# the Children's Voice

A Publication of The Kentucky United Methodist Children's Homes • May/June 2022



Jon sits in front of the building he lived in as a teenager. Read about how he built the life he dreamed of on page 4.

CELEBRATING

150

YEARS OF HOPE -

May 29, 2022

OFFERING OF HOPE

for 5th Sunday



Bringing Hope to Children Since 1871



### From the President's Desk

by Julie Hager Love, President/CEO

I will never forget a request that Ruth Wiertzema, a staff member of Red Bird Missionary Conference, made at a conference I attended. She held up a windshield from a toy car and asked us to really look for children as we drove around our neighborhoods. She called us to value those children, to keep them in our prayers and to imagine how we could make a difference in their lives.

Seeing children and youth has been central to the history and mission of Kentucky United Methodist Children's Homes for over 150 years. From the very beginning, when Methodists were called by God to see orphans and widows after the Civil War, to the 1970s-1980s when we saw the need to care for youth who experienced abuse and neglect, to our more recent expansion of our community based services focused on prevention.

As we move into our future, we continue to see the needs of children, youth and families in our Commonwealth. We see trauma for all ages due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and Kentucky saw the

additional trauma of the horrific December tornados throughout the western part of our state.

We believe that every person is an individual of worth, entitled to God's gift of wholeness of life. We invite you to look out your windshield and see the children and youth in your community. Join us as we live out God's love by addressing the needs we see, making a difference in the lives of children and young people with our prayers and our actions.

Julilagiohu

#### the Children's Voice

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## Save the Date!



#### Accredited by:



#### **Our Belief**

We believe every individual is an individual of worth, entitled to God's gift of wholeness of life.

The Kentucky United Methodist Children's Homes is accredited through the national Council on Accreditation (COA).

We serve persons regardless of race, ethnicity, economic status, sex or religion.



Lemonade Stands Can Teach Life Lessons

by Corrie Merricks, Member of Wilmore UMC

My kids and I love to make a "summer bucket list" so we can intentionally spend time as a family. I think it's important to add acts of service to our family's list; it's my dream to raise Jesus-followers! Doing acts of mercy with our families doesn't have to feel intimidating. If we can do a few intentional things, we'll make memories together and impact our kids' lives.

A creative idea for our summer is a "Lemon-AID" stand to raise funds for the Kentucky United Methodist Children's Homes (KyUMH). Inviting our kids to participate in loving our neighbors can be spiritually formative for them. In Luke

6:36, Jesus tells his followers to "Be merciful, just as your father is merciful."

By teaching our kids about children who are suffering and inviting them to give some of their money away, we are inviting our children to do what Jesus taught us. our kids compassionately and gently, all while inviting them to join KyUMH (and Jesus!) in our mission to love our neighbors—John Wesley told us to ask: "And is this commandment written in your heart, "That he who loveth God love his brother also?" Do you then love

So this summer, my kids and I are going to grab a table on a hot summer day and set up our Lemon-AID stand, with proceeds donated to KyUMH! Giving my kids ownership over a project like this will impact them significantly. And we will be sure to let our customers



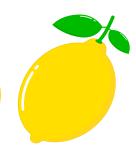
## Inviting our kids to participate in loving our neighbors can be spiritually formative for them.

Talking to our children about Kentucky's child welfare crisis can feel intimidating. It's difficult to share with our children that kids like them can be victims of trauma or neglect. Despite this challenge, my husband and I think it's important to do this. We can share this information with

your neighbor as yourself?". Sharing with our children that kids like them suffer right here in Kentucky helps them to grow in empathy and compassion so they can learn to

