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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Cunningham Children’s Home Celebrates 110th Anniversary, Unveils new Residential Treatment Center

July 21, 2005 (Urbana, Illinois) — On July 31, 2005, Cunningham Children’s Home will host an open house and dedication of the new Residential Treatment Center as part of its 110th Anniversary celebration.

That morning, alumni will be invited back to the 1301 North Cunningham Avenue campus for a special reunion, and a campus open house for the general public will take place from 1-4 p.m., with tours of the agency’s main campus cottages, schools, former dormitories, and brand new Residential Treatment Center. A special anniversary program will begin at 2:30 p.m. and will include music, awards, and the building dedication.

Many current and former staff and youth are expected to attend, along with Cunningham Children’s Home supporters and volunteers.

“Past reunions have seen families and friends reunited after decades,” said Cunningham Vice President Cloydia Hill Larimore. She continued, “We see our 110th Anniversary as an opportunity to welcome members of our Cunningham family back, as well as a time to welcome new friends from the local community.”

Since 1895, Cunningham has been the special mission and ministry of the Illinois Great Rivers Conference United Methodist Women. Judge Joseph and Mary Cunningham donated their country home and surrounding land to create an orphanage, promising “that our home shall forever be a children’s home.”

Since that time, it has transformed from an orphanage and deaconess home to a professional child care agency, and finally to a multi-faceted agency providing residential treatment, foster care, independent living, and special education services. The lives of thousands of children and youth have been touched by Cunningham Children’s Home.

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A mission and ministry of the United Methodist Women of the Illinois Great Rivers Conference in partnership with the General Board of Global Ministries of The United Methodist Church.



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