

the Children's Voice

A Publication of The Kentucky United Methodist Children's Homes • August/September 2018

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Brandy found the love and support she needed to succeed

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Third annual event inspires supporters

Hope Takes Flight!

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September 30, 2018

5TH SUNDAY

Offering of Hope



Bringing Hope to Children Since 1871

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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 Homes for Children and Youth is accredited through the national Council on Accreditation (COA).

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

From the President's Desk



By Rev. Randy Coy,
President & CEO

I've received a call today telling me that a former parishioner and dear friend has passed from this life to the next. The family shared the news that she had requested that I lead that memorial service and the time of remembering a life well lived.

As I contemplate what words might be appropriate, I keep coming to the same thought. "I want to be like her when I grow up." She had clarity of purpose, devotion to that calling, and an indomitable spirit. Along with her family, I will miss her greatly. We take comfort in the certainty

that this is not "goodbye." It is "see you later."

I'm grateful that my life has been shaped by many people through 38 years of ministry. There are a number of really wonderful people who have given me so much more than I gave them. They all have that same "attractive" quality about their lives. (I'm not talking about physical beauty here.) They draw others to themselves with Christ-like attributes. They make us want to be like them. The mission of the Home is to provide this same kind of winsomeness to the youth in our care every day.

I was on our Owensboro campus this week to meet with a former resident. She came to that campus as a 13 year-old in need of

love and support. She has made her way back to us as an adult but in a different relationship. She will soon become a valuable member of the Methodist Home team as a youth care worker, having daily contact and influence on youth in our care.

While you may not have direct contact with our youth, your faithfulness to this ministry allows you to share in the shaping of life. For that, we are extremely grateful.

Christmas Gifts for our Young People

Help us provide a special Christmas! Please consider donating gift cards. We give those gift cards to our staff so they can buy gifts personally chosen for each young person. We also give gift cards directly to our kids in all of our programs! For children who live with us, getting to leave campus and go shopping is a fun outing. We provide gifts for over 130 kids. Gift cards from any of the stores shown are wonderful!

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Learning To Trust

Brandy Found The Love And Support She Needed To Succeed



By Bruce Jones
Communications/PR
Coordinator

Through the support she received at KyUMH, Brandy learned that her childhood of abandonment and neglect didn't have to determine her future.

Brandy was in her grandmother's custody at an early age, never had a relationship with her mother and didn't meet her father until she was sixteen. Throughout her childhood, Brandy felt her grandmother favored her brother and never gave her the attention she needed. Feeling abandoned and unloved, Brandy became defiant. When her grandmother felt she could no longer manage Brandy's defiance, she turned to the court system for assistance.

At 12 years-old, Brandy became a ward of the state and was taken to the KyUMH Mary Kendall Campus Emergency Shelter to await placement. Brandy was placed in 27 different facilities before eventually returning to the Mary Kendall Campus Residential Treatment Program. "Every 30



Brandy with a friend she met at the Mary Kendall Campus.

days I was moving, changing schools and leaving friends, but when I got to Mary Kendall (residential) I got stability and the things that helped me," Brandy recalls. "I had a fear of abandonment because I was left. I felt like I was being dumped multiple times." Despite her fear, Brandy found the home she needed at KyUMH. "We all needed stability and I didn't have that with my grandmother. At Mary Kendall, I started to trust people more. It was consistent. I got the attention I needed. I could knock on their door to talk or cry



"Words can't express my gratitude for them and how happy they make my heart to this day."

in their office. I knew they were on my side every day." Even with her new stability and needed attention, Brandy's past feelings would return. "At times I would get combative and throw things. I was so out of control from anger built up in me. After my rampage, I could sit on the floor and talk to the staff. I needed that one-on-one attention. I didn't know how to explain my feelings without getting upset. I ran away several times, but would always come back because that was my home, my safe haven." Brandy learned to trust others and develop lasting friendships. "I met so many girls. We learned from each other and grew together. I'm still friends with several of the girls."



Brandy, age 16.

