

### News & Updates from Methodist Family Health Foundation

Visit our Website

### Education Part of Methodist Family Health's Continuum of Care



Did you know part of our therapy at Methodist Family Health is to provide gradeappropriate education to the children and teens in our care? Throughout our continuum of care, Methodist Family Health offers teachers trained in special education to provide our children with the courses they would have

in their communities. In fact, we work directly with school districts throughout the state to develop individual learning plans for those in our behavioral hospital, psychiatric residential treatment facilities, therapeutic group homes, and therapeutic day treatment.

In many cases, the children and teens who enter Methodist Family Health programs have had several home placements within the care of the Department of Children and Family Services, which can cause these students to fall behind in their coursework. Methodist Family Health's teachers reach out to their hometown teachers to understand where our students are struggling so they can collaborate on a workable course of study. Within this framework, our teachers and students can begin where the students are most comfortable and build on their strengths. In many cases, particularly within our Little Rock Day Treatment program, the students catch up to their appropriate grade level and can reenter public school as prepared as other students in their grade.

Other times, the students in our care may be struggling with learning, psychiatric, behavioral, and emotional issues, which makes it difficult for them to learn in a standard classroom. By understanding these issues and how they present, our teachers can show our students ways to work around them so they can learn at their own pace in their own way.

To assist our students in both therapy and education, Methodist Family Health Foundation raises funds to provide equipment such as smartboards, Kindles, games, and school supplies so both our educators and students are equipped to make the most of their time in the classroom. The Foundation distributes funds and in-kind items acquired through events such as our Get Up & Give Lenten Collection Project, back-to-school drives, and grants to support classroom and education programs in our Methodist Behavioral Hospital in Maumelle, psychiatric residential treatment facilities in Bono and Little Rock, therapeutic group homes throughout the state, and therapeutic day treatment in Little Rock. In addition to these items, the Foundation also makes it possible for these locations to have games, art supplies, and field trips so our students can participate in a variety of experiences they may not otherwise have. Our compassion fund even makes it possible for those in our care to participate in music, sports, and other extracurricular pursuits to help in their overall therapy. Through this fund, we have purchased musical instruments, uniforms, trips, and other needs, which are possible because of donors who understand the value of a breadth of opportunity.

Our commitment to education for those in our care even extends to post-secondary school and training. The Methodist Family Health Foundation Scholarship provides educational financial assistance to qualified former or current residential clients. Scholarships are available for all semesters (depending on applicant eligibility and fund availability):

- Includes post-secondary programs in vocational/technical programs, trade schools, college, or graduate school.
- Submission of applications is recommended, but not required, 30 days prior to the first day of the semester.

The scholarship fund is made possible by the Olin C. Chambers Trust and the Gradelle Leigh Trust. More than \$397,000 in scholarships have been awarded since the first Methodist Family Health Foundation Scholarship was awarded in 2016.

If you are interested in learning how your donation can assist the children and teens in our care access the education they need and deserve, please reach out to Amanda Smith, CFRE, executive director of Methodist Family Health Foundation, at <u>amanda.smith@methodistfamily.org</u> or Bec Dwyer-Coop, director of development at <u>bdwyer-coop@methodistfamily.org</u>

# LIGHT BEARERS

### **Kathleen Kennally**



If lightning were to take human form, it would be Kathleen Kennally. An artist, innovator and tireless volunteer in the community, Kathleen has helped nonprofits in Arkansas raise funds to support critical missions. For Methodist Family Health, she is one of the founding committee members of our signature fundraiser, Southern Silks Stakes. Here is a little about her kindness, dedication, and purpose:

**Question:** What moves you to volunteer your time to so many nonprofits, including Methodist Family Health Foundation

**Answer:** When we moved to Little Rock, I wanted to get involved in the community. My husband and I do not have any children but are passionate about supporting

organizations which provide services for children. While we have worked very hard, we also know how fortunate we are to live the life we do. Our mission is to share some of this good fortune with children who are sick, abandoned, or in need of special services. Nothing makes me happier than to see this support come to fruition. In addition, I have a lot of energy, and I do not mind soliciting for donations, love the creative part of the event, and there is a top-notch staff and volunteer committee for Southern Silks Stakes.

