

For Immediate Release

Contact: Cloydia Hill Larimore
V.P. of Resource Development
Phone: 217/367-3728, ext. 105
Email: clarimore@cunninghamhome.org
www.cunninghamhome.org

Children's Home Receives \$100,000 to Create On-site Health Center

August 25, 2004 (Urbana, IL) – Children and youth at Cunningham Children's Home will have a safer and more accessible health care facility thanks to a \$100,000 gift from Carle Foundation Hospital.

According to Cunningham President and CEO Sam Banks, "Cunningham kids are dealing with complex psychological and medical issues. Carle is truly living out its commitment to the community by investing in our young people's health and well-being."

Carle Foundation President and CEO James C. Leonard, MD presented the donation at an August 25th Cunningham Board meeting. "Providing good health care for our children is one of the most important things we can do for the future of our community," he said. "Carle Foundation Hospital is pleased to support our Urbana neighbor, Cunningham Children's Home, in their effort to care for the children who find refuge and a caring environment under their watch. We hope that our contribution will set the pace for other area organizations to come forward with a show of support for their effort to update their facility to meet today's challenges."

The new health center is part of the \$6 million Residential and Clinical/Health Services Building, currently under construction. Improved healthcare facilities will allow Cunningham's three registered nurses provide preventative medical care in a familiar, supportive environment. Currently, nursing staff work out of offices not designed for medical purposes, and have set up a volunteer-run dental clinic with donated equipment inside a former residential cottage.

Cunningham Board President Jan Phipps and Cunningham Foundation Board Treasurer David Mills accepted the gift on behalf of Cunningham Children's Home. Cunningham Nurse Dottie Wolgemuth spoke about the impact improved facilities will have on Cunningham children and youth, and Former Cunningham Resident Sally Morrow Stewart spoke about the impact Cunningham had on her life, and about her 40 years of service as a Carle Hospital health care tech.

Founded as an orphanage in 1895, Cunningham today provides residential treatment, day treatment education, and supervised independent living services to over 250 children and youth with severe behavioral and emotional disorders each year. Cunningham is 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.

###

