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## **Tangipahoa Parish President and Economic Development Leaders Tour New Methodist Children's Home in Loranger**

Louisiana United Methodist Children and Family Services (LUMCFS) hosted a personal tour recently for Tangipahoa Parish economic development leaders to acknowledge their leadership and encouragement as the non-profit organization constructed the new Methodist Children's Home of Southeast Louisiana in the parish. The new facility, one of three operated by LUMCFS in Louisiana, provides comprehensive, intensive residential care for children with severe emotional and behavioral needs.

"LUMCFS is grateful for the strong support of Tangipahoa parish leaders who opened their hearts to our organization and, ultimately, to the children and families we serve," said LUMCFS President and CEO Rick Wheat in welcoming the group to the new facility. "Your openness demonstrates your concern for the health and well-being of children and families throughout Louisiana."

The leaders toured the facility's cafeteria, classrooms, 24-hour nursing clinic, administrative and clinical offices, playground, and recreation rooms. In 2015, LUMCFS purchased 126 acres in Loranger, and, in 2018, launched a hallmark capital campaign to develop a new residential treatment facility in southeast Louisiana. Future phases of construction on the campus will include regional offices for Methodist Foster Care, a Life Skills Training Center, and lodging for families of children in care to participate in treatment. LUMCFS has met \$8 million of the \$10 million fundraising goal and will celebrate its supporters at a ribbon-cutting and dedication on Friday, June 24.

"We provide more than services; we are relationships, we are partners, we are everlasting memories that we hope our children and families hold fondly. We want everyone to remember that we are invested and passionate about helping every child and family that comes through our doors with whatever their needs may be. At the end of the day, journeys are forever, but healing starts here." Marlín Giacona, Program Director at Methodist Children's Home of Southeast Louisiana.

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Photo #1: Tangipahoa Parish economic development leaders joined LUMCFS and Methodist Children's Home leaders to tour the new children's facility in Loranger. Taking the tour were (front, l to r) Samonica Brown, Joe Thomas, David Vial, Marlín Giacona, Sarah Head, Donna Miller, Robby Miller, Courtney Murphy; (back row, l to r) Luke Allen, Susan Bonnet Bourgeois, Michael Tomlinson, Lionel Wells, and Rick Wheat.



Photo #2: Marlín Giacona, Director of the new Methodist Children's Home of Southeast Louisiana leads a tour for Tangipahoa economic development leaders and shared details of the new Methodist Children's Home.

