THE METHODIST HOME for children
Of Greater New Orleans
An Agency of LUMCFS, Inc.

Louisiana UNITED METHODIST children & FAMILY SERVICES

Leading Children Home
Pathways

Pulitzer-Nominated Author

Commences LUMCFS Distinguished Speakers Forum

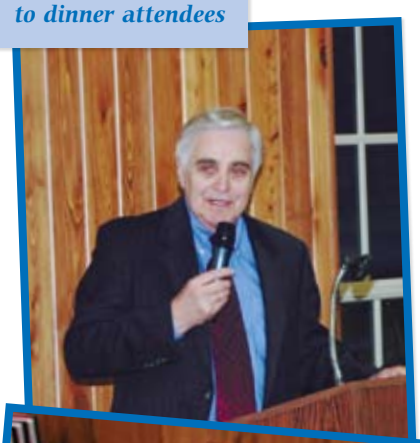
By Erin Rockett, LPC, LMFT

Saturday, March 21 launched the highly-anticipated first event for the LUMCFS Distinguished Speakers Forum, a fund-raising event held at the Henning OWL Conference Center at 6:30 pm. Not an empty seat remained as approximately 200 guests and additional agency staff attended the forum, which sold out prior to event day. The evening's program included dinner prepared by Tall Timbers Lodge, which was served to guests by MCH staff. Following dinner, guests listened to a presentation by Mr. Hugh G. Aynesworth, Pulitzer-prize nominated author and former chief Investigative Reporter for ABC-TV 20/20 news program. Afterwards, Mr. Aynesworth answered audience member questions and provided autographed copies of his works for purchase.

Bob Flournoy and Terrel J. DeVille with guest speaker Hugh Aynesworth

Mr. Aynesworth captivated audience members with an account of his involvement with the JFK assassination story as events unfolded in Dallas on that fateful day in America's history. He revealed that his coverage was unplanned, as the Dallas Morning News had not assigned him to cover the Presidential visit. His presence on location catapulted his involvement into all aspects of the breaking story, including conducting interviews, examining evidence, and tracking leads. For years to follow, the author pursued evidence of various conspiracy theories, finding little credible evidence. Mr. Aynesworth was the first print journalist to interview the widow of Lee Harvey Oswald. His extensive body of research was published in a 2003 book release: "JFK: Breaking the News." This title commemorated that 40th anniversary of the assassination, and was recently featured in the PBS/BBC special television program entitled "Oswald's Ghost".

Mr. Hugh Aynesworth speaks to dinner attendees



In addition to extensive research on the JFK assassination, Mr. Aynesworth discussed investigation of conspiracy theories surrounding the Huey Long assassination. He described his experiences of interviewing colorful characters from Louisiana's past, keeping selected findings private for decades to protect the safety of sources. When questioned by audience members, Mr. Aynesworth revealed that his most memorable presidential interview occurred in 1962 during the Cuban missile crisis. Having just returned from a trip to Cuba, the author was hastily summoned to the home of Lyndon B. Johnson to provide details on the state of Cuban affairs.

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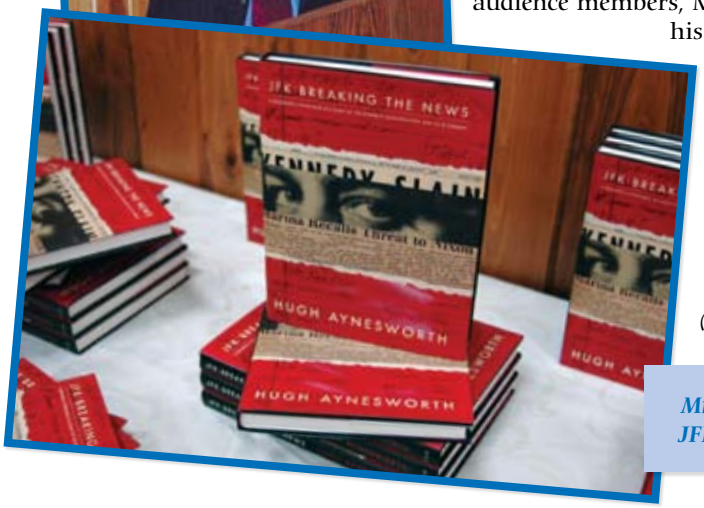

Mr. Aynesworth's book, JFK: Breaking the News

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Spring 2009

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President's Message

Greetings!

I am pleased to report that 2008 was a very successful year in terms of services provided to children, youth, and families by the Louisiana United Methodist Children and Family Services. Our direct care services at the Methodist Children's Home in Ruston remained populated at operational capacity throughout the year. A total of 1,058 individual children were referred for residential services. We were able to care for 259 or 24% of the requests. A total of 128 beds are available on a daily basis for all levels of care, 106 in Ruston and 22 in Mandeville.

During this past year a total of 2,830 individuals were served through the Family Counseling Center on the campus of the Children's Home.

