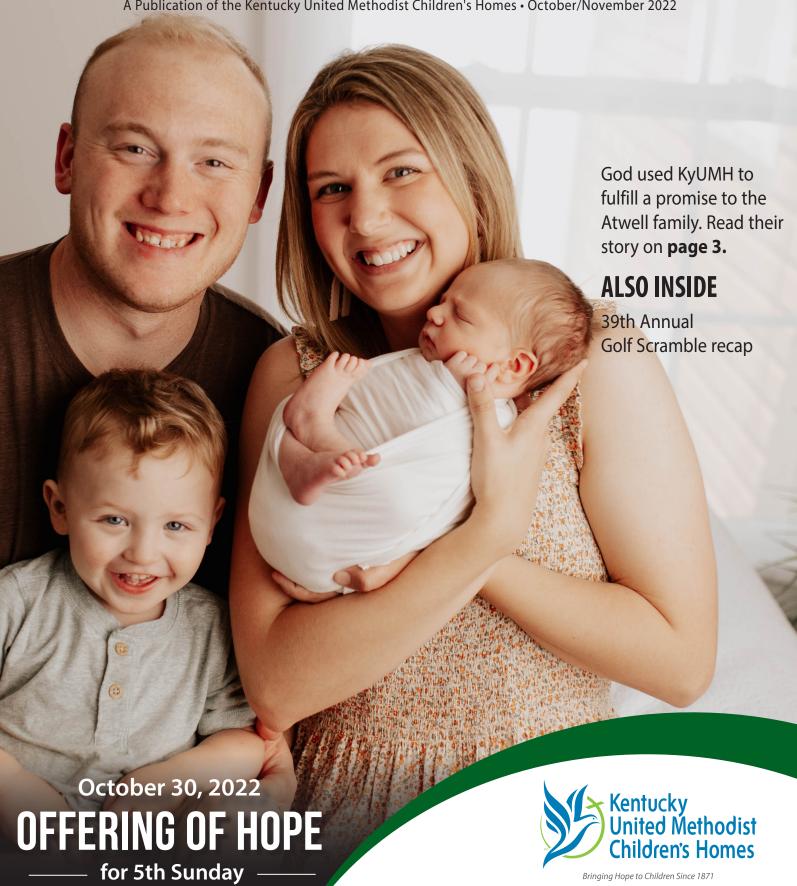
the Children's Voice

A Publication of the Kentucky United Methodist Children's Homes • October/November 2022





From the President's Desk

by Julie Hager Love, President/CEO

I happened to listen to "Oh Come All Ye Faithful" the other day (it's never too early to celebrate the birth of Christ!) and was struck by the unashamed hope and joy of this carol. When I hear the words "O come and behold Him" I know in my heart what the real invitation is: It's to behold the kingdom of God and the work that we are being invited to be a part of. It's an invitation to behold every part of this work - labor pains and all.

Before we kick off this holiday season I am going to ask you to do something a little different. I am asking you to behold the reality and hopes for Kentucky's youth and their families – labor pains and all.

I'm inviting you to behold the reality that Kentucky is ranked as one of the worst states for the wellbeing of children and their families; however, I also invite you to behold the 923 children you served last year and the hundreds you are serving this year because of your support! I invite you to behold that the average age of a child entering foster care this year is seven years old, but that KyUMH has been able to increase the number of families we serve in need of help before any child is removed from their

home. And, I behold you -- all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant. I give thanks that you, like shepherds and angels, come forward to behold the Kingdom of God at hand.

Blessings,



the Children's Voice

<u>President/CEO</u> Rev. Julie Hager Love

Public Relations
Rebecca Merrill
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The Children's Voice is published every 5th Sunday month by The Kentucky United Methodist Children's Homes (incorporated as The Methodist Home of Kentucky), a ministry of the Kentucky Conference of the United Methodist Church. We serve children and families throughout Kentucky.

The Children's Voice is freely distributed to all interested persons.

Contact the Nicholasville Campus for a subscription or to change an address: info@KyUMH.org

or mail to one of our campuses:

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Meet Your Development Team • (859) 523-3001



Martha Hatcher

Donor Appreciation Specialist

Martha joined the Development team in August of 2022. She is from Harrison county, and lives in Nicholasville. Her previous work experience was primarily in data entry, maintaining client demographics, and detailed quality review for a local bank for the past 22 years. Martha is married with 3 kids and 2 dogs. She enjoys cooking, gardening and outdoor sports.

Questions about your donations? Call (859) 523-3001

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.



by Rebecca Merrill, Communications/PR Coordinator

Breanna always knew she wanted to be a mother. The Kentucky United Methodist Children's Homes' adoption program helped her make her dreams reality.

Just before we met Breanna and her husband Alan, Breanna was praying and received a message from God. "It was as if he was sitting across from me saying, 'Breanna, I am going to give you a son,'" she says.

