

FEBRUARY 2022 · ISSUE 1

## LIGHT BEARERS



### Arkansas's United Methodist Churches Shine Light of Peace, Stability and Hope

Methodist Family Health Foundation recognizes the essential connection between the local church and the transformational ministry of caring for children and their families. Since 1899, Methodist Family Health has helped rebuild the lives of Arkansas children and their families. These children have been abandoned, abused, neglected, and are dealing with psychiatric, behavioral, emotional and spiritual issues. For more than 122 years, the connection with local churches has been strong, and together, we strive to make the bond even stronger.

Each year, hundreds of congregations across Arkansas enter bold partnerships with Methodist Family Health Foundation to make the continuum of care as effective and broad-based as it is today. Methodist Family Health receives no apportionment support from the Arkansas Conference of the United Methodist Church. Instead, we rely heavily on our individual partnerships with local churches. Church congregations find ways, literally, of being "the hands and feet of Jesus" as children and their families are cared for and even transformed from the brokenness they have suffered.

Arkansas congregations step up to the front lines when they reach out to Methodist Family Health Foundation at Christmastime and myriads of other ways,

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Amanda Bolls Smith



Michael Mattox



Eva Englert-Jessen

## METHODIST FAMILY HEALTH PROMOTES SMITH, ADDS MATTOX, ENGLERT-JESSEN TO TEAM

Methodist Family Health recently promoted Amanda Bolls Smith, CFRE to executive director of Methodist Family Health Foundation, and it hired Rev. Dr. Michael Mattox as church relations associate and Rev. Eva Englert-Jessen as director of pastoral care.

Amanda Smith is a native Arkansan, born and raised in Little Rock. She grew up in Pulaski Heights United Methodist Church and graduated from Little Rock Central High School. She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in sociology with a minor in psychology. Smith went on to work at an advertising firm in Little Rock then moved to a position with the March of Dimes where, she says, she "accidentally fell" into the nonprofit and fundraising world. Now, 21 years later, Smith cannot imagine being in any other profession, as the nonprofit world is in her heart and blood.

Over the course of those 21 years, Smith worked for several local nonprofits, raising funds and awareness for their missions, including American Heart Association, Baptist Health Foundation and now Methodist Family Health Foundation. Smith has been with Methodist Family Health Foundation for more than two years and absolutely loves the mission and scope of her work. She is honored to play a role in developing partnerships and helping to raise necessary funds which provides needed care and therapy for children and families across Arkansas. Smith recently earned her certification as a fundraising executive and was formerly the director of development at Methodist Family Health Foundation.

Rev. Dr. Mattox has a Doctor of Ministry from Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, TX; a Master of Divinity from St. Paul School of Theology in Kansas City, MO; and a Bachelor of Arts in religion from Hendrix College in Conway, AR.

Retiring in 2020, Rev. Dr. Mattox most recently served as senior pastor at First United Methodist Church in Rogers, AR. In addition to this appointment, Rev. Dr. Mattox also served at First United Methodist Church in Hot Springs, First United Methodist Church of Little Rock, and was the district superintendent for the Arkansas Episcopal Area of the United Methodist Church in Little Rock. He also most recently served on the operations board of directors at Methodist Family Health.

Rev. Englert-Jessen is a third-generation clergywoman in the United Methodist Church. In June 2021, she became an ordained deacon in the Methodist church, and she has a Master of Divinity from Boston University School of Theology and a bachelors from Hendrix College in Conway.



# LATEST NEWS & EVENTS

## Methodist Family Health Foundation Welcomes New Members to Board of Directors

Methodist Family Health Foundation recently added new members to its board of directors. They are:



**John Borchert**  
CPA, Little Rock



**Jean Crume**  
Retired Social Worker, Little Rock



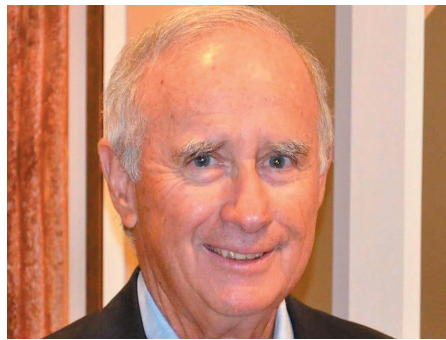
**Brenda B. Gullett**  
Retired from Brenda Gullett Associates, Fayetteville



**Bill Mann**  
Senior Litigation Counsel with Arkansas Municipal League and Board Chair of Methodist Family Health Operations Board, Little Rock



**Anne Nelson**  
Library Media Specialist with Clarksville Middle School, Clarksville



**Don Riggan**  
Principal of Riggan and Associates and retired CEO of National Arthritis Foundation, Little Rock



**Sandy Maxwell Smith, RN, PhD**  
Professor and Program Director of Emergency Management at Arkansas Tech University, Little Rock

## LIGHT BEARERS

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shining a light on what might otherwise be a dark and lonely hour. The continuum of care involves many ways of meeting a child at his or her greatest point of need. Whether that be school based counseling clinics or day treatment programs; the Kaleidoscope Grief Center or the Methodist Behavioral Hospital; the Arkansas CARES program or group homes throughout the state, the local church finds it can provide quality care for children and their families when partnering with Methodist Family Health Foundation.

Some local churches receive Christmas offerings on the Sundays before Christmas or Christmas Eve. Other churches get involved with making blankets and providing gifts for children who might otherwise have nothing. Other churches come alongside Methodist Family Health Foundation at various times of the year, providing necessities such as clothes, shoes, personal hygiene items, school supplies, bedding and more through the Get Up and Give Campaign.