The Family Plus Program continues to grow. During the year a total of 1,474 individuals were provided some level of direct care ranging from crisis intervention and counseling to parental education training. A total of 631 families received services.

A unit total of 18,939 activities occurred at the Outdoor Wilderness Learning (OWL) Center. With 10,007 individuals participating. This is a 11% increase from the previous year. These activities included the Challenge Course (Ropes), camping, fishing, hiking, biking, sport field, hothouse plants, equine therapy, the maze, and the Karen A. Vining Memorial Arbor Walk.

We received a total operating income of $11,576,980 and had expenditures of $11,621,469. A total amount of $45,389 reserve revenue from prior years was utilized to balance the budget. Direct Annual giving from individuals and groups for the second time is our history exceeded one million dollars. Detailed reports will be published once our Annual Audit is completed.

The increased support from our donors was truly a blessing, and that support is what kept us solvent this year. Our Board of Directors, our staff, and I on behalf of the Children given new hope in life by experiencing God's Love through our ministry thank you for being on our team during 2008. May God bless all that we do in 2009!

In His Service,

Terrel J. DeVille
President/CEO • LUMCFS, Inc.

Pulitzer-Nominated Author...

(continued from cover)

He recalled that the Johnson's home was still half-unpacked from a recent move, leaving few areas for seating. The odd juxtaposition of conducting state affairs amidst a stack of boxes and picture frames stood out among the multitude of presidential interviews conducted across the author's career.

During an interview graciously granted by Mr. Aynesworth prior to the forum, he revealed additional personal projects in progress. Included among his list are a 60-year career retrospective manuscript, and an unnamed television documentary. When asked to reflect on the future direction of the investigative journalism field, Mr. Aynesworth lamented the decline of investigative journalism integrity, due in part to economic conditions, print publication closings, and due to the advent of abundant but unvalidated sourcing from internet bloggers.

In closing the interview, Mr. Aynesworth praised Louisiana Methodist Children's and Family Services for the array of community-enhancing and therapeutic services provided to the state by the agency. Citing Louisiana's high adult incarceration rate, he declared that "more people ought to know about this", referring to the mission of the organization. He added that LMCH was "one of the best-kept secrets" of Louisiana, indicating his belief that agency work should be known across the nation.

Mr. Aynesworth and his wife concluded their visit to the Ruston area by attending local Sunday morning worship services at Trinity United Methodist Church.

Will Our Children to Christ

by including LMCH in your will and estate planning.

Leave Your Legacy

There are many ways to provide long-term gifts that will ensure that our programs continue well into the future. One such way is to include us in your Will or Bequest, by simply adding the Louisiana Methodist Children's Home as a beneficiary in your will.

- **IRA Gift** – Make a charitable gift from your IRA.
- **Charitable Gift Annuity** – Give a valuable asset to a charity in exchange for a flow of income, with tax benefits to you.
- **Charitable Remainder Trust** – Reach your financial goals, possibly increasing your income and lowering your taxes, while supporting a charity.
- **Wealth Replacement Trust** – Purchase a Life Insurance and make LMCH the beneficiary of the policy, or add LMCH as the beneficiary to a policy you already have.

Talk with your lawyer or financial advisor about these and other options, or contact Bob Flournoy at 318-243-4325, www.bob.flournoy@lmch.org.

It was standing room only as attendees to the event packed out Benedict's Plantation in Mandeville.

Breakfast Awareness, Mandeville

It was standing room only at Benedict's Plantation in Mandeville on Tuesday, February 10th, as LUMCFS, Inc staff, alumni and local attendees gathered together for the united purpose of informing the community and increasing awareness of the various programs offered by the organization.

The crowd was welcomed by Master of Ceremonies, Randy Ewing and an invocation was led by Rev. James Mitchell, Sr. Pastor of St. Timothy on the Northshore. Ewing spoke of his and wife Rosemary's longtime involvement with the Home, saying "we do not always see the face of the child in the shadow and who is the least of us and what will we do about it?

Alumni speakers and sisters, Katie Lanclos and Elaine McDaniel held a captive audience as they shared again the story of their horrific, abusive childhood. A childhood stripped of innocence and nurturing, as their father committed some form of abuse daily and ultimately murdered their mother and unborn sibling. Katie and Elaine, along with their siblings whom they had been separated from, eventually were able to reunite and came to live at the Methodist Children's Home. "For the first time in our lives, after being stripped of our dignity and robbed of our innocence, I realized I could overcome the cycle of abuse and addiction," McDonald said. "For the first time in my life, I felt safe."

Marlín Giacona, Program Director of Methodist Home for Children of New Orleans spoke, stating it is "an exciting time for us as we celebrate our first year in our new Home. On Thursday of this week, we will be at capacity with our 20th youth entering the program." Giacona told the attendees a success story about a girl who recently graduated the program, saying that when the young girl arrived she would always walk around with a blanket wrapped around her, barely able to even see her eyes, as if the blanket made her invisible. Through the dedication of the staff and therapists, those walls began to slowly break. As the cracks grew in those walls, the blanket came down as well. She went from being a D and F student that was expelled from every school she attended, to being an A-B Honor Roll student. Giacona said, "Although she was not the oldest of our girls, she became a good role model and a leader among the girls. Her motto was: If I can do it, anyone can!" The young girl graduated the program this past January and has been reunited with her family.

