born and our family was getting ready to go to Michigan, I asked if Cindy and Jan might go with us, thinking they could help with the babies – washing clothes or preparing meals or changing diapers. They didn't know how to do any of these things. So instead of three children on Lake Michigan, I had five!"

After that trip, Cindy says she "just kept showing up more often" at the Dickey's house, riding the bus to Pine Bluff on Fridays and back to Little Rock on Monday mornings in time for high school at Little Rock Central. Through a full scholarship provided by the Methodist Children's Home, she enrolled in Henderson State University in the early '70s. Her visits home from college were with the Dickey family, not the Children's Home. Cindy even helped raise Betty's third biological child, Rachel, born in 1975.

Betty says there were a lot of fun times in those years raising five children. The family enjoyed watching and participating in sporting events. They took family vacations canoeing, snow-skiing and camping and spent summers in Michigan.



From left: Betty Dickey, John Dickey and Cindy Brechtel visited the Arkansas CARES nursery on the Methodist Children's Home campus. It was John's first time on the campus since being adopted as an infant. Cindy had only been back one other time, to help stuff envelopes for Christmas.

"We grew up in a Christian home, which I think was extremely important," John says. "We were taught values and morals. Not saying 'yes sir' and 'no ma'am' was not an option at our house."

"They used to call me a drill sergeant," Betty jokes.

But it wasn't all fun and games. Betty says all five children gave her challenges as teenagers. John even moved out and went to live with Cindy for a short time during his senior year.

"And then it got to the point to where my mother was ready to do something, so the military wound up being a good option," John says. He served in the Army in the '90s, a few months of that time in an Army chemical unit during Desert Storm.

Betty corrected, "Actually, I said, 'John, you have a choice – I always gave my children a choice – it's the real Army or the Salvation Army, but you are not a lifetime project for me.' He grew up pretty fast after that. And he turned out really well. That's why I can talk about him now!"

John says the only contact he's had with the Methodist Children's Home since his adoption has been to inquire about his biological mother. He is trying to find her but so far has been unsuccessful. John lives in Sheridan with his wife, Betty Jo, and their two children, Hannah and Jonathan.

Cindy also has had only minimal contact with the Children's Home since leaving, but her memories of the home are good ones. She has lost touch with Jan, the other girl who used to visit the Dickey's. Betty says they liked Jan very much but that she had other families with whom she spent time. Cindy lives in Little Rock with her 32-year-old daughter, Kathy, and an 11-year-old grandson, Zachary.

Today Betty, now a resident of Heber Springs, continues to show her appreciation of Methodist Family Health/Methodist Children's Home by supporting the organization financially. She says she will be forever grateful for what the Children's Home has done for her family.

"I think what the Methodist Children's Home has done for my children and for others I've seen is just amazing," Betty says. "When a door opens for you to do something that enriches your life and someone else's, you should go through it. God has blessed and challenged and taught us a lot about His will for our lives."

She continued: "I kind of like adventures, and certainly life with these two has been an adventure – both a blessing and a challenge!"

Though not in the orphanage business anymore, Methodist Family Health/Methodist Children's Home is still helping children and families in need. For information about how you can provide financial support, visit www.methodistfamily.org or contact Ashley Coldiron, executive director of the Methodist Family Health Foundation, at (501) 661-0720 ext. 7300 or acoldiron@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.