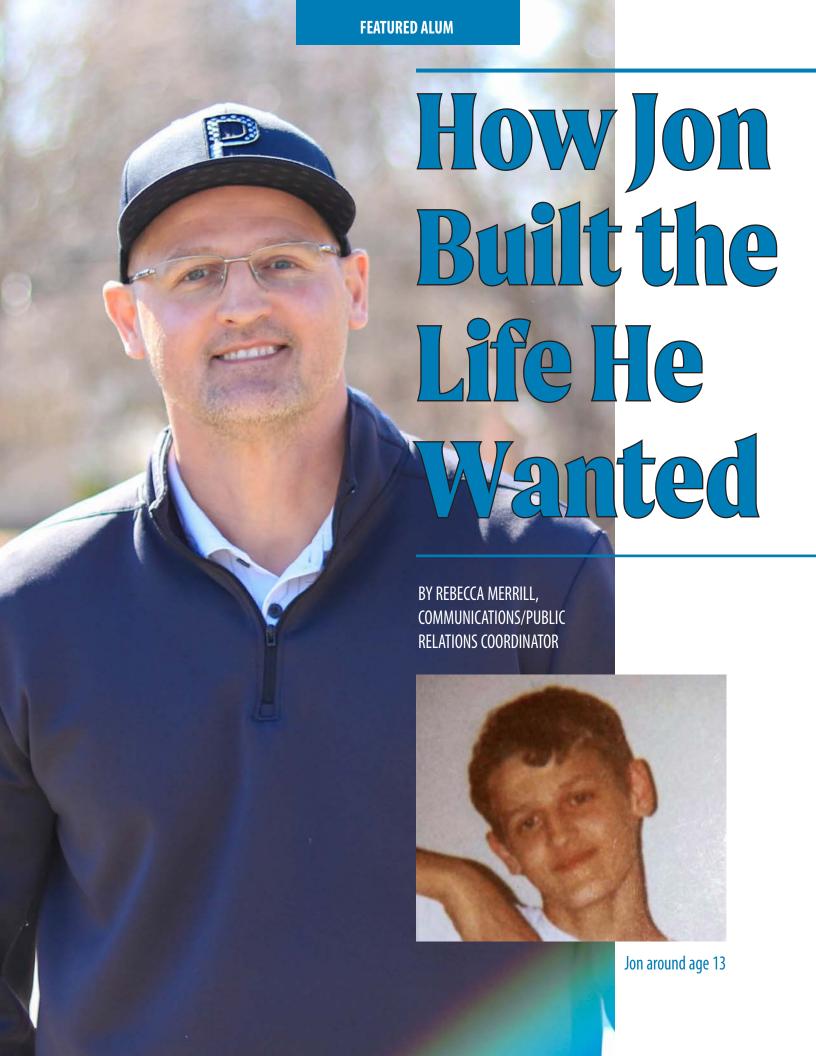
love their neighbors as themselves.

know that their donations will benefit children in Kentucky who are victims of abuse and neglect.





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Ever since Jon can remember, all he wanted was a normal life. He wanted a stable family, where he was happy and felt he had purpose. Thanks to positive influences in his life like the Kentucky United Methodist Children's Homes (KyUMH), Jon has now built the life he dreamed of as a child.

When Jon was about two years old, he and his five siblings were placed in foster care until their mother could get back on her feet and care for them.

Jon remembers feeling displaced, abandoned and alone, and yet, he says, "I always had something inside of me that wanted a better life..." Everywhere Jon went, he looked for positive influences to see what his life could be like.

Being away from his mother was hard. Despite the kindness of his foster families, all he wanted was to go home. When Jon was thirteen, a new option became available: KyUMH's Mary Kendall campus in his hometown of Owensboro.

The life and relationships he found at KyUMH showed Jon that the normalcy he was looking for did exist. "It gave me an opportunity to see what normal living should be like," Jon remembers. "It's normal to have clean sheets. It's normal to have nutritious meals. It's normal to have someone who cares about you, to ask you questions, to care for your safety, to care if the doors are locked at night."

[structure] alone put me on the road to where I am today," Jon says.

Jon lived at KyUMH twice, both times as a transition between a foster family and his mother's home. When he was eighteen years old, he moved to Texas to live with his older brother, years of active duty, Jon joined the Army Reserve and got a job back home in Owensboro. He is married with a blended family of two sons and a daughter.

He focuses on sharing what he's learned with his kids and other young men like him. Jon says, "Hopefully I'll be the positive influence for my kids, and I can teach them what I have learned. And they'll be better than I was, and their kids will be better than they are...I want to pay it forward."

Thank you for your prayers and support for the youth we serve like Jon. Together, we can help them build a life of purpose and impact future generations!

## "I always had something inside me that wanted a better life."

And it was small moments too, like being awakened for school gently by a caring staff member, or early morning routines like making his own breakfast with other kids, that helped Jon realize he wanted the stable life that KyUMH provided. "I think that

who became Jon's next role model. Jon got a job and studied for his GED, and eventually joined the military. "The military opened up so many doors for me, and it gave me such a feeling of worth and accomplishment," Jon says.