Terrel J. DeVille, President and CEO of LUMCFS, Inc. thanked all of the sponsors of the event, the table captains, and Lanclos and McDaniel for sharing their story. He shared with attendees the Home's mission of "Guiding children and families home to experience God's love by following the teachings of Jesus Christ." DeVille reminded everyone that "we are the same ministry that was on Washington Avenue, we are partners." DeVille also said that children are so precious and that we too are amazed at the turn around when they have love and learn values. DeVille also spoke of the various other programs in different locations throughout the state such as Baton Rouge, Pineville, Monroe and the ground-breaking of a new location in Sulphur.

Mr. Curtis Pellerin, President of the Board of Directors for the New Orleans Home, spoke about the need for transition from Washington Avenue to the current location, recalling that Hurricane Katrina brought about the long needed transition for the Home in New Orleans to the LMCH organization. He stated that "when the idea was presented in the aftermath of the storm, it was with great thought, consideration, and prayer for us to do what was best for the youth of the state, that the Board of Director's in New Orleans knew it was time. So, with the help of Mr. DeVille and the Bishop, we were able to make this transition."

Mandeville Breakfast Awareness attendees listen as Alumni Elaine McDaniel speaks.

To wrap up the breakfast event, Rosemary Ewing spoke of the total commitment of the staff that work with all of the youth, saying that the word "Methodist" has come to mean "a state-wide Home, treating all types of children today." She related a story about the children from inner city New Orleans visiting the OWL Center in northern Louisiana and finding themselves in total darkness there. "The silence was deafening to them, more so than the noises of the city chaos, and this silence was frightening at first," she said. She spoke of the challenging times we are in financially, but invited everyone to join our Circle of Friends.

Leroy and Elaine McDaniel and Katie Lanclos, alumni of the Home.

A benediction was given by Rev. Marie Williams, Co-Pastor of Aldersgate UMC.

The Buzz from Dr. Bob

Dr. Robert W. Flournoy,
Director of Major Gifts & Planned Giving

$36,712

This is the figure of the cost it takes each day of the year to operate and maintain the Ruston (106 children and 300 staff) and Mandeville (20 youth and 35) staff campuses and other outreach programs. It is a BIG number! Multiply that number by 365 days of the year and you get $13,400,000—that's THIRTEEN MILLION, FOUR HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS—our 2009 budget! You can be certain that the administration and staff of the Home is doing everything in their power to be efficient with the financial operation of the Home.

Of the $13,400,000, approximately 66% or $9 million is received from the State of Louisiana as "fees for services". Remember, most of the youth in our care are wards of the state because (1) they have been taken from their families due to neglect or abuse and are part of the Office of Child Services system or (2) they are in the Department of Corrections system due to behavior.

Where does the remaining 33% income come from? It comes from two sources: (1) Interest from our Endowment Fund: by policy we access interest from the fund for operating expenses. As of February 1, 2009, the fund was at $17 million, down from $26 million last year due to the national economic situation. Income from the interest is less than 6% of the budget; and (2) Donations and contributions: gifts from individuals and businesses must make up the remaining 29% of the budget, or $3.8 million.

Raising $3.8 million is a BIG assignment for the PRDM (Public Relations, Development and Marketing) Department. We greatly depend on our honorariums, memorials, Circle of Friends, Medallion Sponsors, and non-designated contributions. That means we greatly depend on YOU! How can you help?

First, we need your prayers for our youth and staff. Spiritual battles are ongoing for these youth and we need your prayer support. Secondly, we need your financial gifts.

In uncertain economic times, God's people have the responsibility to remain faithful to our calling to assist the needy. My wife, Patricia, and I enjoy and receive joy in giving. I didn't always feel this way, but when I rely on God's abundance and follow His leading I am never found lacking.

Children face an even greater threat for abuse and neglect during uncertain economic times. We must all do our part to encourage families to be whole and nurturing to their children. And for those families who break and where children suffer, we are here to help. We need you to help us be the beacon of light for children who are abused, neglected and traumatized.

Thank you, thank you for your support in the past. We can't tell you enough how much we depend on your financial gifts. No gift is too small and we appreciate the $5 gifts just like we appreciate the $25,000 gifts. All of them are multiplied when placed in God's hands.

I am ready and willing to come to your church, civic club, organization, business, or family to share the Home's mission and needs. Please call me at 318-243-4325 or email bob.flournoy@lmch.org if you have questions or need information.

Circle of Friends Annual Fund

What is the Circle of Friends?

The Circle of Friends was created in 2004 by the Louisiana Methodist Children's Home Board of Directors as an Annual Fund. Its purpose is to allow individuals and businesses to financially partner with the Home in the holistic treatment of abused and neglected youth. In addition, the Annual Fund gives the Home a steady financial resource.