Anonymous (12)	Mr. and Mrs. Jim Dunn Fort Smith, Arkansas	Harriet and James Johnson Wilmot, Arkansas	Alicia H. Mosley Camden, Arkansas	Genevieve H. and William A. Strong Pine Bluff, Arkansas
Lewese and Jon Ahrens Mount Ida, Arkansas	Ellen and Don Edmondson Forrest City, Arkansas	Mr. and Mrs. Bill Johnston Heber Springs, Arkansas	Marilyn and Joel Newcome Portland, Arkansas	The W.P. Sturgis Foundation Arkadelphia, Arkansas
Mr. and Mrs. Cliff Albert Beebe, Arkansas	Pam and Robert Edwards Searcy, Arkansas	Mr. and Mrs. Grady Keith Lake Village, Arkansas	Angela and Chris Newell Newcastle, Washington	Cindy and Patrick Tenney Springdale, Arkansas
Myra and Andy Altom Heber Springs, Arkansas	Randy Ennen Fort Smith, Arkansas	Kathleen Kennally and Mark Holder Little Rock, Arkansas	Mr. and Mrs. Robert C. Nolan El Dorado, Arkansas	Robin and Denver Thornton French Port, Arkansas
Paul Arnold Nashville, Tennessee	Eric Rob & Isaac Little Rock, Arkansas	Becky and Jerry Kossover Little Rock, Arkansas	Theodosia Nolan El Dorado, Arkansas	Jo Anne and Roger Utley Sherwood, Arkansas
Rebecca and Ritter Arnold Marked Tree, Arkansas	Peggy and Tim Farrell Fund Little Rock, Arkansas	Iva and Bill Krogman Star City, Arkansas	Karen and Andy Norris Lake Village, Arkansas	Juanita Vaughn Fayetteville, Arkansas
Steve W. Babcock Paragould, Arkansas	Dr. Rita Galloway Little Rock, Arkansas	Jean and Terry Landrum Scott, Arkansas	Mary Anne and Ben Pickard Searcy, Arkansas	Amelia and Donn Walters Little Rock, Arkansas
The Bailey Foundation Little Rock, Arkansas	Alicia and Craig Gammon Vilonia, Arkansas	Jennifer Lang Little Rock, Arkansas	B. C. Pickens Trust Pickens, Arkansas	Paula and Kirk Wardlow Springdale, Arkansas
Virginia and Bill Ball Searcy, Arkansas	Mary Lue and Bill Gibbs Camden, Arkansas	Judith and Charles Long Jonesboro, Arkansas	Ella Mae and †Edgar Poag Osceola, Arkansas	Debbie and Don Weaver Conway, Arkansas
Bancorp South Insurance Services, Inc. Little Rock, Arkansas	Gill Elrod Ragon Owen & Sherman Law Firm Little Rock, Arkansas	Mrs. Robert M. Lowe Gillett, Arkansas	Augustus H. Pugh Portland, Arkansas	Mr. and Mrs. David West Roland, Arkansas
Wilma I. Barnum Fairfield Bay, Arkansas	Carolyn M. Henslee Little Rock, Arkansas	† Mary Trimble Maier Fayetteville, Arkansas	Susie and Tom Pugh Little Rock, Arkansas	Mr. and Mrs. Ronald W. Witherspoon Fayetteville, Arkansas
Harry Blanton, Jr. Benton, Arkansas	April and Tom Hesselbein Little Rock, Arkansas	Vicki and Hal Matthews North Little Rock, Arkansas	Beverly and Harrison Ralph Crossett, Arkansas	Kyle K. Wood and Family Pine Bluff, Arkansas
Barbara and John Bragg Camden, Arkansas	Donald Hicks Cabot, Arkansas	Angela and Chad McLain Brinkley, Arkansas	Paula and Robert Reynolds El Dorado, Arkansas	Elizabeth Teague and John S. Workman Conway, Arkansas
Mary and Robert Branch Mountain View, Arkansas	Elaine and Bishop Ken Hicks Little Rock, Arkansas	Karen and Mike Millar Searcy, Arkansas	Deborah Rowley Conway, Arkansas	Melissa and Keith Wrenn Brentwood, Tennessee
Dr. and Mrs. Charles Clogston Little Rock, Arkansas	B. Louise and Charles Holmes Little Rock, Arkansas	Carl Miller, Jr. Little Rock, Arkansas	Trish and Kurt Searvogel Sheridan, Arkansas	Margaret and Ron Wylie Clarksville, Arkansas
Ashley and David Coldiron Little Rock, Arkansas	Kerry and Charlie Jackson El Dorado, Arkansas	Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Miller Hazen, Arkansas	† Nancy and Neill Sloan Lake Village, Arkansas	Martha and David Yocum El Dorado, Arkansas
Dr. and Mrs. George M. Cone Jonesboro, Arkansas	Sandy and Hank Johns North Little Rock, Arkansas	Mr. and Mrs. Don E. Morey Little Rock, Arkansas	Jan and Ted L. Snider, Jr. Little Rock, Arkansas	
Margaret and Kenneth Davis Hardy, Arkansas		Mr. and Mrs. Don S. Morton Des Arc, Arkansas	Lynn and Bob Staten Little Rock, Arkansas	

† 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.

