Issue 24 | April 2022



## News & Updates from Methodist Family Health Foundation

SENTINEL

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# 2022 Bible & Summer Camp



## Campaign Provides Bibles, Summer Camp to Children and Families in Methodist Family Health's Care

Methodist Family Health's Pastoral Care Director, Rev. Eva Englert-Jessen, is focusing this year's bible studies around being made in God's image. She says:

"A big focus of the bible studies in 2022 is what it means to be made in God's image. Many of the kids and teens in the care of Methodist Family Health come from traumatic or difficult circumstances that make it hard to remember their belovedness; to remember that they are made in God's good and loving image, and nothing will change that."

Providing each child with a personal bible, bible storybook, or teen bible allows them to work on their spiritual growth along with study and church attendance.

Another highly anticipated event has returned post-pandemic, the Rev. Robert Regnier Memorial Summer Camp at Camp Tanako on Lake Catherine in Hot Springs. With a focus on having fun, the children at Methodist Family Health will experience this fun just like any other kid who goes to camp.

To help the Methodist Family Health Foundation provide joyful experiences and a life filled with promise, please donate to our Bible and Camp Fund. Several options are available for giving:

• **ONLINE** at <u>MethodistFamily.org/Donate</u> (choose bible fund or camp fund in the drop-down designation box)

• **CALL** Christy at 501-906-4201 to make a secure donation over the phone using your debit or credit card

• **MAIL** a check made payable to Methodist Family Health Foundation and addressed to P.O. Box 56050, Little Rock, Arkansas 72215. Please note bibles and/or camp in the memo field

• **PLACE** an offering in the collection plate at church for Methodist Family Health Foundation. Please note bibles and/or camp on your check or offering envelope

• **PAYPAL** @MethodistFamily

• VENMO @MFHFoundation

After two years of Covid restrictions, the children are in need of knowledge and comfort from God's word and the fellowship and excitement of camp. Together, we can strengthen their foundation in God today and for the future.

# LIGHT BEARERS

## **Definition of Philanthropy - Bill and Karon Mann**

Reprinted courtesy of *Inviting Arkansas*, Photography by Britney Logan



Bill and Karon Mann

There was a time in his life that Bill Mann, president of the board of operations at Methodist Family Health, felt his career as a lawyer did not really help people. "This is when I began volunteering," explains Bill. His wife Karon is also active and engaged in the United Methodist Church as a member of the board of directors and delegate on the national denomination level. She expounds on their faith and how it guides them in civic leadership. "My Christian faith inspires me to give of my time and money." Bill adds "Jesus said when you feed someone or take care of them, you also do for him. I feel like philanthropy allows me to do this." The results of Bill's professional unrest and their steadfast Christian beliefs continue to improve the lives of fellow Arkansans.

Bill and Karon select organizations that reflect their family's values. "I am drawn to Methodist Family Health because the work gives children who come from difficult circumstances a chance to have a better life," Karon adds, "We believe that supporting and strengthening families builds a stronger community." The Methodist Family Health mission provides a unique portfolio of programs and resources for the children and families of Arkansas. "I love their complete dedication to rebuilding lives," Karon states, "They truly fill a gap in Arkansas." Their consistent commitment to Methodist Family Health has made a significant impact for clients at Methodist Children's Home, Methodist Behavioral Hospital, Methodist Counseling Clinics, and Arkansas CARES (Center for Addictions Research, Education, and Services).

Methodist Family Health is not the only organization that benefits from the Manns' generosity. Bill and Karon share their time and resources with a wide variety of humanitarian-devoted groups. "I am originally from Central Arkansas and have always lived here. It is my home and I want to give back," Bill explains. The same is true for Karon. The couple is also devoted to Miracle League of Arkansas, Family Promise of Pulaski County, Arkansas Food Bank, Family Promise, UAMS Psychiatry Department, Camp Aldersgate and Arkansas Advocates for Children & Families. The Manns believe these organizations increase the results of their gifts – reaching underserved, sometimes overlooked, demographics.

This philosophy is impressive, but even more, touching is the conviction and nearness that the Manns feel. Bill and Karon are especially passionate about the special needs of children, homelessness, food insecurity, and mental healthcare. "Due to our son's experience with mental illness, mental healthcare is very important to me," explains Bill.

The Manns' genuine desire to really help individuals – which is the actual definition of philanthropy – makes Bill and Karon exemplary examples of lives devoted to philanthropy.



## Martha Circle Makes and Donates More Fleece Blankets to Methodist Family Health Foundation



Blankets made and donated by Martha Circle from Christ of the Hills Methodist Church

The ladies of Christ of the Hills Methodist Church have been busy gathering and sewing blankets for the children in our care at Methodist Family Health. We visited Martha Circle group on a cold, rainy day in March and were treated to a warm welcome and the opportunity to watch them work.