Who can join the Circle of Friends?

Individuals, businesses, Sunday School classes, small groups, United Methodist Men and Women's groups, civic organizations, churches, schools, and foundations are just some of the members of this generous group of donors.

When do I join?

Anytime, but the month of January is the best time to join and renew membership. Generally speaking, financial gifts to the Home decrease at the first of the year, but our expenses remain the same. By receiving memberships at the beginning of the year, the Home has a more constant income. Members may join at a certain level, but pay monthly throughout the year.

What are the benefits of the Circle?

The youth in our care benefit from the food, clothing, school supplies, medicine, recreation, and educational instruction the funds supply. Donors benefit because they become part of a trusted agency that gives youth the chance for a better life.

Circle of Friends Giving Levels

Century Club	$100
Children's Club	$250
President's Club	$500
Board of Directors Club	$1,000
Twenty-first Century Club	$2,100
Legacy Club	$5,000
Centennial Club	$10,000

Update...MCH

Mardi Gras King and Queen Mike and Diana Pahal visiting with our youth.

Mardi Gras King and Queen visit the Ruston campus of LMCH

For the third year in a row, the Krewe of Janus Mardi Gras King and Queen from Monroe, LA visited our youth for a special Mardi Gras celebration on the Ruston campus. This program is a way to teach our youth about different cultures and have them participate in those different cultures. All of the youth that attend Howard School on campus are in attendance for the program. The King and Queen tell the students about Mardi Gras and the Krewe of Janus, and then they have a question and answer session. Our youth were very interested and asked many questions! This year's King and Queen, Mike and Diana Pahal, passed out beads to all of the youth.

Mardi Gras

This year our Recreation Therapy groups spent some time learning about the history of Mardi Gras. They enjoyed learning about King Cakes, and then were able to eat them as well!!

Several beautifully decorated Mardi Gras masks were donated to the Home by a group of Art students from Louisiana Tech. These masks were the inspiration for a mask project with our youth. The masks were then used to decorate the tree in the dining room of LMCH's Recreation Department. This tree is typically decorated for all special holidays throughout the year.

Below and at right: Working on their Mardi Gras Mask project.

Update…MCH

Resident of the Home Wins Local and Regional Science Fair

What is the Truth?

During this school year I have worked with a gifted child at Howard School. This was my first time to teach at the MCH and I was not quite sure what I would find when I arrived. After the first day of meeting my new student and meeting several staff members, I felt right at home.

What I didn't know that first day was that my new student knew exactly what he wanted to do with our time together. He is an extremely bright young man with a definite sense of what he wants and how he plans to proceed academically. The gifted program in Lincoln Parish is an enrichment program that works to encourage students to use their intellectual "gifts" to further develop skills in critical thinking, logical reasoning, problem solving, creative expression, and research. For this student, the gifted program fit like a glove.

Once all of the informal and official meetings were over, we were ready to get to work. This student decided, right from the start, that he had an idea that he wanted to explore in depth and then to do a research paper on the topic.

I knew that a research paper was a good teaching/learning opportunity, but I didn't want a paper to be the final sum of his work. I started looking into local social studies fairs that he could possibly enter in order to showcase his work. With permission from Mr. Rick Sutton, Principal of Howard School, and through some investigation we found that this student could have his own local fair with three impartial judges. If his work was deemed "good enough", he could enter it into the regional fair at La. Tech.

Over the next few months we brainstormed and discussed many issues dealing with his chosen topic, "What is the Truth?" We discussed science, philosophy, theology, cultural differences, changing times, reality, and superstition. During a home pass, this child was able then to take these ideas and do further exploration on his own at the public library. By the time he returned, he had turned our ideas and his research into a full report. By February, he had his social studies fair board completed and his report ready to be judged.

Well long story short, this student did very well with the local judges, he made some suggested revisions prior to regionals, won first place in sociology at the regional competition at La. Tech in March, qualified to move on to state competition, and is currently putting the final touches on his project to take it down to South Louisiana in April. And I, well I have had the honor to spend some time with this very interesting young man and accompany him on this brief part of our journey, and have been definitely enriched by the experience.

Marilyn Blachier
Gifted and Talented Teacher for Lincoln Parish Schools

Valentine's Day Banquets

Thank you so much to Louisiana Tech's Kappa Delta sorority for sponsoring a Valentine's Day banquet for our CAB youth! This has become a tradition and our youth look forward to the food and fun each year!!

Thank you also to the Gamma Beta Phi organization for sponsoring the Valentine's Day banquet for our Residential houses. This too is a fun filled event that our youth have come to enjoy year after year!

Update...MCH

Russ House Prayer Pillows

Many thanks to the local residents of Russ House for making prayer pillows for our youth! Some of the Russ House residents participate in a sewing class and their most recent project was to make these prayer pillows for our youth to be given to them at a Valentine's Day banquet held here on the Ruston campus of LMCH.