What all that teaches us here at Methodist Family Health Foundation is that we are on the front lines together—caring for children and their families in the way Jesus taught us. Through those financial gifts and those countless deeds of kindness, we are responding boldly to Jesus's teaching: "For I was hungry, and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me." (Matthew 25:35, NRSV) We at Methodist Family Health Foundation appreciate our church partners. Your presence in this ministry makes all the difference in the world, especially for our children, and helps Methodist Family Health rebuild the lives of children and families in Arkansas. Thank you for sharing your light with children and families in need.



## Share Your Light During 13th Annual Get Up & Give

With the holidays behind us and the 40 days of Lent just ahead, Methodist Family Health Foundation has a way for Arkansans to honor the Lenten season: sharing your light of peace, stability and hope with our state's children and families who are abandoned, abused, neglected and managing psychiatric, behavioral, emotional and spiritual issues.

Churches, small groups, workplaces, organizations and individuals can share the light of belonging, self-worth and love by donating necessities to the Arkansas children and families in the care of Methodist Family Health. From Ash Wednesday on March 2, 2022 to Easter on Sunday, April 17, we ask Arkansans to gather the following necessities, purchase them online or donate funds to purchase them and deliver to the closest Methodist Counseling Clinic in their community. For a complete list of items, please see the insertion in this newsletter.





**Amanda Smith**, CFRE, Executive Director

**Kelli Reep**, APR, Director of Communications

**Jamie Griffith**, Foundation Project Manager

**Christy McCreight**, Office Manager & Volunteer Coordinator

**Rev. Dr. Michael Mattox**, Church Relations Associate

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Little Rock, AR 72205  
501.906.4209

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**MethodistFamily.org**

Methodist Family Health is the management company of:

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

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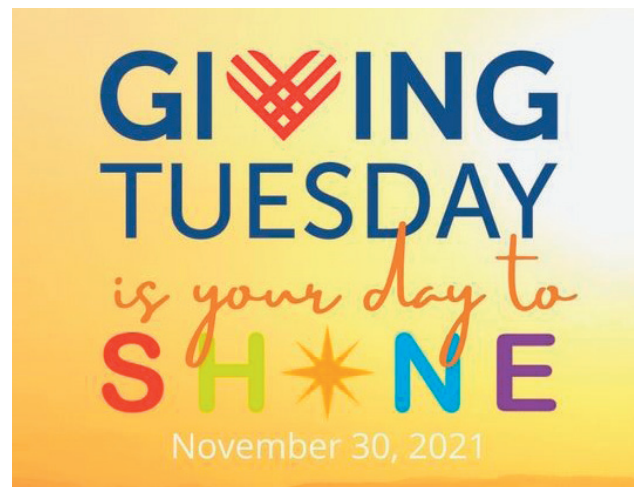
Cleifton Vaughan - emeritus, Little Rock

Don Weaver, Conway

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

## Goal Achieved During 2021 Giving Tuesday

Giving Tuesday was November 30, 2021. Because of the generosity of donors like you, Methodist Family Health Foundation raised approximately \$5,000 from more than 30 contributors. The funds will be included in the 2021 Share the Light Christmas Appeal.



## 2021 Share the Light Christmas Appeal a Success Because of Supporters Like You

Donors and supporters like you have shared your light of peace, stability and hope with the Arkansas children and families in our care. To date, more than \$337,330 by 794 contributors has been given to Methodist Family Health Foundation to help those in the care of Methodist Family Health throughout the state who are abandoned, abused, neglected and struggling with psychiatric, behavioral, emotional and spiritual issues.



Methodist Family Health Foundation's Share the Light Christmas Appeal is its most important fundraising campaign of the year. Methodist Family Health receives no apportionment support from the Arkansas Conference of the United Methodist Church; instead, we rely heavily on donations made through this special offering at Christmas. Contributions are used to support the Arkansas children and families who receive care from Methodist Family Health's programs and services, including inpatient psychiatric hospitalization, outpatient counseling clinics, grief counseling services, psychiatric residential treatment centers, therapeutic group homes, and so much more. By sharing the light of peace, stability and hope with the Arkansas children and their families in our care, our donors' light shines brighter.

## Methodist Family Health Employees Contribute Almost \$40,000.00

The 2021 Methodist Family Health Employee Giving Campaign raised \$38,038.22 from 344 employee donors. During another challenging year of upheaval, this amount demonstrates the investment our team members have in our mission of providing the best possible care to those who may need our help.

Participating as an employee donor is easy. For \$5 per pay period, you will get to wear jeans on Friday (or an extra day of wearing jeans if you work the weekend option) and know you are helping the Arkansas children and families in our care receive the best possible care. If you would like to sign up or increase the contribution you are already making, contact Amanda Smith, CFRE, executive director of Methodist Family Health Foundation, at Amanda.Smith@MethodistFamily.org.







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11301 FINANCIAL CENTRE PKWY

TICKET AND SPONSOR INFORMATION AT  
METHODISTFAMILY.ORG/SOUTHERN-SILKS  
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 at [MethodistFamily.org](http://MethodistFamily.org) and clicking Donate
- Call 501-906-4201 to make a secure contribution with your debit or credit card
- Mail your cash or check donation to:  
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P.O. Box 56050  
Little Rock, AR 72215-6050
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