**Question:** Why do you participate each year in our signature fundraiser, Southern Silks Stakes?

**Answer:** I have volunteered for Southern Silks Stakes since its inception. It's one of my favorite events. I love the originality and creativity it brings to a fundraiser and the participation of the committee members. It's a great way to educate the community about Methodist Family Health Foundation while also having some fun.

Question: What is your favorite thing about this fundraiser?

**Answer**: The uniqueness of the event. There's nothing else like it in Little Rock. The atmosphere is electric, and attendees are just as excited about their stick horses winning as those at the Kentucky Derby are about thoroughbreds running for the roses there.

Question: If you could change one thing about Southern Silks Stakes, what would it be?

**Answer:** Make it bigger! People love this event, and more would attend if they could be accommodated. My husband and I have a table every year, and we always have more people who want to attend than we have seats at the table!

Question: For what other nonprofits do you volunteer?

**Answer:** I'm a past president and auction chair for AEDD, I chaired CARTI's "All That Jazz" for several years, and my husband and I previously coached Miracle League as well.

**Question:** What is something you know about Methodist Family Health that you think Arkansans would be surprised to learn?

**Answer:** The vast array of services it offers. While it was originally founded as an orphanage well over a hundred years ago, it has expanded to offer psychiatric treatment, grief counseling, treatment for maternal substance abuse, and much more. Another thing that sets Methodist Family Health apart in the community is the caliber and dedication of the volunteers and staff I have worked with. They are all professionals with busy lives yet find time to donate their time and resources to help this fundraiser and the organization be successful. I also am impressed with the support and participation provided from this Foundation's board.

# Latest news & events

Methodist Family Health Foundation Seeks Donations to Help Ensure a Merry Christmas for Children, Families in Our Care



Methodist Family Health provides Christmas gifts for at least 250 clients around the state, but that number is growing each year. Each of our services within our continuum of care participates in this Christmas gift program, and our clients in need make wish lists for gifts, which average about \$150 per list. Wishes can range from essentials such as clothing and hygiene products to wants like a bike, games, or an electronic tablet. Unfortunately, the funds in our Christmas program do not cover every list, and Methodist Family Health must purchase more than half of the gifts provided to the clients. Also, many children and families come into our care at the last minute, which does not allow us the opportunity to provide for their specific requests prior to Christmas Day.

With your financial gift, Methodist Family Health Foundation can make Christmas a reality for Arkansas children and their families who may have never experienced what Christmas is like. When you share your light of peace, stability, and hope, you share joy with those in our care who are abandoned, abused, neglected and struggling with psychiatric, behavioral, emotional, and spiritual issues.

Will you share your light with the Arkansas children and families in our care by contributing to the *Fund to Purchase Christmas Presents*? Here are some easy ways to do so:

- Donate online now using our <u>secure online donation form</u>. In the designation box, choose Christmas Presents Southern Silks.
- Call Christy at 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, Arkansas 72215-6050
  - Please write **PRESENTS** in the memo field
- PayPal @MethodistFamily
- Venmo @MFHFoundation

Inspired by Dollar Down, Sheridan United Methodist Church Generates Big Supplies for Get Up and Give



Sheridan United Methodist Church's creative thinking led the congregation and community to ante up during Methodist Family Health Foundation's Get Up and Give Lenten Collection project, which occurs each year during Lenten season.

Social Action Coordinator Becky Ross organized the group, which selected five bath and personal hygiene products. They launched the initiative during Ash Wednesday services, after supper. During service, a collection was held for the project.

Afterwards, the Sheridan United Methodist Church members gathered in the hall where five focus items were placed on tables. As with Aldersgate's Dollar Down initiative, the tables included a dollar collected from the services as well as small cards describing the focus items needed for individuals to take with them when shopping later.

The committee encouraged participation in ALL of the church's communications. According to Zoe Hines, "to our surprise (over three weeks), we received four large Amazon boxes full of our focus items sent by an anonymous donor." The congregation just kept giving.

As a result of the campaign, a truck full of items was delivered to the Methodist Family Health Foundation. Hines says they had fun collecting, purchasing, counting and packing.