Small, hand-held prayer pillow made by residents of Russ House

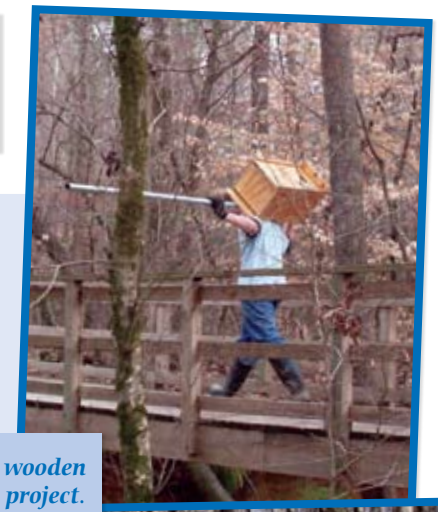
CAB Birthday

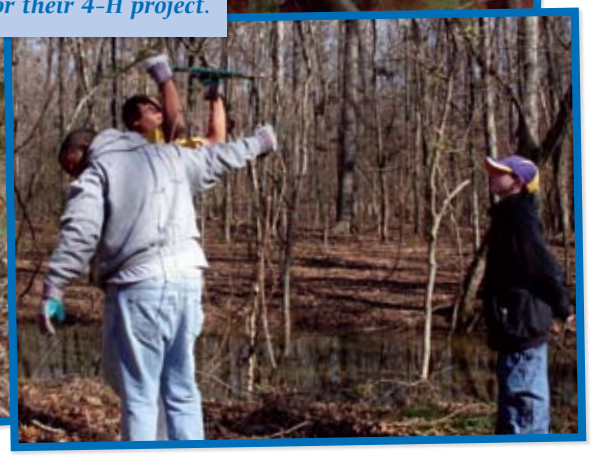
Special thanks to Angie and Troy Biscomb of First National Bank of Ruston for sponsoring a CAB birthday party for our youth.

Angie and Troy Biscomb

4-H Arbor Walk Project

Several of our C.B. White House boys recently participated in a 4-H project. They made wood duck houses and worked especially hard on the Karen Vining Memorial Arbor Walk at our OWL Center in Dubach, getting it ready to install the 10 wood duck houses they built. Congratulations to the boys on a job well done and many thanks to Mr. Don and Mr. Mike for their assistance with this project!! The project was featured in our local newspaper in Ruston!





C.B. White youth work on wooden duck houses for their 4-H project.

January 1, 2009 - March 15, 2009

Thanks again to our extended family for their contributions as well as for honoring and remembering their loved ones.

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First UMC, Oak Grove
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First UMC, Ponchatoula
First UMC, Ringgold
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First UMC, Slidell
First UMC, St. Joseph, LA
First UMC, Tallulah
First UMC, Thibodaux
First UMC, Two By Two SS Class, Minden
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Printing of the Pathways

Please know that we take very seriously the challenge to manage our finances wisely. We want our readers to know that thanks to a long-standing professional relationship with our printer, as well as because of great advances in technology, we are able to print our Pathways now in full color at very little extra cost. We have had much positive response to our newsletters that have been printed in full color, and feel that it would be beneficial to us to continue to do so in the future.

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Our Home

Louisiana United Methodist Children & Family Services, Inc.

Trust

Spiritual

Yearly Report *for* 2008

1,058 referrals were received from the public and private sources.

259 youth lived on the Ruston campus.

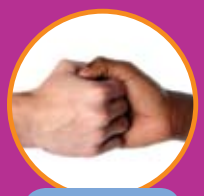
572 independent living classes served **487** youth.

Educate

2,830 individuals were served by Family counseling; **194** outpatient families helped.

Teamwork

131 residential youth families were given extensive help with **342** individual family members seen in therapy at the Family counseling Center.



Friendship

567 families and a total of **1,218** individuals were served by Family Plus. MST Program served **256** persons and **64** families during the year.

Love

204 youth were served in Howard Educational Center; **5** graduated from the GED program, which had **18** participants throughout the year. **40** participated in the Vo-tech program and 5 obtained Skill Certificates.

10,007 used the Outdoor Wilderness Learning (OWL) Center including: camping, fishing, hiking, team challenge course, biking, equine program, horticulture program, and the sports complex.

Family

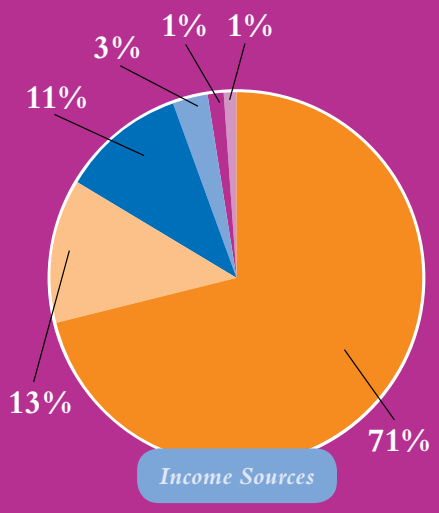
Visit us at ***lmch.org***

Income & Expenses

Residential Programs & Services	Number of Youth	Cost Per Child Per Day for 2008
CAB Program	30	$297.46
Residential	58	$187.92
Emergency Care	12	$222.24
Wings	6	$262.87
Greater New Orleans	22	$193.24
Current Capacity for 2008	*Ruston: 106*	*Mandeville: 22*

