

The Top Ten...

*ways local units can support
the United Methodist Women's mission to serve
children and youth at Cunningham Children's Home!*



1. Participate in the monthly prayer calendar program.

Each district receives a calendar for a month of the year in which the local units are asked to pray for the children, staff and board of Cunningham Children's Home. Local presidents receive a copy of the prayer calendar two months prior to your district's participation month.

2. Save Campbell's Soup Labels.

This past year, UMW units from the entire IGRAC collected 239,400 Campbell's Soup labels which allowed Cunningham to order \$2,394.00 worth of materials for Gerber residential school, CIRCLE Academy Day Treatment School and our Therapeutic Recreation Program through the Campbell's Soup Labels for Education Program.

3. Make a quilt for a newcomer basket.

It is a Cunningham tradition that on their arrival at Cunningham, every child receives a hand made quilt of their very own. The quilt is a visible reminder that the women of the Illinois Great Rivers Annual Conference are responsible for the care and nurture of every child and youth served by Cunningham.

4. Bring items for the "Kids' Needs First" boxes at district meetings.

Each spring and fall, Cunningham distributes a list of needed items to local units. Each local unit is asked to bring one or more of these items to the district meeting. Each of the 12 districts is given a different item to collect.

5. Promote the Guardian Parent Giving Program in your local congregation.

The Guardian Parent Giving Program is a regular giving program that raises funds to help Cunningham bridge the gap between the reimbursement for services from referral sources and the actual cost of caring for a child or youth. This is a wonderful program for involving youth groups, Sunday School classes, men's groups and individuals in the mission work of the United Methodist Women.

6. Encourage your Pastor's participation in "A Day with Cunningham."

In the spring, Cunningham offers an opportunity for confirmation classes and youth groups to visit the campus and experience mission on a very personal level. This is a full day visit that includes some of the activities Cunningham youth regularly participate in, the Cunningham Chaplain, current residents and former residents of Cunningham.

7. Plan a visit of your unit to Cunningham.

Tours of Cunningham take approximately 90 minutes. Tours are available year-round for any size group but must be arranged in advance by calling Stephanie Lynge, Cunningham Church and Community Relations Specialist, at 217/367-3728.

8. Nominate a member of your local unit to serve.

Members of local units can reach out in mission by serving on the Cunningham Board of Directors, by serving on special ad hoc committees of the board and by serving as District Representative for Cunningham. To recommend someone for this mission service contact your district's nominations team or the nominations committee chair of the Cunningham Board.

9. Invite a Cunningham speaker to address your unit or congregation.

Each district has two Cunningham representatives who are well versed in the Cunningham mission and ministry. To arrange a visit from one of your Cunningham representatives you may contact them directly. If you are interested in having a staff person from Cunningham come to share with your unit or to provide pulpit replacement on a Sunday morning, that may be arranged by calling Stephanie Lynge, Cunningham Church and Community Relations Specialist, at 217/367-3728 (ext. 106) or e-mail slynge@cunninghamhome.org.

10. Financially support the Cunningham mission.

Each unit is encouraged to support Cunningham through the channels of the United Methodist Women. The local treasurer sends a gift for Cunningham to the district treasurer clearly identified as a national supplementary gift for Cunningham Children's Home. Treasurers should indicate how the gift is to be used. The categories to stipulate are:

Annual operating support

This includes the daily expenses of the children, birthday gifts, Christmas, school supplies, camps, etc. and the Guardian Parent Giving Program.

Chapel Building Fund

A *Chapel* on the grounds of Cunningham Children's Home will serve as *the heart* of our community of faith. It will be a sacred place for joy and worship where we can hold weekly prayer services, Sunday worship, and spiritual guidance counseling for our children. It will be a place where our children and youth can go to find the strength and peace they need to continue the hard work of healing from past hurts and find hope for the future.

District Project

Each year, each district selects a major project from a list of suggested needs. These projects are usually capital improvements or new building projects such as the cabin at Lake Mattoon, the Boys' Group Home and the Chapel Fund. District presidents will notify local units once a project has been selected.

The mission of Cunningham Children's Home is to offer emotional, social, educational and spiritual support to children, youth and families by providing a safe, nurturing, therapeutic environment in which individuals may experience personal growth and healing.

Cunningham
CHILDREN'S • HOME

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