Now, Jon has built the life he dreamed of. After three



**ABOVE:** Jon at a drill for the Army Reserves; Jon and his family on vacation.

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# THE POWER OF One Caring Adult "Whoever receives one child like this in my name receives me; and whoever receives me does not receive me, but him who sent Me." - Mark 9:37

by Melinda Ryles-Smith, Vice President for Development

My mother is one of the most amazing women I know. When she was only 6 years old, an equally amazing woman rescued her by taking her in as a foster child. Her name was Anna Dalton, and the compassion that she gave my mother continues to weave itself through the generations. I feel the impact of Ms. Dalton's love in my life through my mother's love and nurturing. I have shared it to the best of my ability with my wonderful family. The love of one caring adult can transform the lives of multiple generations.

Have you felt a similar thread of love in your own life because of a maternal or paternal figure who showed you the extravagant love of God? The amazing and resilient children we serve

have not always experienced the same maternal or paternal love as others. But, if my mother's story has taught me anything, it is that at any moment, a child's life can forever change if we are willing to stretch that thread of God's love a little farther. Sharing that love has been the mission of hundreds of staff over the years at KyUMH who became that caring adult and forever changed the trajectory of a child's life.

As we continue to celebrate our 150 years of service, I invite you to honor that special person who made a difference in your life by designating a gift through your will in their name. Your gift will help children know that the love of God is deep, wide, and unconditional. Your legacy of love will be the foundation supporting this ministry for decades to come.

## **HONOR GIFTS**

December 1, 2021 - February 28, 2022

Honor gifts are a wonderful way to celebrate important people in your life! We will send an acknowledgement of your gift to the recipient. Read more honor gifts on page 11.

#### **BIRTHDAYS**

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# THE BASICS OF TRAUMA-INFORMED CARE

We believe each child is a person of worth, entitled to God's gift of fullness of life. One of the ways we help them heal is by staying up to date with proven counseling methods. Read here about Trauma Informed Care and how it shapes everything we do at KyUMH.

by Caitlin Bryant, LCSW, Vice President of Programs and Services, Nicholasville Campus

Trauma-informed care is a critical foundation of the services we provide at the Kentucky United Methodist Children's Homes (KyUMH). It is a lens through which we look to understand and meet children and families right where they are.

Before we even get a

chance to learn about our clients, we know they are survivors of trauma. Trauma results from exposure to an incident or series of events that are emotionally disturbing or life-threatening with lasting adverse effects on an individual's functioning and mental, physical, social, emotional, and/ or spiritual well-being. Trauma-informed care helps us create the sense of safety and belongingness that is necessary for children to heal, learn and grow.

The essence of traumainformed care is a shift in our view of others- a change in perspective wherein rather than asking "what's wrong with you?" we instead consider "what has happened to you?" When we reframe the lens through which we view people we become better able to understand who they are, what they are dealing with, and how best to support their healing.

At KyUMH, we understand that there are no "bad" kids, rather there are individuals to whom life has not been kind. The very skills and behaviors they developed to help them survive those traumatic experiences may suddenly look like "problems" or "bad behaviors" when they transition to a safe and stable environment. When we approach client care through the lens of what has happened to them, we're able to reframe the

problem and better identify what is needed to overcome obstacles and heal invisible wounds.

Most clients begin their treatment journey with us guarded, reluctant, and often afraid or angry. We aren't able to change the circumstances that brought them to us but we can partner with them in developing a pathway forward.

Partnership with the client is key, but in order for partnership to develop the walls must first begin to come down. Establishing safety is the first and most critical priority in helping a client begin their journey toward healing. Once safety is established, trust begins to emerge, and it's with this foundation of safety and trust that true healing and lasting impact in an individual's life becomes possible.

Through the traumainformed care model, we are able to help youth build a better life for themselves and their future families.

## INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE?



TED Talk:
"How childhood trauma
affects health"



Resources for traumainformed ministry from Discipleship Ministries

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Jacob 'Jake' Voreis Rev. Dr. Eric & Mrs. Kathy Bryant Helen Fout Carol Fout-Zignani Marie F. Geary

Doug Ward Nancy Ward

Maxine L. Warnshuis LTC. Roger E. Warnshuis

Mary Jane Watson Robert K. Watson

Jimmy Weathers Harry & Kris Weathers

Jimmy & Ann Weathers Voices in the Laurel

Doris Weber
Brian & Susan Fox
Brenda Loy
Pearce Memorial UMC
Dr. & Mrs. E. Ray
Throckmorton

Roy Webster II Garry & Marlene Curtiss Archie D. Weeks Wenda Weeks Rev. Marcia Woodyard

Mary Weigold Barbara R. Martin

Lonnie & Inez Wells James A. & Connie Wells

Rev. David Westerfield Carlyle & Carol Ackley Julia W. Hughes Howard & Joyce Ann Tatum

Betty Westrick Freddie Westrick

Jim & Casey Wethington Charlotte Wethington

Rev. Gale T. Wetzel Nancy Wetzel

Ruth White

Jim & Peggy Smith

Rosalie Whittenberger Aaron S. Whittenberger

Ezra Mae Wild Lisa Vaughn

L. T. & Janie Williams Anne J. Williams

Suzanne Williams Eddie Mae Williams

Ann Gillispie Wilson Greg & Margaret Wilson

Charlie & Mary Lou Wilson Eva Britt

Gary Wilson Teddy & Jewell Blair

Rev. Halqua Wilson Antney & Elaine Daugherty

William L. Wright, Sr. Betty J. Wright

Sherry Wurth Jerry & Susan Dowell

David Zachary Louise W. Zachary

## **HONOR GIFTS**

December 1, 2021 - February 28, 2022

Rev. Mark Adkins Rev. Dr. Jay & Dr. Marian Smith

Joy Alexander Elaine Whiteaker Jimmy & Sally Allen

Trudy Smith

Tara Anderson Nona Bennett

Rev. Errol Archerson Gary & Gwen Robinson

Michael Atkins Bill & Norma Barrett Lynndy & Bobby Baldridge Ransom & Betty Cooper

Mr. & Mrs. Doug Beck Rev. & Mrs. Ben N. Cain

Kenneth & Selma Bentley Charles Alan Bentley

Marcus & Vicki Bess Betty Jane Pitzer Mr. & Mrs. Alex Blanton Max & Brenda Froelich Heath Bowling

Cindy Thompson

Rev. Phillip & Mrs. Terri

Dr. Paul C. Hager Rev. Jackson & Mrs. Corinne Brewer Brad & Amber Brewer

Cathy Brock Shelia Nunn

Bradley

Willa & Joe Brockinton Ransom & Betty Cooper

Anne P. Brooks Imogene Ramsey

Greg Brown Thom & Issa Brown

Mattie Lou Brown Dr. Howard & Mrs. Helen Willen

Mike Bruington Donna Funk Ruth Denton Bunch John & Susan Bunch

Janis Cannon Johnnie Hudgens

Marty & Cathy Casciato
Johnnie Hudgens
Centenary UMC-

Friendship Class Bonnie Burks Gray Rev. Richard

Chamberlin Cecil B. Arnold

10 May/June 2022

### HONOR GIFTS, CONT.

- My Children & Grandchildren Bobbie Rasnick
- Dr. Keith & Mrs. Becky Clark Mike & Kathy Milliken

Rev. Bob Clements

- Rev. Bob Clements Rev. Dr. Jay & Dr. Marian Smith
- Bo & Kay Collins Angela Collins
- Suzanne B. Coonen Elizabeth B. Magnew
- Betty Cooper Ransom Cooper
- Brad Cooper Arwin & Vivian Dalton
- David & Christine Cooper Ransom & Betty Cooper
- Ransom Cooper Dr. John Baldwin Greg Van Tatenhove
- Ransom & Betty
  Cooper
  Bill Glover, II
  David & Julia Simms
- Brigitte & JR Cottrell Don & Katy Ingram
- Kevin, Anita & Elyssa Courtney Marvin & Ann Bare
- Rev. Sarah Kate Cox Rev. Dr. Jay & Dr. Marian Smith
- Rev. Randy & Mrs. Denise Coy Toni King
- David Davies

  Jeff Lunsford
- Amy E. Dowdy Phillip R. Dowdy
- Rev. Ken Easley John Easley
- Mildred Ezell Eric & Jean Ezell
- Bishop Leonard Fairley Dr. Wade & Teri Arp
- Bishop Leonard & Mrs. Dawn Fairley
- Dawn Fairley
  John & Fran Denham
  Carrio Mao Luckor
- Carrie Mae Lucker Farris Sharon Kinner
- Fred & Martha Faulkner Phil & Joy Gerk
- Lt. Col. Jim Fetter
  Kathryn Heersche