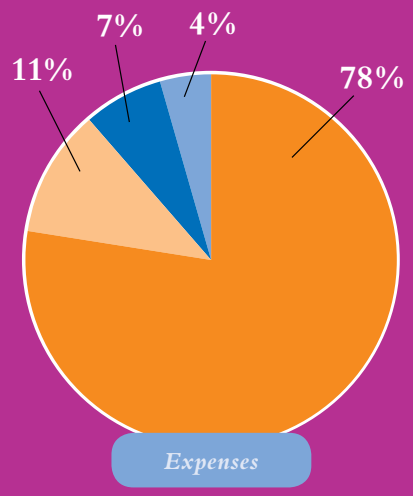
Income Sources for Program Operations

Fees for Services	$8,270,160.00
Contributions	$1,463,964.00
Endowment Income	$1,270,284.00
Grants	$356,463.00
Other Income	$149,227.00
Conference Offering	$111,371.00
Total Income	**$11,621,469.00**



Expense Summary for Program Operations

Direct Care	$9,017,713.00
Admin & General	$1,296,874.00
Plant Operation	$791,839.00
Development	$515,043.00
Total Expense	**$11,621,469.00**



Total Budget for 2008	**$13,133,824.00**
Total Budget for 2009	**$13,463,325.00**
Current Market Value of Endowment *(as of January 1, 2009)*	***$20,867,077.00***

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LMCH Black History Program

By Tiki Jackson, Vaughn House Supervisor

The LMCH Black History Program started by my past assistant supervisor allowing youth in the house to research a prominent person that had contributed to Black History and display their findings on a poster. Since the posters were so good, the youth, staff, my assistant and I wanted to share this with the rest of the campus in Wednesday Chapel. Bro. Mickey agreed and not only were the posters were displayed, but we added several other things such as: singing, poetry, dancing, slide shows, reading of speeches, and skits.

Our first program was held on February 24, 2005. In 2006, I incorporated a poster & essay contest with prizes for the winners of each category. With the help of many different staff, Ms. Taquana Joseph and I, the Black History program continued to grow. I gladly work hard to organize this program so it will be a success because it is very important for us to be culturally diverse. This sends the message to our youth that no matter what struggle you may endure, it can be overcome! It's amazing to me how our youth volunteer each year to participate in the program, and our staff volunteer to help as well. The youth and staff do a wonderful job by making it a success. They never complain about practice, and as a matter of fact, several youth call me for extra practice time! This year's program was very special to me because we paid tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. by reading a portion of his "I Have A Dream" speech. We also paid tribute to Abraham Lincoln and our new President, Barack Obama. Our theme was "Keeping the Dream Alive". At the end of the program, I personally emphasized to all youth and staff that no matter what they want to be they can achieve their goals if they work hard at their dream! I encouraged them to keep Dr. Martin Luther King's dream alive by completing school, because an education is the key to success. Every year our youth, staff and Administration sit at the edge of their seats ready to see what we have prepared. The only feedback we get is good job and well done!!

Mr. Kitwana McTyer recites Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "I Have A Dream" speech.

The tree in the chapel was decorated with pictures of African American Achievers for the program.

One of the many awesome posters made by our youth for the program and contest.

Kids Korner

Saying Goodbye to Bad Memories

This edition of Kids Korner features a letter written by a youth in our Mandeville Home, in additon to a rap song written by several other Mandeville youth.

My Childhood

By DM

My childhood was bad.
I did not have my mom.
My mom was not around.
I was in home to home
because some people
did not care about
me. Since
I was sent to MCH, I
found out people who
love me.

All Pain with No Gain

Created by MJ, BB, BL, and DH

Daddy why didn't you respect me, instead of neglecting me?
Now I'm out for my revenge, the hate and anger that comes from within.
Why can't we respect and love each other and stop my pain of this disease from coming?
Oh Lord, what can I do to prevent myself from becoming an anger man?
Can I respect to neglect the pain I feel and make better decisions becoming real?
Love me to hate me; that's all you do.
Lord knows I would be sick and disease without you.
I know it was wrong how much you neglected me, but you didn't have to harm me for the wrong decisions I made.
That put me through so much pain.
Have faith in the Lord who died on the cross. Bring love, peace, and respect to one another.

Upcoming Events for MCH

Mother's Day Offering

Our Annual Mother's Day offering will be held on Sunday, May 10, 2009. We will continue to implement changes which began with last year's offering: Due to continued increases in postage, we regret we will no longer be able to acknowledge each donation with a personal letter. Please know that your donations are very important to us and to the daily success of our ministry and we feel your money is better used to fund our programs for the children and families we serve.

