

Issue 13 | May 2021



SENTINEL

News & Updates from Methodist Family Health Foundation

Visit our Website



Hand sewn layettes and bags



Martha's Circle displaying items donated to Arkansas children and families at Methodist Family Health.



Martha's Circle from Christ of the Hills United Methodist Church in Hot Springs Village



The equipment used to create donated items for children in the care of Methodist Family Health

United Methodist Women's Circles Donate

Handsewn Items to Children, Families

Martha's Circle at Christ of the Hills United Methodist Church in Hot Springs Village has continuously provided the children and families in our care with handmade, fleece blankets. Just a few months ago, the seamstresses in the circle donated these blankets while Ruth's Circle at the church donated receiving blankets, layettes, and bags for the babies in our Arkansas CARES program. These handmade items provide the recipients in our care with color, pattern and love when they have little of these three in their lives.



Betty Jo Madonna, dietary supervisor at Methodist Family Health's Dacus Psychiatric Residential

Treatment Center in Bono, Arkansas

Betty Jo Madonna Cooks Up Kindness

For most of us, we take for granted there will be something special to look forward to on our birthdays and special occasions like holidays. A cake in our honor or treats we have only occasionally are all part of celebrations, but for some of those in our care, these special days can go by without being acknowledged.

Enter someone with a heart as big as her baking talent. Betty Jo Madonna, or Ms. Betty as she is known to the boys at our psychiatric residential treatment center in northeast Arkansas, takes it upon herself to make those staying at the RTC know they are loved and important. As a dietary supervisor, she oversees the menus for the boys each day, but when it comes time for Christmas, Halloween, birthdays – even Dr. Seuss Day – they can be sure Ms. Betty has something fun and tasty cooked up just for them.

This month, we are celebrating Ms. Betty as a light bearer as she shares her light of grace, compassion, and talent with the boys in our care as well as the team members on our staff. Ms. Betty, you make a huge, positive difference in the lives of us all. Thank you for all you do.

Q: Where do you live?

A: I live in Jonesboro, which isn't too far from Bono.

Q: What hobbies do you enjoy?

A: I love to cook, but I also like to go camping and spend time with family.

Q: How long have you worked for Methodist Family Health?

A: It will be 10 years this June.

Q: Tell us a little about yourself.

A: I'm a mother to six wonderful kids and four grandkids, and I have been in the restaurant and foodservice industry for well over 20 years. I make all the menus and orders and keep the kitchen clean and organized to feed all our clients and staff at the Dacus psychiatric residential treatment center. I also take care of staffing the dietary department and make special treats for all the kids for holidays and birthdays. We also decorate the kitchen for the holidays for the boys.

Q: What is the best part of your job?

A: Being the reason for that quick smile when they see a dessert I just made or just taking a minute to stop and just say, "Hey, how are you today?", and the kid knows you are going to listen. I also enjoy asking them their opinions about meals and snacks, and it makes them feel included and a part of something bigger.

Q: Why is it important to you to help the boys in the Dacus RTC?

A: Every child needs someone to see the good in them, no matter how hard they are struggling. Sometimes, all they need is that constant smile and encouragement.

Q: What is one thing you would like others to know about the boys in our care?

A: How far they come in our program. To see an unhappy, lost, sometimes angry child learn how to communicate and work through their struggles and learn coping skills to deal with what they have going on is miraculous to see.

Ms. Betty's Creations



One Fish, Two Fish Cupcakes for Dr. Seuss Day



Birthday Kiss Cupcakes

LATEST NEWS & EVENTS

Donors Provide Bibles, Summer Camp for Children and Families in the Care of Methodist Family Health



Methodist Family Health's director of pastoral care, Amy Shores, encourages the children in our residential treatment programs by providing them with their own bible, bible storybook or teen devotional bible. These spiritual items are used as the children attend church, spirituality services, and bible studies, conducted consistently throughout the year by Amy.

"During a devotional study with the children, we were talking about God's forgiveness.

After study time, a little girl approached me, concerned that God would not forgive her for her part in a situation which no child should ever have to endure," Amy said. "I told the little girl that God loves her, has unconditional and never-ending love for her, and God is always forgiving us and allowing us grace."

Giving the gift of God's word to a child during the time they are at Methodist Family Health is essential in letting them know they are – and have always and will always be – loved and cherished.

A grant from The Methodist Foundation of Arkansas and financial support by many generous donors of the Methodist Family Health Foundation provides the necessary funding to give bibles to every client of Methodist Family Health who would like to have one.

Donate to Send a Kid to Camp



In addition to bibles, donors help provide funding to enable our kids to go to camp. Each year, we host the Rev. Robert Regnier Memorial Summer Camp at Camp Tanako on Lake Catherine in Hot Springs. This is where our kids can go to be just that – kids. By focusing on fun, our kids get to have an experience like any other child who can go to summer camp. Summer Camp is the most anticipated activity of the year!