Each blanket is made of carefully selected fleece, clipped and trimmed with fringe. They told us how much they enjoy the process, from shopping to gathering and finishing. We expressed to them how comfortable the blankets are and how valuable they are to each of the children, some of whom have never owned their own blanket. Methodist Family Health Foundation Executive Director Amanda Smith, CFRE, and Director of Development Bec Dwyer-Coop visited with Martha Circle in March and collected 60 blankets.

## Arise! Shine! and Get Up and Give



*Rev. Dr. Michael Mattox, church relations coordinator for Methodist Family Health Foundation, and the United Methodist Women of Elm Springs United Methodist Church in northwest Arkansas* 



Becky Kossover, board member for Methodist Family Health Foundation, delivers items for Get Up and Give from Trinity United Methodist Church in Little Rock

*Rev. Dr. Michael Mattox accepting \$500 check from the Elm Springs United Methodist Women* 



Assortment of classic books dropped of by members of Lakeside United Methodist Church in Lake Village, Arkansas



Items ordered online by donors and shipped directly to Methodist Family Health Foundation

Because of the generosity, kindness, and energy of donors and volunteers like some of those pictured above, Methodist Family Health Foundation has raised just over \$8,000.00 as well as many other necessities for the Arkansas children in our care. The money raised will provide items like toiletries such as shampoo, deodorant, and body wash as well as school supplies and uniforms, underwear, feminine hygiene products and so much more! **THANK YOU** for helping those in our care get a fresh start.

If you, your small group, church or organization have collected items for this year's project, please deliver them to the Methodist Family Health Counseling Clinic closest to you. Items are accepted Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. at the following locations:

- Alma: 1209 Hwy 71N, Suite B, Alma, AR 72921; phone 479-632-1022
- Batesville: 500 E. Main St., Suite 310, Batesville, AR 72501; phone 870-569-4890
- Fayetteville: 74 W. Sunbridge Dr., Fayetteville, AR 72703; phone 479-582-5565
- Heber Springs: 515 W. Main St., Heber Springs, AR 72543; phone 501-365-3022
- Hot Springs: 100 Ridgeway, Suite 5, Hot Springs, AR 71901; phone 501-318-6066
- Jonesboro: 2239 S. Caraway, Suite M, Jonesboro, AR 72401; phone 870-910-3757
- Little Rock: 1600 Aldersgate Road, Suite 100B, Little Rock, AR 72205; phone 501-906-4201
- Magnolia: 621 E. North St., Magnolia, AR 71753; phone 870-234-0739

## Need a Tax Receipt for Your Donation?

White Copy: Donor Yellow Copy: Foundation
FAMILY HEALTH FOUNDATION
Date:
With our thanks, this receipt acknowledges your gift of donated goods. Thank you for your generosity!
Sincerely,
amanda Smith
Amanda Smith, CFRE, Executive Director Methodist Family Health Foundation
•••••••
Church/Business/Organization:
Contact Name:
Contact Email:
Contact Phone:
Contact Address:
Description of Items Donated:
Once again this year, our Amazon and Walmart.com shopping and delivery options were a big success! If you ordered online and would like a tax receipt for your donation, please contact Christy McCreight, Methodist Family Health Foundation office manager and volunteer coordinator, at <u>cmccreight@methodistfamily.org</u> or 501-906-4201.

You can also email Christy a scan of your order form and invoice, and she will send a receipt for your contributions to you.

Methodist Family Health Seeks Professionals Who Shine



Methodist Family Health has more than 50 available job opportunities for professionals who love children and want to see them thrive. These immediate openings are for entrylevel through leadership positions available in full-time, part-time, and contract shifts. If you or someone you know is looking for a career to help Arkansas children and their families who are abandoned, abused, neglected, and struggling with psychiatric, behavioral, emotional, and spiritual issues, Methodist Family Health has positions available throughout the state to fit your career needs. To learn more or to apply, visit our <u>Careers</u> page. For more information, call 501-661-0720 or email <u>HumanResources@MethodistFamily.org</u>.

Available positions include:

- Nurses nurse managers, nurse supervisors, RNs, LPNs, and pool
- Therapists school-based therapists, outpatient therapists, acute clinical therapists, residential treatment center therapists, recreational therapists, day treatment therapists, and program coordinators
- Direct Care lead teaching parents, alternate teaching parents, behavioral instructors, supervised independent living residential assistant, qualified behavioral health providers, program consultants, and case managers
- Program Support cooks, housekeepers, and maintenance

Methodist Family Health offers these benefits and incentives:

- Medical PPO or HDHP
- Telemedicine
- Flexible spending account for PPO
- Health savings account for HDHP
- Dependent care account
- Dental and vision coverage
- Life insurance 100 percent of premium paid by Methodist Family Health
- Voluntary term life insurance (optional)
- Short-term and long-term disability (optional)
- Cancer, accident and critical illness plans (optional)
- Employee assistance program (EAP)
- Full-time, part-time and contract positions available
- Competitive wages
- Sign-on and retention bonuses for applicable positions
- Excellent opportunities for advancement
- Tuition assistance
- Public service loan forgiveness (PSLF)
- 401(k) with employer match once eligibility is met, the employer match is 100
  percent of the first one percent deferred and 50 percent of the next five percent
  deferred by the employee
- Generous personal time off (PTO)
- Wellness program grand prize is paid, employee-only medical insurance premium for a limited time
- Discount on joining 10 Fitness
- Tickets at Work program

- · Appreciation events for employees throughout the year
- Discounted cafeteria meals for employees at inpatient programs
- Full benefits for employees working 30 hours or more as well as weekend-only direct care positions
- Locations in Bono, Fayetteville, Helena-West Helena, Jonesboro, Little Rock, Magnolia, and Maumelle
- Housing provided for some residential positions



## **Spiritually Speaking**



by Rev. Eva Englert-Jessen, director of pastoral care, Methodist Family Health

I often say or write that when I leave one of the three regular bible studies, I teach at various Methodist Family Health (MFH) locations during the week, I feel inspired. When I



hear the things that children and adults share with me during our time together, I feel renewed or strengthened in some way, or like I've learned or re-learned something I needed to hear that day. I learn or am impacted as much (if not more) from them as I hope they do from me.

One of my bible study participants recently shared about both the joy and fear they are experiencing as they prepare to leave MFH and go home and into the world. "I'm scared that I won't be able to do it," they said to me.

How human. How understandable. How real it is to feel scared to enter a new phase of the journey.

I admire the courage and vulnerability this person shared with me and our group, in reflecting honestly about what a big step this is. I also believe that the level of emotion this person is experiencing already indicates to me that they are more than capable of continuing their commitment to transformation and change. They care so deeply that their heart and body are anticipating it, and they want to do well; to continue the road they have begun walking.

I think all of us are in places or seasons of transition just about all the time, whether or not we realize it. We are always in a place where we are capable of shedding old things that do not serve us can be shed and unlearned. Are we willing to do so? We are also always in a place where new life, new ways of being, and new appreciation for all that we have been given in this life can emerge. Will we let them? Sometimes, we experience this thin line between old and new or death and life in acute or extreme ways: in the loss of a loved one or a change in a relationship; in a new job or opportunity for us or for someone we live with or are close to; in facing or processing our own trauma, mental or physical health challenges; or while living in times of chaos, war or violence.

I think God (or whatever language for love, peace, or something grounding beyond you that is helpful for you) meets them and all of us in these places of vulnerability. When things are beyond our control, God grieves with us and shares our anger, confusion, doubt, and questions. What hurts our hearts hurts God's heart.

When we are in a position where we can make changes in our lives for the better, God delights in us when we say yes to living in a way that honors the love with which we have been created. God walks alongside us when the journey feels impossible. And God equips us when it's time to enter a new season; to put into practice all that we have been learning (or un-learning) or letting go. The Christian season of Lent gives us language for this journey, as well; this journey of death and life.

Praise God for the many clients in our care who commit to hard work of self-care, self-reflection, and learning a new way to be in the world as we all navigate a challenging world. Praise be for the miracle that it is when someone says, "I need help. I need to change. I will commit to this." And praise be for the staff and supporters who join them on the commitment to transformation.

Where are you experiencing change or transition right now? How do you experience God, Spirit, or a sense of peace with you on the journey? Who is helping you?

Methodist Family Health Foundation's Church Relations Associate Attends 2022 Veritas



Rev. Dr. Michael Mattox, Methodist Health Foundation's church relations associate, with attendees at this year's Veritas

Rev. Dr. Mattox represented Methodist Family Health at the Veritas Youth Conference in Rogers, AR on March 25-27, the first major gathering for United Methodist youth of Arkansas since the outbreak began.

As Rev. Dr. Mattox explained, "the word veritas means truth, and that's what you are looking for. The truth is that you are enough. You are beautiful. You are gifted."

Prior to showing the video designed to promote Methodist Family Health, Rev. Dr. Mattox discussed the many services and supports available to youth, families and friends.

To watch the video, click this link: <u>https://youtu.be/Ht5H1Y3Ly9o</u>.

### **Children in Our Care Seek Your Prayers**



The Arkansas children and youth in our care submitted the following prayer requests for their loved ones and themselves. Would you remember them in your hearts and prayers?

• Thank you, Ms. Belk

- May I wake up in the morning
- That I may do good in sports
- For Spots
- · For my friends and family
- For me
- For my nana
- For my mom, brothers and sisters



## **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:

- 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

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