Annual Golf Tournament

The 2009 Golf Tournament will be held at the Ruston Country Club in Ruston, Louisiana on May 29, 2009. Lunch will be served at 11:30am and golfers will tee off at 1:00pm. This event helps to raise money for our Summer Youth Trip. Please contact Daryl Altic at 318-255-5020 for more information.

Summer Youth Trip

Our youth are looking forward to another fun filled trip to Six Flags and Hurricane Harbor in Arlington, TX. This is a great annual event for them and an opportunity to get away, eat at great restaurants, shop at the Galleria, and just enjoy themselves away from Home!

We do our best to give each donor credit for his/her gift. If your name was listed incorrectly or was not listed, please accept our apology.

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Helen Fisher

Toley Moore Fisher
Children, Grandchildren, and Great Grandchild
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Donor Thank You Letters

We will no longer be sending a thank you letter each time you make a donation, but look for an End of the Year statement of giving for your tax records.

Important Donor Information regarding IRS requirements:

Record needed for all cash gifts.

No matter how small of an amount you donate to us in cash, you must keep a canceled check, bank record, or a receipt with our organization's name and the amount on it.

Otherwise there will be no deduction allowed by the IRS. At the end of the year we will send a letter listing all gifts made that calendar year. You will receive this letter by the end of January for the prior year's gifts.

United Methodist Association Recognizes Recipient of

Distinguished Service Award

(Vandalia, OH) February 23, 2009 – The United Methodist Association of Health & Welfare Ministries (UMA), a national network of United Methodist related organizations, announces that Mr. Terrel J. DeVille will receive UMA's Distinguished Service Award on Saturday, March 7, 2009 for service to the Association.

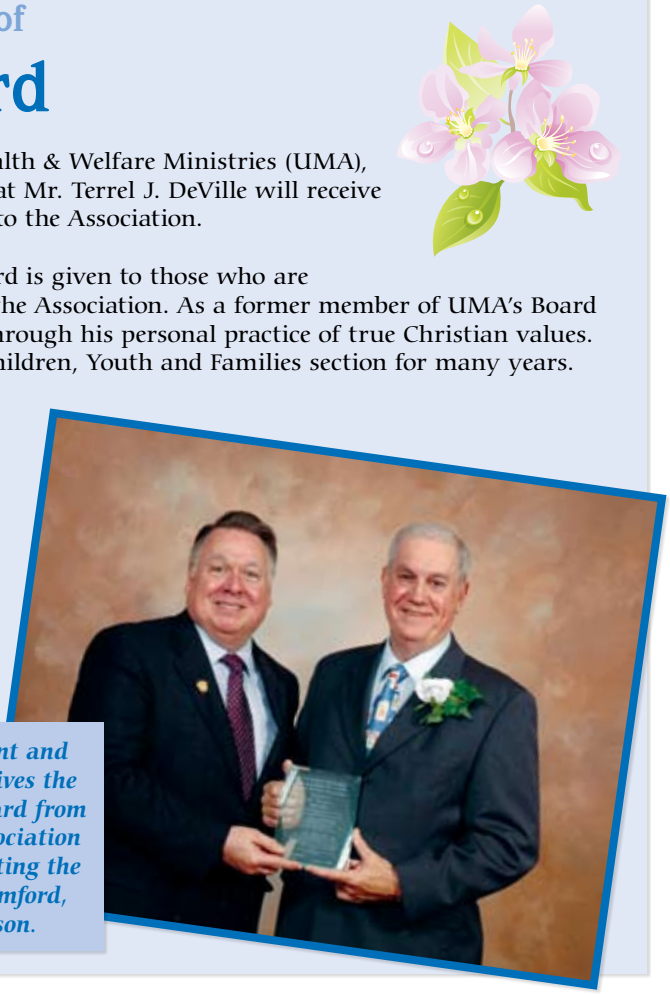
One of the highest honors bestowed by UMA, the Distinguished Service award is given to those who are characterized by leadership and proven commitment to the advancement of the Association. As a former member of UMA's Board of Directors and numerous other committees, DeVille has influenced UMA through his personal practice of true Christian values. His leadership contributions have and will continue to shape UMA and its Children, Youth and Families section for many years.

DeVille has served at Louisiana United Methodist Children & Family Services in Ruston, LA since 1968 and has been its chief executive director since 1973.

He has served as a Peer Reviewer for UMA's Educational Assessment Guidelines Leading toward Excellence (EAGLE) accreditation process and Chairperson of the Children, Youth and Families section. His dedication to the association has been invaluable.

Recognition of Mr. DeVille's achievements, took place on Saturday, March 7, 2009 at the Hyatt Regency State Capitol, Indianapolis, IN during UMA's 69th National Convention.

UMA is a national network of approximately 400 health and human service organizations. UMA provides its members with education, accreditation, networking, communication and business services while keeping with the rich, historical, Wesleyan traditions and practices of the United Methodist denomination.