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

Anonymous (2)	Marjem and John Gill	June S. McClain Revocable Trust
Andy and Myra Altom	Griffin Family Trust	Earl and Nancy McClure
Lee D. Campbell	Geneva I. Hughes Estate	Velma E. Shaffer Estate
Mary and Milton Campbell	Billy Gene and Jonelle Ryan Jones	Warren Family Trust
O'Neal Davidson Estate	Geneva T. Kuhn – Rose Charitable Remainder Trust	

HIGHEST CONGREGATIONAL GIVING

Highest Congregational Giving among United Methodist Churches in the Arkansas Conference
2/01/2010 – 1/31/2011

El Dorado First	\$ 62,455	Sheridan First	\$ 6,920
Pulaski Heights	\$ 26,047	Hot Springs First	\$ 6,615
Dumas First	\$ 22,309	Marked Tree	\$ 6,600
Searcy First	\$ 15,670	Springdale First	\$ 5,920
Heber Springs First	\$ 15,029	Rosewood	\$ 5,200
Camden First	\$ 12,835	Jonesboro First	\$ 4,975
Shirley First	\$ 11,700	Portland First	\$ 4,158
St. James (Little Rock)	\$ 11,420	Greenwood First	\$ 4,004
Trinity (Little Rock)	\$ 11,273	Christ of the Hills	\$ 3,835
Lakewood	\$ 10,506	Winfield (Little Rock)	\$ 3,590
Star City First	\$ 9,200	Bryant First	\$ 3,563
Lakeside (Lake Village)	\$ 8,400	Russellville First	\$ 3,526
Fayetteville Central	\$ 8,307	Bella Vista First	\$ 3,482
Conway First	\$ 8,291	Benton First	\$ 3,465
Fort Smith First	\$ 8,202	Diamondhead	\$ 3,407
Asbury (Little Rock)	\$ 7,779	Paragould First	\$ 3,244
Little Rock First	\$ 7,474	Forrest City First	\$ 3,030
Piney Grove	\$ 7,325		

What's Happening Around Methodist?

October



First Lady Ginger Beebe came out to support the River Market event. Here she visits with MFH therapist Jon Priest.

Mental Illness Awareness Week was the first full week in October, and Methodist Family Health teamed up with several other local mental health agencies to promote awareness. From 7 a.m. to 2 p.m., Oct. 5, representatives from MFH, BridgeWay, Birch Tree Communities, Pinnacle Pointe Hospital, Youth Home, Rivendell Hospital, Centers for Youth and Families and NAMI Arkansas were at the River Market to answer questions regarding bipolar, borderline, depression, PTSD, anxiety and schizophrenia.



From left: Ritter Arnold, MFH Board member; Ashley Coldiron, MFH Foundation executive director; Keith Riggs, event host.

MFH Board member Sally Riggs and her husband, Keith, opened up their home on Oct. 7 for a post-Walk celebration. Walk committee members, sponsors and board members attended the event, which was an opportunity to thank everyone for their help with the 2010 Walk for Children and Families. The 2010 Walk raised more than \$120,000, and more than 900 individuals participated in the event.



Motley's Tree Farm and Pumpkin Patch hosted Autumn Fest for Kaleidoscope Grief Center's Kids Club event on Oct. 23 for about 30 of our bereaved children and their families. Everyone enjoyed a beautiful day at the pumpkin patch and participated in the hayride, hay play, petting zoo, cow train and pig races. Kids Club, a program for the children and families of Kaleidoscope Grief Center, offers ongoing emotional and social support, with the focus on permission and opportunities for fun at a time when sadness prevails. In the company of other children who are also dealing with end-of-life issues, these kids participate in activities of normal childhood that send a strong message: bereaved children should be able to laugh and have fun without guilt.