At 16 Brandy was moved into a foster home, but later returned to enter the Mary Kendall Independent Living Program. She was still in high school and

needed support to graduate and begin adulthood. "They helped me get on my feet. They placed me in an apartment. I had a job and they helped me learn to balance a checkbook, grocery shop

and pay bills. Things a young adult should start to learn." She is grateful for the love and compassion she received at KyUMH. "Staying there is one of those things that you don't really appreciate then, but you're thankful that you had it now. They were there for me 100 percent." Brandy is now a college graduate, mother and a nurse. She worked nights to support her family while attending nursing school. She is determined to provide a better childhood for her daughters than she experienced.

Hope Takes Flight

The Inspiration Behind Our New Logo



By Melinda R. Smith,
Vice President
for Advancement

It's an exciting time of progress for KyUMH. We are reviewing and updating all aspects of our outreach, including how we present ourselves to the public. In reviewing our marketing efforts, we knew it was time to update our logo. We needed a logo that represents expanding services and KyUMH's spirit of hope and healing. Bruce Jones, Communications/Public Relations Coordinator, was the architect of the new design, combining history with destiny. Working with the creative team, four critical elements of what KyUMH stands for were

identified:

- 1) **A bold United Methodist mission**
- 2) **Guided by the Holy Spirit**
- 3) **Offering Hope**
- 4) **Wholeness of life**

On the adjacent page, Bruce has designed a flow-chart explaining what each new graphic element represents.

In this latest logo, the United Methodist Flame, representing the Holy Spirit, is converted to the wings of a dove, another symbol of the Holy Spirit. The red color of the flame transitions to blue which signifies hope and child abuse awareness. The circle surrounding the dove represents wholeness of life, with the green expressing growth, healing, harmony

and mental health awareness. The cross at the top of the circle indicates the Christ-centeredness of KyUMH's ministry of hope. We think of the dove taking flight as representing the hope we have for the future.

Over 147 years of ministry, our logos have evolved with the times. The last time our logo was updated was 27 years ago. The logo before that appears to have been designed in 1970, and the one prior to that, possibly in the 1930's. Throughout the years, we have sought to serve children with the greatest needs. Our approach may change, but our goal has remained constant, just as we have all been directed in the book of James:

"Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world." James 1:27 (NIV)."
We want our logo to best represent our current ministry.

Through the years, our Christian family has come alongside KyUMH to serve Christ by serving the children. As the Kentucky United Methodist Children's Homes continues a history of innovation and renewal, bringing hope in a time of confusion and adversity, you are needed. Together, we can rescue children from lives of hopelessness and provide wholeness and hope.