Has your congregation or civic organization implemented a creative fundraising campaign or event we should know about? Please contact us so we can celebrate with you. You can reach out to Methodist Family Health Foundation Director of Development Bec Dwyer-Coop at 501-906-4202 or <u>bdwyer-coop@methodistfamily.org</u> if you have any ideas, pictures, or would like us to visit you.

Collection Presented to Methodist Family Health Foundation at 2022 Mission U



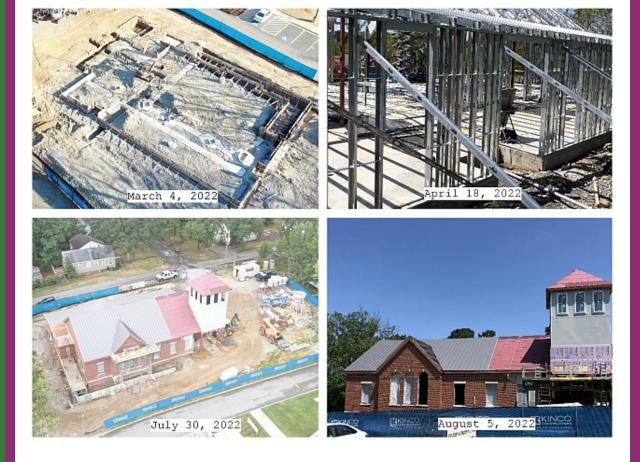


See these beautiful people? Every one of them contributed to Methodist Family Health Foundation in some way during the Arkansas Conference of The United Methodist Church's 2022 Mission U. Arkansas's United Women in Faith collected necessities for the Arkansas children and families in our care, and the children and teens attending Mission U helped sort, pack and load these items for a trip to our collections closet in Little Rock. A check for \$1,150.00 was also sent to the Methodist Family

Health Foundation.

Every one of these gifts will help an Arkansan in our care realize their value in our community. Thank you all for your generosity, kindness and assistance.

Mike Millar Spiritual Life Center on Track for Completion this Fall



Photos Courtesy of Kinco Constructors and Methodist Family Health

Construction is nearing completion on the new Mike Millar Spiritual Life Center, which is being built on our oldest campus in Little Rock.

Methodist Family Health Foundation launched a capital campaign in 2019 to raise \$4,256,175 to construct the Mike Millar Spiritual Life Center on our Little Rock Fillmore campus. With funds pledged and secured, groundbreaking occurred in October 2021.

The new multipurpose building is named in honor of Mike Millar, a devout United Methodist and noted attorney in Searcy as well as a longtime board chair, board member, donor and supporter of Methodist Family Health. The new building will include a chapel, multipurpose space, a welcome center, and office space for all Methodist Children's Home administrators. Additionally, the center will include an outdoor labyrinth for prayer and meditation, new landscaping and additional parking. The building will be 5,118 sq. ft. and is scheduled for completion this fall.

We thank all donors to this capital campaign who made the Mike Millar Spiritual Life Center a reality. Because of your partnership and generosity, the Arkansas children and families in our care will have access to a state-of-the-art welcome center, spirituality space and multipurpose building.

> Methodist Family Health Launches Redesigned Website



On June 30, Methodist Family Health launched the redesign of its website, MethodistFamily.org. The new look featured the organization's SHINE campaign, which debuted last year. New features in the site include a search function, a continuum-wide blog, downloadable resources like our Guide to Methodist Family Health, and more.

Visit the site at <a href="https://www.MethodistFamily.org">https://www.MethodistFamily.org</a>





## **LET'S GET READY FOR SCHOOL!**



#### WOULD YOU CONTRIBUTE THESE ITEMS FOR OUR STUDENTS?

- 1 INCH 3-RING BINDERS
- 2 INCH 3-RING BINDERS
- 3-PRONG FOLDERS WITH POCKETS 

   BLACK/BLUE/RED INK PENS
- COMPOSITION NOTEBOOKS
- BLACK SHARPIES
- YELLOW HIGHLIGHTERS
- BACKPACKS

- PACKAGES OF:
  - MULTI-COLORED PENS

  - FINE TIP MARKERS
  - O BROAD TIP MARKERS
  - COLORED PENCILS
  - CRAYONS
  - CONSTRUCTION PAPER
  - WIDE-RULED, LOOSE-LEAF PAPER
  - INDEX CARDS