Understanding and committing to the importance of the mission of Kids Club, this is the fourth year that Randy Motley and his family have hosted a Kids Club event at their facility. We are thankful for their continued support and hospitality.



Altrusans pictured: Annabelle Imber Tuck (second from right), recently retired Arkansas Supreme Court Justice, co-chair of Altrusa Homeless Children's Literacy Project; Millie Hansen (far right), local attorney and president of Altrusa International.

Altrusans visited the campus of Methodist Children's Home (MCH) on Oct. 23. They brought books to set up a library for our children on that campus. Altrusans also donated reading software for the classrooms at Methodist Behavioral Hospital, dress-up costumes for the kids in

the CARES preschool, as well as helped cover expenses for the MCH Halloween carnival. In addition, several members attended the carnival on Oct. 29 and provided a "book walk" for the kids while they were waiting to go through the haunted house.

Altrusa is an international association of business executives and professional women and men who volunteer their energies and expertise in projects dedicated to community betterment. Altrusa is a community service organization that espouses volunteerism, service and fights for literacy. District Eight has 25 clubs in the four states of Arkansas, Kansas, Missouri and Oklahoma.

November

MFH CEO Andy Altom received the Montrose Wolf Distinguished Contributions Award at the Teaching-Family Association Annual Conference held last November in Columbus, Ohio. The award recognizes individuals who make exceptional contributions in implementing the Teaching-Family Model. The award was named after Montrose Wolf, a cherished member of the Teaching-Family Association, because of the essential role he played in the creation and dissemination of the Teaching-Family Model. Also honored at the Annual Conference were Avis and Paul Frazier, teaching-parents at the Heber Springs Group Home for Boys. The Fraziers were awarded the Teaching-Family Distinguished Service Award, which recognizes individuals who have provided outstanding service as teaching-family practitioners.



In November, Kim Cook and Alfred Williams from BancorpSouth Insurance Services presented a \$10,000 check to Methodist Family Health. MFH was one of six charities selected to receive proceeds from Bancorp's annual golf tournament and gala/auction in September.

December



Teaching-parent Stephen Cromwell with Spook.

On Dec. 9, a small group of Methodist Children's Home employees attended an Equine Education Workshop presented by David Ward, farm superintendent for the Arkansas Sheriffs' Youth Ranches. Not only did the group learn a lot about how working with the horses will benefit MFH kids, they also learned a great deal about themselves and

each other. Alicia Gammon, director of group homes and emergency shelters for MFH, said of the experience: "After spending the day of the workshop with David and his horses, I can safely say that this is an experience that will benefit as many of our kids as we can expose to this activity. David has a gift with horses and kids, and we are blessed to have this opportunity!"

For a number of years, Phil Faulkner, owner of Phil's Place (formerly Heavenly Ham) on Rodney Parham Road in Little Rock, has been providing the Christmas dinner meats for Methodist Children's Home. This year, when he contacted Maggie Beeler at the Methodist Family Health Foundation, he wanted to know more about who he was providing food for and how many. As a result, he donated four turkeys and four hams for the Children's Home cottages to enjoy at Christmas.



Methodist Family Health's Group Home and Emergency Shelter kids were again offered the opportunity to attend the Arkansas Symphony Orchestra's "Home for the Holidays" performance in December. There were nearly 100 youth, staff members and their own children in the MFH section. The group had a great time, enjoying everything from ballet and Christmas carols to jazz and the Meshugga Klezmer Band. Thank you to the Symphony Guild for allowing our kids to enjoy this holiday tradition!



The Trinity UMC Miracle Team (Missions/Social Concerns group) in Little Rock invited the Arkansas CARES mothers and their children to a wonderful lunch and visit with Santa on Dec. 11. In all, there were 24 moms, 34 kids and four staff members. Each child received a stocking with his/her name on it filled with goodies. The moms received pictures of their children with Santa. It was a wonderful time of fellowship between the Miracle Team and the Arkansas CARES women. Cindy Crone, a member of Trinity UMC's Miracle Team, is the founder of the Arkansas CARES program.



