

For Immediate Release

Contact: Cloydia Hill Larimore
Vice-President of Resource Development
phone: (217) 367-3728
clarimore@cunninghamhome.org

Cunningham Children's Home Establishes Foundation

August 23, 2001 (Urbana, Illinois)— Cunningham Children's Home Board of Directors today announced that a new foundation has been incorporated by the State of Illinois, for Cunningham Children's Home, located at 1301 N. Cunningham Avenue in Urbana, Illinois. The foundation is a separate not-for-profit organization whose sole purpose is to support the mission and ministry of Cunningham Children's Home. The foundation will be called the Cunningham Children's Home Foundation.

The decision to form the Foundation is a result of over two years of study and deliberation by the Board of Directors of Cunningham Children's Home aided by an independent feasibility study and analysis of the benefits to Cunningham.

The Cunningham Children's Home Foundation will have three major areas of responsibility: 1) provide charitable support to meet the annual operating needs of the agency, 2) provide charitable support to meet the major capital needs of the agency, and 3) provide management and leadership to maximize the performance and growth of the Cunningham Children's Home endowment assets and funds.

The Foundation's Board of Directors were elected by the Cunningham Children's Home Board of Directors and began serving their terms in January, 2001. By virtue of their position on the Cunningham board, five members of the Board of Directors have been elected to the Foundation Board, they are: current Cunningham Board President Marge Stout, Linda Crispin, Kay Dickey, Carrie Knoch, Carolyn Yockey. Six new members were elected including Foundation Board Chair John Thies, Mike Fritz, Dwight Miller, David Mills, Anne Perry and John Wright II. Ex-officio members include Carolyn Leach, Past President of the Cunningham Board of Directors; Sam Banks, Cunningham President, CEO and Cloydia Hill Larimore, Vice-President of Resource Development.

The development of the Cunningham Children's Home Foundation reemphasizes the need for friends to support the mission and ministry at Cunningham through living tributes in the form of a bequest. The Foundation is now ready to accept financial contributions.

- more -



Cunningham Children's Home provides residential treatment services and supportive independent living programs for children and youth with behavioral and emotional disorders. The mission of Cunningham Children's Home is to support to children, youth and families by providing an environment in which individuals may experience personal growth and healing. Cunningham offers therapeutic interventions for children and youth. These interventions include family therapy, play therapy and individual psychotherapy by clinically trained staff working under the supervision of licensed mental health professionals.

On its main campus of Cunningham features five home-like cottages capable of housing a total of 50 boys and girls. Community based programs include two Community Group Homes provide housing for older youth.

A variety of independent living programs are offered to assist children and youth living independently or in a family environment. The Supervised Independent Living Program serves 10 young adults living in their own apartments, the Transitional Living House serves 5 young men living in a boarding house setting and the Pregnant and Parenting Teen Program provides independent living services for young mothers ages 17 to 21 and their children. Cunningham also has three Foster Care programs providing step down treatment, including regular foster care, specialized foster care and treatment foster care.

Founded in 1985, Cunningham Children's Home has evolved from its early years as a traditional orphanage into a residential and community-based treatment center for children and youth in crisis. Today, the youth served by Cunningham, because of many different types of situations, are dealing with a wide range of emotional and behavioral problems, special education needs and learning challenges. With a staff of 206 and an annual budget of over \$10 million, Cunningham Children's Home ministers daily to over 150 "Cunningham kids" in various residential, community-based and educational programs including 50 day students from Champaign-Urbana and surrounding school districts. Treatment is offered within an atmosphere of Christian love and caring without regard to race, religion or culture. Cunningham Children's Home is a mission and ministry of the United Methodist Women of the Illinois Great Rivers Annual Conference in partnership with the General Board of Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church.

###