

# the Children's Voice

A Publication of the Kentucky United Methodist Children's Homes • April/May 2023

Read Hannah's courageous story on **page 4**.

Read how our services are expanding on **page 2**.



April 30, 2023

## OFFERING OF HOPE

for 5th Sunday



Bringing Hope to Children Since 1871





## From the President's Desk

by Julie Hager Love,  
President/CEO

It was the festival of the Passover and Jesus was at a meal when a woman took a bottle of very expensive perfume and poured it on Jesus' head. Some of the guests at the dinner reacted strongly and negatively to the cost of the ointment.

But as usual, Jesus saw things in a different light. He praised the woman for wanting to care for him and anointing him to prepare for his death. And then comes my favorite line from this story, Mark 14:8, "She did what she could, when she could."

I discovered my love of this line when I studied this passage in a women's Bible study as a new mother who had just returned to full-time ministry. The line reminded me that during so

many things that needed to be done with my family and my ministry, I was called to do what I could.

Our work at KyUMH can be overwhelming with so many needs in our communities. But we are called to do what we can, when we can.

Thank you for answering the call by making quilts and by praying for the work of the Children's Home. Thank you for sharing about how to prevent child abuse, advocating for our work and for supporting our ministry financially. Thank you for doing what you can, when you can to support the mission we share.



## Save the date!

40th Annual Golf Scramble for the Children  
September 8, 2023 • Golf Club of the Bluegrass, Nicholasville KY  
Participate as a golfer, volunteer, or sponsor!  
**Learn more at [kyumh.org/golf](https://kyumh.org/golf)**

*the Children's Voice*

### **President/CEO**

Rev. Julie Hager Love

### **Public Relations**

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The Kentucky United Methodist Children's Homes (incorporated as The Methodist Home of Kentucky) serves children and families throughout Kentucky.

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

Contact [info@KyUMH.org](mailto:info@KyUMH.org) for a subscription or to change an address.

### **Nicholasville Campus**

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(859) 523-3001

### **Mary Kendall Campus**

201 Phillips Court  
Owensboro, KY 42303  
(270) 683-6481

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### **Our Mission**

To serve Christ by providing for the physical, emotional, educational and spiritual needs of children and families.

### **Our Belief**

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

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





# New spaces and new faces

Celebrating our growing community-based programs



(L-R): Kayla Dillard, Heather Berry, Rachel Smith, Rhonda McLeod, Cristin Leshar, Christina Ward, and Ben Hart. Not pictured are Jerika Nanik, Johnna Ballard, Monica Hawkins and Samantha Chenot.

Our central Kentucky team has added new team members, created new programs, and moved to expanded office space on our Nicholasville campus. In 2022, they served 255 children, youth and families, a 61% increase from 2021.

Mending Point can help you or someone you know. Contact the team to learn more:



(L-R): Jeannie Howard, Amanda Young, Carla Renfrow, Shanon Stamper and Amanda Glenn.

Our western Kentucky team has continued to grow its services thanks to new staff and new office space in Owensboro. In 2022, they more than doubled the number of children, youth and adults they served!

If you or someone you know in western Kentucky needs counseling or other support, contact MKCS:





# Hannah's courageous journey



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by Rebecca Merrill,  
Communication/PR Coordinator

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Hannah\* is a remarkable person. She overcame hardship in her life and courageously built a brighter future for herself, with help from KyUMH.

Hannah's story is like many of the young people we serve: when her family was not a safe place for her, she was placed in foster care. **"My life before KyUMH was very stressful,"** Hannah says. **"I was always placed in grown-up situations I was not prepared to handle on my own."** Hannah experienced homelessness and drug addiction during her late teenage years, and her life was uprooted over and over again moving to different foster homes.

When Hannah aged out of foster care, came to KyUMH's Independent Living Program. Our staff help young adults ages 18-22 learn life skills and heal from past trauma. Our staff coach them on job skills, budgeting, cooking, and taking care of themselves and their living space.

**Hannah was hesitant to trust us after being let down by so many people**

*\*To protect her privacy, "Hannah" is a pseudonym and the image used is representative.*

**in her life.** Over time, she was brave enough to communicate her needs, and she realized we would keep our promises.

Hannah built strong relationships with her peers and our staff that helped her thrive. **"I have learned so much and built so many bonds that I know I will keep for the rest of my life,"** Hannah says.