Our New Logo



Kentucky United Methodist Children's Homes

Bringing Hope to Children Since 1871

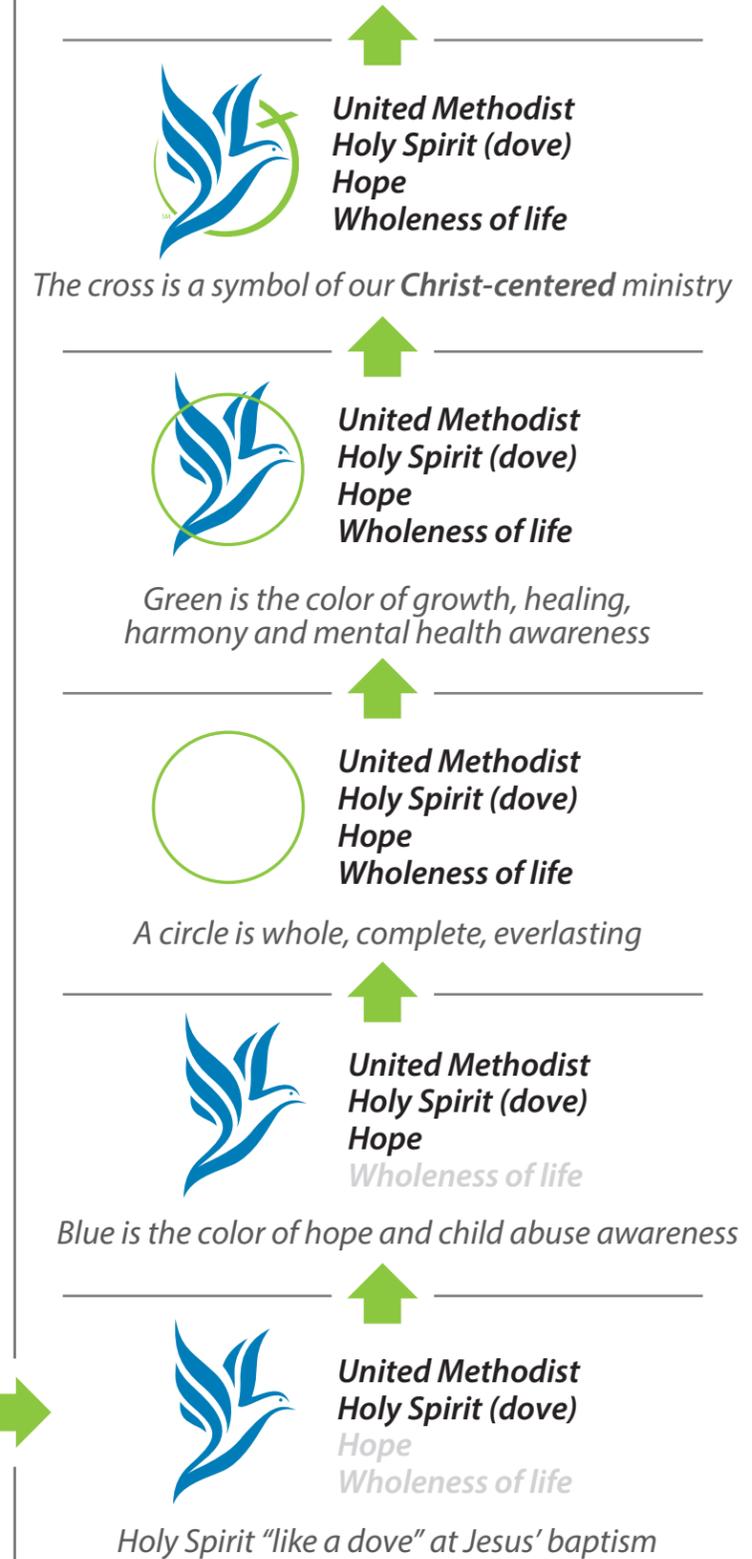


Four Defining Characteristics of KyUMH

- 1 A **United Methodist** Agency
- 2 **Holy Spirit** works through us
- 3 Providing God's **hope** to the hopeless
- 4 Every child should experience the **wholeness of life** God intended



Bringing Hope to Children Since 1871



The Voice of Gratitude

Jan Volunteers In a Unique Way



By Jessica Fleck,
Capital Campaign/
Volunteer Coordinator

She knows working with kids is not her gift, so she chooses to make a difference by thanking donors. Every week for two years, Jan Stadtler has called those who give to KyUMH to thank them for their gifts. In 2017, the Methodist Children's Homes was blessed with over 800 new donors. It would be extremely difficult to show our gratitude to each of them without Jan's help.

Casey Neely, Development Coordinator for KyUMH, works with Jan and says, "She is one of our most dedicated and trustworthy volunteers. In many non-profits less than 1/3 of donors give a second gift. Imagine if those donors



felt welcomed and appreciated. Instead of a one-time gift, their donation could be multiplied over a lifetime! That empowers the KyUMH mission for today and years to come! Because of these vital first-time donors, Jan's area of service is crucial to the future of the Methodist Children's Homes."

Since KyUMH relies on donations, raising income for the home is fulfilling and worthwhile for Jan. The Methodist Children's Homes doesn't ask for more donations when calling to thank donors, we just say thank you. We want to express thanks from the kids who need extra love and care, thanks from the staff who see the need, and thanks from hundreds of individuals who now live better lives because of the Methodist Children's Homes.

Often, the people Jan calls are surprised to be thanked. Jan said one woman was expressly grateful, feeling like KyUMH went above and beyond. Jan's work allows the Methodist Children's Homes to be above-average and do more work for the abused and neglected children of the Commonwealth.