PLEASE BRING BY YOUR DONATIONS ANYTIME BETWEEN 9 A.M. AND 4 P.M., MONDAY - FRIDAY, AT 1600 ALDERSGATE ROAD, SUITE 100, LITTLE ROCK, AR 72205. FOR QUESTIONS, INFORMATION OR TO SCHEDULE A DROP OFF. CONTACT CHRISTY McCREIGHT AT 501-906-4201 OR E-MAIL CMCCREIGHT@METHODISTFAMILY.ORG

> **Inaugural SHINE-OLA Concert Benefits Methodist Family Health**



On July 14, 11 bands featuring more than 30 performers rocked South on Main in downtown Little Rock – all to raise awareness of Methodist Family Health and what our continuum of care provides to our state as well as raise some funds for Methodist Family Health Foundation.

The sold-out concert was coordinated by Jason Lee Hale, an Arkansas singer-songwriter who wrote "This is the Time to Shine" for Methodist Family Health's Christmas appeal last year. Jason and his band, the Personal Space Invaders, were joined by The Mark Simpson Trio featuring Jure Baloh and Dave Hoffpauir, Cliff and Susan, Texas Rikki D, The Brian Nahlen Band, Griffin and Friends featuring Mudhead, Mark Currey, Paul Tull, Cherise Martini and The Peacekeepers, Billy Jeter and The Shine Eye Band, and Monsterboy Lives. All performers contributed their time and talent to the concert, even donating the tips from the evening to Methodist Family Health Foundation. As a result, more than \$1,100 was raised, which will help Methodist Family Health continue its mission to provide the best possible care to those who may need our help.

Our thanks and gratitude to all of the performers who participated in this event as well as to South on Main for hosting and to everyone who attended and made the event a success.

To see photos from the evening, visit our SHINE-OLA folder on Google Photos.

Jamie Griffith Promoted to Development Coordinator



Jamie Griffith recently was promoted from her position as Methodist Family Health Foundation project manager to development coordinator. Jamie began her career at Methodist Family Health Foundation in 2011 as an assistant, was promoted in 2012 to the Foundation's office manager and volunteer coordinator, then was promoted again to the Foundation's project manager in 2019. As development coordinator, Jamie is responsible for coordinating and implementing special events and strategic management of donor recognition and stewardship for Methodist Family Health Foundation. She also will assist in organizing and executing fundraising efforts, develop fundraising plans, participate in solving logistical issues, and collaborate with multiple colleagues and departments under the direction of the executive director for the Foundation.

Jamie earned a bachelor's degree from Hendrix College in Conway, Arkansas, and currently resides in Little Rock.

### **Spiritually Speaking**



By: Eva Englert-Jessen, Pastoral Care Director

Every week, I facilitate multiple spirituality groups with a variety of age groups, and every time I leave a group I walk away with a new learning or bit of inspiration.

A recent Holy Spirit moment for me: We (adults) so often assume that children or teens aren't spiritual because they don't use "the right language." But when given space to, the ways in which they discuss what delights them, what concerns them, and what makes them come alive is deeply spiritual language and wisdom. I love the way this teen described her spiritual journey-mysterious, joyous, even confusing sometimes; but always worth it. What a gift that she shared with me and all of us.

We can sometimes confine spirituality and spiritual practice to boxes that are often more hindrance than help-- but Spirit, God, meaning-making, whatever words are home for each of is-- is expansive. Thanks be.

### **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?

- My brother's illness.
- My dad is in the hospital.
- Prayers that I will be with a family soon.
- Prayers for my mom's mental health.
- I pray that I can get out of foster care.
- I think about my siblings all the time and pray for them.

Methodist Family Health Pastoral Care



### Spiritual Practice of the Month: Praying With the Breath

#### **Breath Prayer**

#### Putting this month's practices into your daily life

- Focus on your breath itself, without words. Notice what you feel in your body during the inhale and the exhale. Give thanks for your breath.
- 2) Try inhaling for four or six counts and exhaling for four or six counts. Think of an anchoring word or phrase as you breathe in and out. Or, try synchronizing your breath to your movements: try breathing in as you stretch upwards. Notice how you feel afterward.
- See the calendar on the second page for small spiritual practices you can do each day, especially related to this month's theme.