- Jim & Ruth Finch Daryl & Judy Cox
- Donnie & Candy Fitzpatrick Trudy Smith
- Katherine Flynn Jimmy & Lisa Chapman
- Katherine Flynn Terry & Carolyn Hamby
- Mr. & Mrs. Timothy R. Flynn, Jackson & Michael Terry & Carolyn Hamby
- Mr. & Mrs. Thomas R. Flynn, Matthew & Emma Terry & Carolyn Hamby
- Marynell Freeman Jo A. Palmer
- Anita Freer
  Dr. Howard & Mrs.
  Helen Willen
- Rev. Mark Gibbons Bonnie Burks Gray
- Bill Glover Ransom & Betty Cooper
- Paul & Vicki Godwin
  Pam Witty
- Pastor Cindy Green Ben & Mary Weaver
- Mr. & Mrs. Jared Hager Max & Brenda Froelich
- Dr. Paul C. Hager Eliza Kathryn Love
- Susy Heilman Calvin Walker
- Jonathan Holloway Henrida Holloway
- Richard & Tammy Holloway Henrida Holloway
- David Hudgens
  Johnnie Hudgen:
- Johnnie Hudgens Johnnie Hudgens
- Johnnie Hudgens
  Ruth Hudson
- Ruth Hudson Doug & Teresa Gibson
- Heather Hughes Jodie & Faria P'Pool
- Ina C. Hunsucker J. Glen & Nona C. Polly
- Brandon Hunton Brenda Loy

- Jim & Sandy Iacocca A Friend
- Audra Kays Ransom & Betty Cooper
- Michael & Tracey Kays Ransom & Betty Cooper
- Linda Kendall Rick, Jessie, Ben, John & Rupp Kendall
- Youth at Kentucky United Methodist Homes Bill & Karin Pabian
- Jewell King Neon UMC
- Marilyn Kirtley Ralph & Suzanne Dillihay
- Ruth Lature Dr. Howard & Mrs. Helen Willen
- Our Leaders
  1st UMC Lexington
- Carl Ling Jr.
  Ransom & Betty
  Cooper
- Deborah & Rev. Stan Ling Ransom & Betty Cooper
- Rev. George Love & Rev. Julie Hager Love
- Dr. Paul C. Hager

  Emily & Jeff Maggard

  Ransom & Betty

  Cooper
- Brandon Mattingly
  Betty J. Wright
- Rev. Randy Maynard Bob & Patti West
- Keith & Rhonda McKeever Johnnie Hudgens
- Rev. Mike McLean Rev. Dr. Jay & Dr. Marian Smith
- Franklin & Ann Metcalf Michael Metcalf
- Duane & Pat Miksch James & Linda Scott
- 1st UMC Morganfield Rev. Dr. Jay & Dr. Marian Smith
- Steve Morrison Zane & Geneé Johns-Morrison

- Betty Jean Moseley Darrel & Rebekah Moseley Bragg
- Katie Nasser Dee Ann Derr
- Marthalyn & John Needham Ransom & Betty Cooper
- Rev. Steven & Mrs. Nancy Neel Pam Witty
- Judge Lew Nicholls Debi Spicer Bailey
- Virginia Ogg Dr. Howard & Mrs. Helen Willen
- Nat & Joyce Peters Nathaniel & Bedra Peters
- Betty Jane Pitzer Charles M. Castle
- Donnie & Linda Pogue Maranita Lopez
- Bob & Janet Potter Doug & Teresa Gibson
- Brandon Pratt Bonnie Burks Gray Duncan & Linda
- Ramsey Imogene Ramsey
- Jo Ann Ramsey Imogene Ramsey
- Richard & Heather Ramsey Imogene Ramsey
- Mr. & Mrs. Larry Rawlings Rev. & Mrs. Ben N. Cain
- Mr. & Mrs. Sonny Rawlings Rev. & Mrs. Ben N. Cain
- Rev. Jamus & Mrs. Kendra Redd Pam Witty
- Mrs. Dee Reynolds
  David Ryles
  Mary Ellen Ryles
  Jerry Smith & Melinda
  Ryles Smith
- Rev. Howard & Mrs. Dee Reynolds Karl & Judy Moran Chilton & Margot Reynolds Mr. & Mrs. David Simpson
- Dr. Mike & Mrs. Alice Rice Sardis UMC-Seekers Class