By volunteering her time to appreciate those who give, Jan is changing the lives of thousands of youth, and the future of Kentucky. "If you are going to help the kids, you need the money." That matter-of-fact truth keeps Jan coming back to provide for kids who need hope and healing. And we are glad she does!

Volunteer Needs

Nicholasville Campus

- Office Workers
- Reading Mentors

Independent Living - Lexington

- Chapel Food Preparation

If interested contact:
Jessica Fleck
(859) 523- 4655
jessica.fleck@kyumh.org

Aldersgate Camp Impacts Residents

Thanks to generous donors, some of our residents were able to attend Aldersgate Camp this summer. It was an inspirational and life-changing experience particularly for two of our Safe Haven Independent Living residents.

Prior to attending camp this summer, one resident was disinterested in finding work and not motivated to pursue anything to make his life better. Once he arrived at Aldersgate Camp, he immediately felt something he hadn't experienced before, "I have never been around such positivity before." He was quickly able to make new friends and experience a sense of belonging. His interest in

acting led him to the camp's drama program, where on his first night, he was given the first speaking part. He was surprised by their trust and it deeply impacted him. He also experienced the presence of God for the first time in his life. One day, during worship time, he became so filled with the Holy Spirit that he was moved to tears. Since returning from camp, Safe Haven Chaplain Samantha Poore has recognized a transformation in his attitude, "I've seen a big change in him since coming back from camp. He has now applied for a job and is enrolled in classes at Bluegrass Community and Technical College this fall."

The second resident was hesitant when he first arrived at Aldersgate Camp and immediately said, with a smile on his face, "I already hate it." For the first few days of camp he was quiet and worried if he would fit in until he began to bond with his camp counselor. As the week progressed, he gradually opened up and started to feel more comfortable, "Being at camp was the first time I felt like no one was trying to take anything from me," he said. Once his fears were calmed, he was able to experience more of what Aldersgate Camp was offering and during an evening campfire gathering,

re-dedicated his life to Christ. By the end of the week, he was so moved by his camp experience, he wanted to stay an extra week. Since returning from camp, Chaplain Poore has also noticed a difference in him, "He has been more motivated to do more with his life."

The impact of their summer camp experience has left a lasting impression on the lives of these two boys. They have realized there is more to life than what they were experiencing before. Thanks to donors like you who made this week possible, two lives have been changed and motivated to seek more.



THE MARTINS

www.martinsonline.com



Sunday, November 18, 2018

Centenary United Methodist Church • Lexington, Kentucky

6:00 pm - 8:00 pm EST

Visit www.kyumh.org or call (859)523-3001 for ticketing information

Back "2" School

Ashgrove Academy Begins Second Year With New Faces



By Jessica Fleck,
Capital Campaign/
Volunteer Coordinator

Their calm demeanors spoke volumes into their experience with vulnerable youth as we sat and chatted about Ashgrove Academy. However, it was Mr. John Morgerson and Mr. Bob Moore's opinions that drove the point across. They agreed that these are "just kids who need a healthy structure and a safe place to learn." Both teachers, who like to be called by their first names, have seen their share of youth who were challenging to teach in other settings. But at Ashgrove Academy, the ratio of staff to students allows for an interpersonal environment that guides kids to thrive in positive ways.

Mr. Morgerson is new to the school but Mr. Moore taught part-time last year. This school-year they are both full-time and looking forward to making strides with the teens in reading, math, and physical education, with support from second-year principal, Ms. Donna Givens. Continuing to provide a safe and dynamic atmosphere was high on the list as well. "If they trust you, you'll have an impact on them to change their lives for their futures. The 'inner self' is so important, you're not going to learn if you're in need of emotional help," Bob said. Of course, that underscores KyUMH's focus on healing the whole child: physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual.

After this foundation is built, Mr. Morgerson and Mr. Moore



New Ashgrove Academy teachers John Morgerson (left) and Bob Moore (right).

help each teen improve in math, reading, civics, engaging in an active lifestyle, and other important subjects. KyUMH doesn't just rebuild broken children. Instead, everyone works toward building future adults who will contribute to the world, even though they've had fewer advantages than children who weren't abused and neglected. "Seeing them be real and not tough," said John, is one of the highlights of the work. "That's when you feel like you are making a difference, because [these kids] are so guarded." It's also one of the reasons the teachers work through books like *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens*, and *Financial Peace* with the students. They want them to understand how education can impact their futures.