For many people of faith and people who practice spirituality, the breath is critically important. Psychologically speaking, paying attention to the breath and slowing down your breathing helps calm the mind, especially during times of stress. In Christian scripture, the breath is the movement of the Holy Spirit. The breath helps us to focus on prayer and meditation with less distraction.



Many people think that to begin a practice of paying attention to the breath requires a lot of time or paying for an expensive yoga class. But meditation or prayer does not have to require sitting for 20 minutes in complete silence. Most of us do not have the luxury of that kind of time! Centering prayer or meditation can look like 30 seconds of deep breathing while you sit at a stop light, take a bathroom break, or wait in line to get lunch.

#### **Try it Yourself**

See the suggestions to the left, from a book called *Beguiled by Beauty* by Wendy Farley. Adapt them for your own life and what feels home for you.

August 202			001	iptare d o	onnouri	Practice Ca	arender.	Diodili					
Sunday: Breathe		Monday: Contemplate		Tuesday: Prayer		Wednesday: Community		Thursday: Reflect		Friday: Connect		Saturday: Rest	
			1		2		3		4		5		6
		Scripture: Genesis 2:7 Practice: Get in the soil or the garden and remember your connection to creation.		Scripture: Psalm 33:6 Practice: Pray for a friend or loved one.		Scripture: Job 7:7 Practice: Ask yourself how you can participate in your community, even in small ways.		Scripture: Ecclesiastes 12:7 Practice: Let go of something today.		Scripture: Luke 3:22 Practice: Call or text someone you haven't talked to in a while and ask how you can support them.		Take some sabbath tim to rest today, even if it's just for an hour. Put dow your phone and do something grounding.	
	7		8		9		10		11		12		13
Breathe practice		Scripture: Ezekiel 37:8 Practice: Think about where new life is emerging for you.		Scripture: Psalm 144:4 Practice: Pray for teachers and school administrators who are getting ready for another school year.		Scripture: Acts 1:8 Practice: Greet a neighbor on your street.		Scripture: Isaiah 11:2 Practice: Tell yourself an affirmation when you wake up. Repeat it throughout your day.		Scripture: John 20.22 Practice: Have a necessary conversation with someone that you've been putting off.		Take some sabbath tim to rest today, even if it's just for an hour. Put dow your phone and do something grounding.	
	14		15		16		17		18		19		20
Breathe practice		Scripture: Galatians 5:22-23 Practice:How can you cultivate more love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, gentleness, or self-control?		Scripture: Romans 8:16 Practice: Pray for the leaders of our cities, nations, and world. Ask how you can be a leader.		Scripture: Psalm 104:30 Practice: Exchange a purchase for yourself for someone else.		Scripture: Numbers 11:31 Practice: Notice when you slip into 'scarcity mode'' today. Try to shift to an abundance perspective: You are enough. There is enough.		Scripture: Psalm 146:2 Practice: Start or revisit a gratitude practice with your family or friends.		Take some sabbath tim to rest today, even if it just for an hour. Put dov your phone and do something grounding.	
	21		22		23		24		25		26		27
Breathe practice		Scripture: Romans 8:26 Practice: Where do you feel or experience clarity or understanding even without having to talk about it?		Scripture: Luke 4: 16-21 Practice: Pray for the most vulnerable people of our communities		Scripture: Acts 4:32-35 Practice: Ask what you can contribute (your time, money, gifts, skills, effort) to build a caring community- whether at home, work, or in your neighborhood.		Scripture: 1 Corinthians 12:1-5 Practice: What gifts come naturally to you? Ask how you can offer them to the world today.		Scripture: John 14:15-17 Practice: Write a letter or visit someone sick or someone incarcerated.		Take some sabbath tim to rest today, even if it' just for an hour. Put dow your phone and do something grounding.	
	28		29		30		31						
		Scripture: Genesis 1:2 Practice: Consider how you have felt God's presence or a presence of hope lately. How can you respond?		Scripture: 2 Timothy 1:14 Practice: Pray for your own healing, hope and journey.		Prepare your mind and heart for next month. What do you want to focus on? What will sustain you?							





### **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 <u>Online</u> 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 @MethodistFamily
- Venmo @MFHFoundation

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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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Methodist Family Health Mission Statement: to give the best possible care to those who may need our help.