- John & Norma Robertson Doug & Jennifer Robertson
- Rev. Kenny & Mrs. Betty Rogers Raybon & Kim Crump
- Sacramento UMC Rev. Dr. Jay & Dr. Marian Smith
- Abenet Satterly Bud & Sharon Satterly
- Elizabeth Satterly Bud & Sharon Satterly
- Rev. Al Savage Granville Griffith, Jr.
- Dr. Stephen Schnacke Tony & Melany Iannuzzi
- Terry & Tom Seely Ransom & Betty Cooper
- Brian Sharp Ransom & Betty Cooper
- Jeannine Sharp Jim & Sandy Griffiths
- Jeff Sharp Ransom & Betty Cooper
- Barbara W. Shelton Amy Shelton
- Julia & David Simms
  Ransom & Betty
  Cooper
- Mike & Denise Skaggs
  Don & Katy Ingram
- Betty Isaac Smith Charles & Valerie Smith
- Dan & Virginia Smith
  Trudy Smith
- David Smith Trudy Smith
- Emily Smith Shelia Nunn
- John & Jo Ann Smith Joy Coffman
- Trudy Smith
  James & Sally Allen
  Glenn & Charlotte
- Sowards
  Dr. Howard & Mrs.
  Helen Willen
- Luci-anne Ling Stevens Ransom & Betty Cooper
- Jim & Donna Summers David R. Smith
- Gary & Cindy Swaw Pam Witty
- Joy Tilley Dr. Howard & Mrs. Helen Willen

- Pastor Harry & Mrs. Retha Todd Herndon UMC
- Utica UMC Rev. Dr. Jay & Dr. Marian Smith
- Jan Van Tatenhove Ransom & Betty Cooper
- Rev. Vicki Walker Calvin Walker
- Ruth Webb Stephen & Martha Webb
- Mr. & Mrs. Brandon Wells Max & Brenda Froelich
- Jim & Myra Wetzel

  David R. Smith
- **Dr. Howard Willen**Greg & Dana Sandifer
- Dr. Howard & Mrs.
  Helen Willen
  Mattie Lou Brown
  Anita Freer
  1st UMC HopkinsvilleFriendship Class
  Ruth Lature
  Virginia Ogg
  Glenn & Charlotte
  Sowards
- Rev. Jerri Williams
  Tom & Mary Hereford

Joy Tilley

- Rev. Paul E. Williams Dr. & Mrs. Patrick Williams
- Helen Willis Teresa Woodburn
- William Mitchell Wilson Greg and Margaret Wilson
- Dr. James Wofford Ben & Mary Weaver
- Woodlawn UMC Rev. Dr. Jay & Dr. Marian Smith

HONOR
GIFTS FOR
SPECIAL
OCCAISONS
LISTED ON
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KyUMH.org · 859.523.3001



Nicholasville, KY 40356

## **Annual Conference Mission Offering**

2022 Annual Conference mission offering will benefit KyUMH and tornado relief in Western KY. Your mission offering gifts will be used for facilities needs at both campuses to enhance and maintain a home-like atmosphere for the youth who live with us, in addition to equipping our community-based services staff to expand our outreach into the community. Please give generously to this offering in addition to your 5th Sunday gifts!



#### **WISHLIST ITEMS**

Your generous donations help meet the daily needs of our youth!

#### **Nicholasville Campus**

- Feminine Hygiene products
- Sweatpants and leggings (new; adult sizes)
- Sweatshirts (new; adult sizes)
- Laundry detergent pods
- Underwear (new; adult sizes)
- T-shirts (new; adult sizes)

- Gift cards (Kohls, Walmart, Chick-fil-a, Burger King, Target)
- Hair gel and hair spray
- Deodorant (men's & women's)
- Art supplies
- Composition notebooks (no spiral binding)

#### Mary Kendall Campus (Owensboro)

- Gift Cards (Kohls, Walmart, restaurants)
- School Supplies
- Body lotion
- Women's deodorant
- Shampoo and conditioner
- Body wash (Women's)
- Women's underwear (adult sizes, bikini style)

- Women's ankle socks
- Paper towels
- Basketballs and volleyballs
- Bulletin board supplies
- Art supplies
- Magazines and books (appropriate for teen girls)

For more information, contact Roy Hicks at (270) 683-6481, ext. 221