To achieve this, the teachers motivate kids through positive reinforcement of both academic and behavioral skills. The youth get "Lion Bucks" to spend in the school store when they meet academic goals, stay on task, take notes, or help others. Mr. Bob and Mr. John

also like to reward the kids with activities they enjoy. The new teachers' backgrounds help them connect with KyUMH kids as well. Mr. Moore's professional background as a home hospital teacher gave him experience with an online learning solution. The school also uses programs like this to advance teens in personal reading goals. Ashgrove Academy uses this software to provide personalized education to each child at the school, helping students work toward graduation at a faster pace. These tools allow the innovative academy to put individual education first.

Additionally, Mr. Morgerson's education and experience in special education qualify

him to work with every child who is welcomed to the Nicholasville campus. His years of work with many children with special needs allow him to understand the kids at the KyUMH with a unique educational perspective. He doesn't see them as challenges but as great possibilities.

Their personal histories also allow John and Bob to relate to the children. Coming from a single parent home, Mr. Morgerson relates to kids who have broken families and lives. Mr. Moore actually worked at the Versailles Campus as a Youth Care Worker a few years ago. Reflecting, he noted how much better the new Nicholasville Campus is for the kids and workers. With its centralized set up, larger gathering spaces, and in-house school, the kids and their workers have a safer and more integrated space.

Having the school in the same building as the residences and incorporating Youth Care staff in the school day with the kids, allows the adult to child ratio that is one of the hallmarks of the ground-breaking educational system. With great innovations and great teachers, the kids at KyUMH are getting the caring education they need to not only survive but succeed.

**In the 2017 School Year
Ashgrove Academy Produced
5 High School Graduates!**



By Bruce Jones,
Communications/PR
Coordinator

On Monday, July 23rd over 170 supporters of KyUMH gathered for an inspirational "Evening of Blessings" hosted by the Friends of the Children. This third annual fund-raising event was held at Settle Memorial UMC in Owensboro. The "Evening of Blessings" was conceived by the Friends of the Children as a more formal and inspiring way to raise support for KyUMH. After just the third event, the evening has grown beyond expectations in terms of support and the inspirational impact on those who have attended.

Guests were greeted at the door and escorted to their reserved tables as live piano music, provided by a friend of KyUMH, helped create the atmosphere for the evening.

As guests shared around each table their deep commitment to caring for God's children in need, a delicious meal was prepared by volunteers and served by young members of local church youth groups.

The crowd was truly inspired as Jonathan, a former resident of the Mary Kendall Campus, shared his testimony of how his life was changed through the care and support he received at the Mary Kendall Campus. A product of a single parent home, addiction and a violent



Jonathan shares his story with supporters.



Jared and Davi Tanner with their birth children, adopted daughter and her siblings.

step-father, Jonathan detailed his journey through it all and how the KyUMH staff helped change the direction of his life.

The inspirational testimonies continued as Jared and Davi Tanner shared their family-building experience of adoption and how the Mary Kendall Adoption Program helped make it possible. They expressed their gratitude for the conscientious, organized, responsive, competent and compassionate service they received from the Mary Kendall Adoption Program

staff and how their adopted child has blessed their lives.

The evening concluded with an opportunity to partner with KyUMH, through a love offering, and help bring hope and healing to God's children in distress.

We hope you will consider being a part of this deeply moving event next year.

[Read more of Jonathan's inspirational story in the December issue of the Children's Voice.](#)

Adoption Program Receives Hague Accreditation

On June 28, 2018, The Mary Kendall Adoption Program at the KyUMH Campus in Owensboro attained Hague Accreditation from the Council on Accreditation.

As defined by COA, "Hague Accreditation signifies that an agency meets the standards founded in the Hague Convention, the Intercountry Adoption Act, and the Universal Accreditation Act. This



status indicates that COA has concluded that the agency or person conducts services in substantial compliance with the

standards, and that COA monitors and oversees its performance."