The youth at Winfield United Methodist Church in west Little Rock continue to support the Residential Treatment Center in Little Rock as they visit monthly, bringing treats, games and fun. The ministry that the youth members provide is invaluable

as they show our kids that people do really care. During the month of December, the youth invited the Methodist Children's Home and Methodist Behavioral Hospital sub-acute kids to a Christmas party at their church. MFH youth mingled with Winfield youth as they ate pizza, played games and visited with Santa Claus and his helpers. Special thanks to all of the Winfield UMC youth group members for everything they do for our clients.

JANUARY

In January, representatives from Plum Creek Timber in Farmerville, La., presented Methodist Family Health with a \$4,000 Plum Creek Foundation grant to start a "Compassion Fund." The fund will provide gas and meal cards for families who cannot afford to travel but whose children need our care. If you would like to know more about the Compassion Fund, or if you know of a family in need, please contact Ashley Coldiron, MFH Foundation executive director, at (501) 661-0720, ext. 7300 or acoldiron@methodistfamily.org.



From left: Richard Stich, Plum Creek Timber; Alyssa Anderson, director of communications for MFH; Steve Hanley, Plum Creek Timber.

FEBRUARY

On Feb. 17, the FISH (Friends in Service to Him) Sunday School class of First United Methodist Church in Searcy hosted a belated Valentine's dinner for the girls at Methodist Family Health's Searcy Group Home. The dinner was held at the church, and the girls were waited on by the Sunday School class members. The FISH Sunday School class members are mission focused and arranged the dinner so they could get to know the girls better before beginning their drive for necessities at the Group Home.



From left: Craig Gammon, Methodist Children's Home administrator; his wife, Alicia Gammon, director of Group Homes for Methodist Family Health; Stephen & Lorie Cromwell, teaching-parents in the Mulberry Group Home.

More than 50 people attended an open house at our Mulberry Therapeutic Group Home for girls on Feb. 17. The home provides a stable environment in which the girls, ages 12-18, can experience healthy family interactions and learn to manage their emotions and behaviors. The Mulberry Group Home is unique among Methodist Family Health's other Therapeutic Group Homes because it is located on the Arkansas Sheriffs' Youth Ranch campus. The arrangement is part of an alliance between Methodist Family Health and the Ranch.

"The alliance provides us with access to some of the Ranch's facilities and treatment environments that we feel are good for kids and complement our program," says MFH CEO Andy Altom. "In return, it's a great way to treat someone who wants to align themselves in our continuum of care. When we do use them, we will provide financial support to help the Ranch sustain their operations and hopefully advance their programs."

MARCH



St. James Mission Circle members (from left) Cindy Stern, Susan Heald and Ann Rowell, hand out candy to the RTC kids.

The St. James United Methodist Church Mission Circle in Little Rock surprised the Little Rock RTC kids with a bit of Leprechaun fun on March 17. The Mission Circle brought in a St. Patrick's bingo game and prizes. We're not sure who had more fun, the Mission Circle or the kids! Thank you, as always, to the women of St. James Mission Circle!



Nechi Fullerton

Nechi Fullerton and her daughter, Kirby, recently started a birthday cake and gift party for the Arkansas CARES preschoolers and kindergarteners. The first Tuesday of each month, Kirby bakes a cake (or two) to celebrate those who have birthdays that month. Kirby is taking a cake decorating class and is very happy to practice her skills by doing something so priceless for the children. FaithSpring United Methodist Church is planning to help in future months to make sure each birthday is celebrated this year. In March, the children all received Dr. Seuss books in honor of Dr. Seuss' birthday!

P.O. Box 56050
Little Rock, AR 72215-6050

Nonprofit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Little Rock, AR
72204
Permit No. 387

SAVE THE DATE!



The 5th Annual Walk for Children and Families

Aug. 5

6 p.m. Registration • 7 p.m. Walk

Big Dam Bridge

North Little Rock



Kaleidoscope Kids Auction

Sept. 16 • 6:30 p.m.

NEW LOCATION!

Woman's City Club Building

401 Scott St., Little Rock



For more information, visit www.methodistfamily.org