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***"I'm proud of the person I am now compared to who I was when I first got to KyUMH... My love for God has only grown, and a big part of that is from the kindness and love I was shown at KyUMH!"***

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While Hannah was with us, **she worked full time at an insurance company in addition to attending community college full time for an associate's degree in computer science.**

Hannah was passionate about her job, and saw a future where she could grow with the company. She even had the courage to rebuild healthy relationships with her family to share about the positive changes in her life.

Hannah's confidence in herself and her abilities have grown because of her hard work. She told us, **"I'm proud of the person I am now compared to who I was when I first got to KyUMH."**

In addition to strengthening her emotional health, Hannah's time at KyUMH impacted her spiritual life. She told us that while she always loved God, only with us did she start to experience

a relationship with God. Hannah told us, **"Since being at KyUMH, my love for God has only grown, and a big part of that is from the kindness and love I was shown at KyUMH!"**

Youth aging out of foster care face significant challenges transitioning to adulthood. With support from a loving community, young adults like Hannah can build a bright future. Thank you for helping us meet this need!

# Big things come in small packages

## Understanding strong-willed children

by Amanda M. Young, LPCC-S, LCADC  
Director of Mary Kendall Community Services

Do you know a child who is self-motivated, spirited, courageous, persistent, a leader, and a go-getter who is unaffected by peer pressure? If so, you probably are in the presence of a strong-willed child. These children are often described as "stubborn" and "difficult to manage" because of their outright push against doing what others want. These "spirited" young people know what they want, and are not easily swayed by peer pressure or by how others want things done.

### Characteristics of a strong-willed child include:

- Selective hearing/ignoring warnings
- Demands to know "why"
- Stubborn arguing
- Bossiness
- Refusing to comply
- Impatience
- Making their own rules
- Moving at their own pace
- Low frustration tolerance and trouble expressing anger in appropriate manner
- Assertive – they have a vision in their mind about how things should be and often orchestrate ways to turn the idea into a reality

Within the mental health profession, we often see strong-willed children labeled as "bad children." There is no such thing as a bad child; in the case of strong-willed children they are simply determined to do things according to their own terms.

If you are caring for a strong-willed child and are feeling at the end of your rope, check out the list of suggestions for communication. And remember, a strong-willed child will lead a very successful life as an adult. They will distinguish themselves with skills such as such as determination, passion, conviction, leadership, perseverance, collaboration, and enthusiasm.

### Owensboro Area Parenting Classes

Mary Kendall Community Services provides 1-2-3 Magic, a 5-week parenting class.

This curriculum describes methods for managing the behavior of children from the ages of 18 months to 12 years.

**Contact MKCS for registration information at 270-683-3723.**



## Parenting Strong-Willed Children

### Suggestions for communication

1. Acknowledge and validate your child's feelings.
2. Provide a brief explanation.
3. Give one warning and a consequence.
4. Call for a Do-Over – have your child practice stating a need in a more polite manner.
5. Offer two choices.
6. Encourage problem solving.
7. Focus on the most important rules & avoid power struggles; utilize logical and natural consequences.
8. Be proactive – reward positive behavior whenever possible.
9. Make expectations clear.

# Stitch by stitch

by Melinda Ryles-Smith,  
Vice President for  
Development

Not long ago, I was going through some boxes when I found a some photos of KyUMH children and youth with the quilts they had received when God brought them to our front door. I couldn't help but feel a lot of gratitude.

If you know anything about us, you know that these quilts are a deeply meaningful

tradition, and for a good reason; they are a beautiful patchwork of love and gifted to each young person who stays with us. When a young person leaves, their quilt goes with them—including all the love and prayers that are attached to that quilt. It is our prayer that every time a child is wrapped up in that quilt, they feel they are being wrapped up in the love of God.

It takes a lot of work to heal a child, just

like it takes a lot of patches, thread, batting and backing to create a quilt. It takes trained people who are willing to sit with a child in their pain. It takes someone advocating on their behalf. It takes people willing to give the gift of time, talent, or treasure. It takes patience and faithfulness. And, if I know anything about quilting circles, it takes community!

It's not too late to join in and help a young person heal. I'd love for you to be a part of this patchwork by getting involved. Some favorites include becoming an Angel Sponsor or including KyUMH in your will. If you would like to explore these options, connect with me at [melinda@kyumh.org](mailto:melinda@kyumh.org) or (859) 523-3001.



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