The KyUMH Director of Adoption Services, Jeannie Howard, emphasizes the effort behind and the importance of this milestone, "We started this process in July of 2016. Being Hague Accredited will be very beneficial for the adoption program. We will be able to do home studies for any country as more

and more countries begin to require that of home study agencies."

The Hague Convention ensures that intercountry adoptions are in the best interest of the children. Safeguards are put into place to prevent abduction, sale and trafficking of children for adoption.

MEMORIALS

June 7, 2018 - August 3, 2018

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Shelley Gordon

William Garlan Baker
Columbia UMC

CSM (Ret.) Oscar L. Barker
Janice L. Lawrence

Bobby Barnes
Suann McCollum

Georgiann Barnes
Sharon R. Evans

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Janet Ames
Carole Bartol
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Keith, Vicki, Alexa & Tanner Black
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Bob & Sandy Adams

Olivia
Vaugnetta Major

Rev. Jamus Redd
Cadiz UMW

Cordelia Roberts
James & Anne Roberts

Cordelia Roberts
Travis L. Roberts

Abenet Satterly
Arnold & Sharon Satterly

Elizabeth Satterly
Arnold & Sharon Satterly

Grandchildren of Sandra P. Schmidt
Sandra P. Schmidt

Rev. Dan Smith
Glenn & Geraldine Hubbard

Rev. Harry & Mrs. Mary Ruth Spurrier
William M. & Norma D. Roach

Rev. John Shelby Street
Cadiz UMC

Burl Thomas
Bethlehem UMC

Mary Peters Thorpe
Terry & Rose Thorpe

Rev. Howard Willen
1st UMC Hopkinsville-Friendship Class

Lee Young
Don & Glenna Burton

BIRTHDAYS

Shan Wesley Bacon
Emily Smith

Welza Grayson
Bob & Linda Newell

Frieda Harmon
Sherry Noble

Roger Holt
Emily Smith

Margaret T. Howard
Emily Smith

Billie Irvine
Emily Smith

Charlotte Newland
Emily Smith

Mitch Willis
Karen Hart

BIRTHDAYS IN HEAVEN

Howard Perkinson
Glen H. & Pam Perkinson

WEDDING ANNIV.

Rev. Kenny & Mrs. Betty Rogers
Raybon & Kim Crump

Eugene & Shirley Matney-50 years
Dale, Deloris and Rebecca Curry

Tom & Nancy Smith-50 years
Jewell H. Greenwood

Tom & Nancy Smith-50 years
Joseph & Teresa Allen

MOTHER'S DAY

All Mothers
Memorial UMC

FATHER'S DAY

All Fathers
Memorial UMC

FATHER'S DAY IN HEAVEN

Eugene Wood
Eva Cline

"Acknowledge those who work hard among you, who care for you in the Lord and who counsel you. Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work."

1 Thessalonians 5:12-13

Want to acknowledge someone who has impacted your walk with the Lord?

Use the postage paid envelope in this newsletter. Enclose your gift of Honor or Memorial and fill in your name, the name of the person(s) to be honored or memorialized and send it to us.

Your acknowledgement will be listed in the next newsletter.

WISHLISTS

Main Campus (Nicholasville)

- Deodorant (men's & women's)
- Laundry Detergent Pods
- Dishwasher Detergent Tabs
- Lysol Disinfectant Spray
- Shampoo
- Snacks (beef jerky; Slim Jim's; cheese crackers; nuts; trail mix)
- Hair Conditioner
- Body Wash
- Underwear (new; adult sizes)
- Socks (new; adult sizes)
- Gift Cards (Kohls; Walmart)

For more information (Nicholasville Campus), call (859) 523-3001 or info@kyumh.org.

Mary Kendall Campus (Owensboro)

- Paper Towels
- Bed Pillows
- Body Wash (Women's)
- Deodorant

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

Visit kyumh.org > Donate > Wishlist Items.



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- Visit www.kroger.com/communityrewards
- Sign in to your account or create one
- Select "KY Methodist Children's Homes"
- Click "Save"

If you need assistance contact Casey Neely, (859) 523-2972 or email Casey.Neely@kyumh.org