We are continuing to monitor COVID-19 and the progression of vaccinations. Our hope is to send the children in our qualified residential treatment program (QRTP), formerly called group homes, to summer camp this June.

You can provide a joyful experience and a life of promise by donating to Methodist Family Health Foundation. Here are easy ways to give:

- Text **GIVE** to 501-881-2258 to initiate a donation you can easily manage on the go.
- Donate [online](#) now using our secure online donation form.
- Call 501-906-4201, Christy McCreight, to make a secure contribution with your debit or credit card.
- Mail your cash or check donation to:

Methodist Family Health Foundation
P.O. Box 56050
Little Rock, AR 72215-6050.

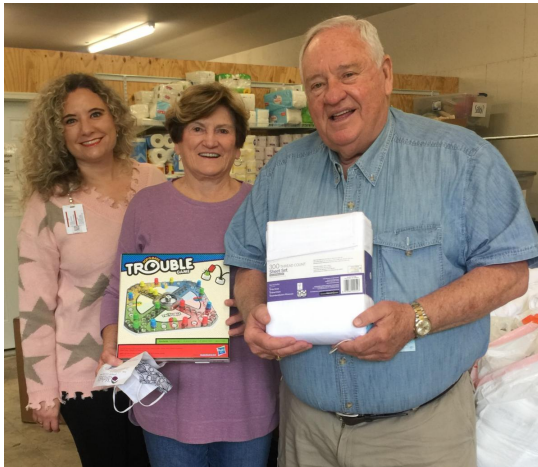
- PayPal app. To donate via PayPal.com, click [here](#).
- Venmo app. To donate via Venmo.com, click [here](#).

Your gift today to Methodist Family Health Foundation will help provide reassurance, peace and hope to the children and their families in our care. Together, we can strengthen their foundation now and in the future.

Thank you for donating money to be able to provide us with bibles and devotionals. This is important to me because being here is very stressful because we are away from our family. We really need God in our life right now to help us through this hard time. I really appreciate you donating your money.

"Thank you for donating money to be able to provide us with bibles and devotionals. This is important to me because being here is stressful because we are away from our families. We really need God in our life right now to help us through this hard time. I really appreciate your donating your money." - note from child at Methodist Family Health

Get Up & Give Emerges from Undie Sunday



Amanda Smith, director of development with the Methodist Family Health Foundation (left), recently met with Jean and Terry Landrum of Scott, Arkansas (center and right), as they dropped off their Get Up & Give donations at Aldersgate. It was Jean and another church member, Ila Cheney, who began Undie Sunday in 2007 at Keo United Methodist Church. Known today as Get Up & Give, the statewide Lenten collection project provides underwear and other personal care necessities needed by the clients of Methodist Family Health.

2021 Get up & Give Exceeds Goals



Rev. Steve Johnson, Hope First United Methodist Church.

Because of donors like YOU, the Methodist Family Health Foundation was able to exceed our goals for contributions from this year's Get Up & Give Lenten collection project. We hoped to raise \$15,000 in monetary contributions, and as of April 30, we have received \$16,629 in funds! A profound thank you to all of you who donated money, items, time, and service to this project. The children and families in our care will benefit directly from your generosity and kindness.

Closest Organizers Surprised on National Volunteer Appreciation Day



Linda Barnes, Sarah Greubel and Cathy Sing volunteer for the Methodist Family Health Foundation by organizing and sorting donations for our Get Up & Give donation closet. The children in our Fillmore psychiatric residential treatment center in Little Rock decorated these crosses for Linda, Sarah and Cathy, and the Foundation's staff surprised them with lavender cupcakes from Blue Cake Company. Without the help of these dedicated and talented women, our donation closet wouldn't have the necessities the children and families in our care need so much. Thank you to these volunteers and everyone who contributes their time, talent, and gifts to Methodist Family Health.



Methodist Family Health Seeks Team Members

If you have a passion for working with Arkansas children and families, Methodist Family Health has opportunities for you to make a positive difference today. We are hiring for the following positions:

- Behavioral Instructors
- Outpatient, School-Based, Day Treatment and Residential Therapists
- Nurses - RNs, LPNs, Nurse Supervisors
- Maintenance
- Housekeeper

- Cook
- Clinical Director
- Residential and Day Treatment Program Director
- Teaching Parents
- Child Development Associates
- Qualified Behavioral Health Provider
- Director of Infection Control and Employee Health

To apply or for more information, visit [MethodistFamily.org](https://www.methodistfamily.org) and click on [Careers](#).

Pastors Lead the Charge for Get Up & Give in Local United Methodist Churches



Rev. Annie Lankford (center) with Nancy Maggs (left) and Donna Drury (right) with North Little Rock First United Methodist Church, and Rev. Nathan Kilbourne with his daughter, Eleanor, from Jacksonville First United Methodist Church delivered donations from their churches to Methodist Family Health during its annual Lenten collection project, Get Up & Give. These items collected and contributed by United Methodist Church members provide necessities for the Arkansas children and families in our care. Without their support, we would not be able to give those in our care the support they need to do well as they progress.