God's promise came just at the right time. Breanna and Alan had been on a long journey to bring a child into their family. Breanna was unable to become pregnant because of a medical diagnosis,

and a failed journey with a surrogate had left them heartbroken. They turned to adoption and found KyUMH's Mary Kendall Adoption Program.

Our Adoption Program walks with adoptive families to guide them through the lengthy, complicated legal process of adoption. Our staff provide support to families during the waiting period, rejoice with them at placement and offer guidance through the first few months/years of placement. Breanna says, "Alan and I would have been so lost without KyUMH!"

Within six months of receiving her promise from God, Breanna and Alan welcomed their first son.

"As soon as he was placed in

my arms, I knew the journey of heartache had led me to this little one," Breanna says.

Two years later, Breanna and Alan came back to our program to adopt another son. "I would experience the heartache ten times

over just to have these precious boys," Breanna says. "Loving them and watching them grow is something I will forever be grateful for. I thank God for our boys' birth parents and the sacrifices they made for our family."



Learn more about our Adoption Program on our wesbite: kyumh.org/adoption

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All we need to do is show up



by Melinda Ryles-Smith, Vice President of Development

I have often heard the question "What would you do if you won the lottery?" I find most people to be quite generous with their imaginary lottery funds, even savvy (inevitably someone says they'd invest it). But this question frames the world for us in one way — **scarcity**. "If only I had xyz..."

But what if we have already won the "lottery" and just haven't noticed?

Right now, we have everything we need to make Kentucky the safest place to be a child, but we have to show up for it. We don't have to buy a ticket, pull out a lucky quarter and scratch away, wondering if abuse and neglect will become a part of the past. Your support makes it possible to provide for the physical, emotional, educational and spiritual needs of children – four critical parts of helping them heal!

I'm not going to hope you'll show up in the future for the kids. Instead I'm inviting you, right now, to show up. We have everything we need, we just need to show up.

Be an Sponsor Sponsor

Angel Sponsors are a special group of people who are committed to showing up for KyUMH kids.

Many of the children we serve grew up without proper food, clothing or medical care. Angel Sponsors provide these essentials so our children can focus on healing.

Become an Angel Sponsor at any giving amount at **kyumh.org**

Leadership Skills \$250/mo

Give one week a month of training in relationship building and problem-solving.

Healthcare

\$125/mo

Give one week a month of professional counseling, medical and dental care.

Education

\$75/mo

Give two days a month of individualized education.

Daily Needs

\$50/mo

Give five days a month of food, housing and clothing.

Spiritual Life

\$30/mo

Give three days a month of Christcentered spiritual mentoring.







Tim Burton, Ben Mollett and Darrell Stewart helped us celebrate our 150th birthday by cycling 150 miles from Rush, KY to our Nicholasville campus. Over two days, they endured a variety of weather and challenging terrain. Their joy as they crossed the finish line was evident!

Friends and family members sponsored the ride to benefit KyUMH, raising \$4,530 at the time of printing this issue. We are so grateful to everyone who gave and cheered on these cyclists!

Our staff made sure our residents knew why Tim, Ben and Darrell came all this way: to help them! One resident remarked in awe, "They rode for two days? They're not even teenagers!"



Rain couldn't dampen the cyclist team's spirits!



Darrell Stewart, Tim Burton and Ben Mollett (in red shirts) and their families join KyUMH staff in celebrating the end of their journey.

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Christmas will be here before we know it!

Here are some easy ways you can help KyUMH kids have a Merry Christmas:



Get your holiday shopping done and feel good knowing Amazon will give to KyUMH! Amazon Smile matches a portion of your order and donates to us, all at no cost to you! Get started online at: **smile.amazon.com**





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Cooking lots of big meals? Your grocery bills can help KyUMH kids! Select KyUMH as your charity of choice, and Kroger will give directly to us at no cost to you. Please **double check** that you are enrolled if you registered in the past! Check online at: **kroger.com/communityrewards**



COLLECT GIFT CARDS

Our youth care staff know each of our youth well. Gift cards allow our staff to shop for exactly what each youth has on their list. A few gift cards are given directly to youth to go shopping and choose a gift for themselves and if they have family, their relatives.

Here are the stores that we shop at most: Target, Amazon

Wal-Mart, Kohl's, Kroger, and Shoe

Carnival.

For all campuses, please mail to: Development Department PO Box 930 Nicholasville, KY 40356

Please include the receipt that shows the gift card amount.

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Special thanks to the kids at Gunns Chapel UMC!

They raised \$88 during a Change for Change

challenge during their VBS this summer.

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- 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)
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- Composition notebooks (no spiral binding)

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- Deodorant
- Shampoo and conditioner
- Body wash

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