Grants Help Support Various Programs Within Methodist Family Health



Since July 1, 2020, the Methodist Family Health Foundation has been awarded more than \$200,000 in grants. These grants help support everything from our Little Rock Day Treatment art program to the Methodist Children's Home playground improvements on the Fillmore campus in Little Rock. However, this total above does not include the \$950,000 challenge grant for the new Mike Millar Spiritual Life Center from The J. E. and L.E. Mabee Foundation, Inc. The Foundation is waiting to hear about several grants, which have been submitted and will help fund additional programs within the Methodist Family Health statewide continuum of care.

Grants received to date include:

- Arkansas Arts Council for the in-school art program at Little Rock Day Treatment and summer art program at Little Rock Psychiatric Residential Treatment Center
- Arkansas Economic Development Commission for personal protective equipment (PPE) for COVID-19
- Christ of the Hills United Methodist Church for Fillmore campus playground improvements in Little Rock
- The Charles A. Frueauff Foundation for the in-school art program at Little Rock Day Treatment and summer art program at Little Rock Psychiatric Residential Treatment Center
- The Magale Foundation, Inc. for Magale Manor Home repairs
- The Methodist Foundation of Arkansas for replacement of 32 digital cameras at Methodist Behavioral Hospital in Maumelle as well as contributions to our Bible Fund
- The Starr Foundation for Fillmore campus playground improvements in Little Rock
- W.P. Sturgis Foundation for Arkansas CARES





Methodist Family Health Foundation Honors United Methodist Churches for Their Generosity

Traditionally, the Methodist Family Health Foundation annually awards to two churches in the Arkansas Conference, per district, the Volunteer Award and the Generosity Award. Faced with the challenges of COVID-19 this past year and the lack of in-person volunteer opportunities, the Foundation chose to only recognize the Generosity Award. Congratulations to our award winners throughout Arkansas! We appreciate your support, dedication, and partnership.



Methodist Behavioral Hospital Celebrates 20th Anniversary

On May 10, Methodist Family Health celebrated the 20th anniversary of Methodist Behavioral Hospital in Maumelle. Throughout our continuum of care, our locations enjoyed cupcakes and other sweet treats. The hospital will continue to celebrate throughout the year.



Girl Scouts Give Delicious Donation

Shari Willding, the hospital administrator at Methodist Behavioral Hospital in Maumelle, accepts boxes of cookies donated by Lesley Roberts and Girl Scouts - Diamonds of Arkansas, Oklahoma and Texas. These donated cookies also were distributed to the Little Rock Day Treatment School and the Fillmore campus in Little Rock. Everyone was thrilled to receive the cookies for their sites



Southern



BENEFITING
Methodist Family Health

**Saddle Up and Save the Date for the
Southern Silks Stakes**

**Ride to the Rescue of Children and Families in Arkansas
8th Annual Southern Silks Stakes Benefits
Methodist Family Health throughout Arkansas**

Methodist Family Health will saddle up its stable of stick ponies in 2021 to help raise funds to rebuild the lives of Arkansas children and families. Southern Silks Stakes, the organization's signature fundraiser, is set for 6 p.m. at Embassy Suites by Hilton Little Rock, 11301 Financial Centre Parkway on Sat., Sept. 18, 2021.

This faux horse race soiree includes thoroughbred stick horses jockeyed by sponsors and their guests, celebrity color commentators, prizes for winners of each race, a Southern-styled dinner and libations, live and silent auctions, a hat contest, and much, much more.

For sponsorship opportunities, tickets or more information, contact Jamie Griffith, Foundation project manager, at JGriffith@MethodistFamily.org or 501-906-4209.





Support Methodist Family Health Foundation

Your donation helps the Arkansas children and their families in our care. Will you give today to those in our care who are abandoned, abused, neglected and suffering psychiatric, behavioral, emotional and spiritual issues? Here are easy ways to give:

- **Text GIVE** to 501-881-2258 to initiate a donation you can easily manage on the go.
- Donate **online** now using our secure online donation form.
- **Call** 501-906-4201 to make a secure contribution with your debit or credit card.
- **Mail** your cash or check donation to:
 - Methodist Family Health Foundation
 - P.O. Box 56050
 - Little Rock, AR 72215-6050.
- **PayPal** app. To donate via PayPal.com, click [here](#).
- **Venmo** app. To donate via Venmo.com, click [here](#).

Methodist Family Health SENTINEL *a publication of the [Methodist Family Health Foundation](#)*

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The Sentinel is published 12 times a year.

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Methodist Family Health is the management company of:

- Methodist Children's Home
- Methodist Behavioral Hospital
- Methodist Counseling Clinics
- Arkansas CARES

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**The mission of Methodist Family Health is
to give the best possible care
to those who may need our help.**

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