Terrel J. DeVille, President and CEO of LUMCFS, Inc. receives the Distinguished Service Award from the United Methodist Association on March 7, 2009. Presenting the award is Dr. Steve L. Rumford, UMA Board Chairperson.

Louisiana Methodist Children's Home

PO Box 929
Ruston, LA. 71273
318-255.5020

Mother's Day Offering

For more than 100 years, Louisiana Methodist Children's Home has cared for orphaned, abused, abandoned, neglected and hurting children.

Thousands of children who desperately need a Christian Home, good medical care, nourishing food, proper clothing, and education have found refuge here.

Always, there has been the desire, the prayers, that each one would come to know the Lord as personal Savior.

Please give generously to support and extend this worthy ministry through the *Mother's Day Offering.*

May 10, 2009

Alumni Page

Featuring

Tod Neal

In the late 1980s a young man came to be a resident of our Children's Home in Ruston. Tod Neal came to our home because of or due to abuse and lack of family, and spent 4-5 years in our care. Tod didn't have much family in this area, and spent most of his time on campus or working to save his money for a bike. Tod attended Ruston High School, where he was a dedicated athlete, playing football during his years there. He fondly remembers his time at the Children's Home as a resident of Vaughn House and CB White House. When he had finally earned the money for a bike, Tod began to train as a triathlete. LMCH President and CEO Terrel J. DeVille said "I remember Tod as a very disciplined young man focused on his future. He was very competitive, demonstrating all of these characteristics as a tri-athlete."

Upon graduation from Ruston High School in 1989, Tod initially went to Louisiana Tech University for 2 years. It was in 1991 that he joined the United States Navy full time. Tod currently serves our country as Chief Petty Officer, Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD).

As a Senior EOD Tech, Tod has been to Iraq on 4 different tours of duty. During his time served in Iraq, Tod and his EOD Team served in Operation Iraqi Freedom from April to October 2005. Petty Officer Tod Neal was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for "heroic achievement in connection with combat operations against the enemy as Explosive Ordnance Disposal Team Leader. In a citation presented to him on behalf of the President of the United States, P.M. Walsh, Vice Admiral, United States Navy, states that "During May 2005, while embedded with 3rd Reconnaissance Echo Company during Operation EXTENDED REACH, Petty Officer Neal and a Reconnaissance element chased down an insurgent mortar team and discovered a buried network of 23 cache sites totaling 3,000 pounds of guided missiles, rockets and projectiles. Petty Officer Neal's actions led to the safe passage of countless Coalition convoys and maneuver elements resulting in a 50 percent decrease in insurgent laid Improvised Explosive Devices in the Raleigh area of operations. By his zealous initiative, courageous actions and exceptional dedication to duty, Petty Officer Neal reflected great credit upon himself and upheld the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service."

Tod was also awarded the Purple Heart for wounds received in action during the Battle of Fallujah. Tod recently visited our Children's Home in Ruston while on vacation with his wife and two children. He enjoyed visiting our campus and reminiscing with several of the staff who were here during his time at the home. He was able to visit with Gary Rambin who used to be the supervisor in one of the houses Tod lived in. Gary is now Director of Residential Services. Tod was able to briefly visit with Mr. DeVille as well.

We don't always know how our residents fare once they leave our Home. When they age out of the system, they are not required to keep in touch with us. It is wonderful when they do come back, as Tod has, and we find out how they have been doing and what they have accomplished since their time here. Tod's story is such a testimony to our current youth that you can do whatever you put your mind to, and be whatever you aspire to be. Regardless of the circumstances that brought you here, life is out there waiting to be lived, dreams are theirs to accomplish, and LMCH provides a foundation for them to build on to achieve those dreams and goals.

Update...MCH

of Greater New Orleans

New Orleans Message

Greetings!

2009 has started off with excitement and blessings, as well as a new school semester. Our youth hit the ground running and continue to tackle a busy academic work-load. On January 21, 2009, we celebrated a female youth's graduation from the program. Although the day was filled with mixed emotions of sadness and joy, we know our girl has succeeded in something she never thought she would. It is a great feeling to see a youth change right before your eyes; from a cocoon to a beautiful butterfly. We threw a Super-bowl party for the youth, even though our home team did not make it, we still enjoyed a good game and great food.

The boys have been hard at work participating in a substance abuse prevention program that is held every Saturday morning. It has been amazing to see the boys engage in great team work and support for each other. They should complete the program in 2-3 weeks, at which time it will be the girls turn. We continue to be blessed with sponsors and donors. On February 7th, the Kiwanis Club sponsored a trip to the Insectarium for our youth. Although some of the youth had reservations about a building full of insects, they had a blast. We even had a few youth actually taste fried worms and crickets! The trip ended with a nice and filling lunch at McDonald's, which was also sponsored by the Kiwanis Club. You can never go wrong with McDonald's and children. Needless to say, we had 15 sleeping youth on the way back to the home. Valentine's day was filled with companionship and joy thanks to Life Giving Family Church. They provided 54 hours of entertainment and arts/crafts for the youth. They definitely made the day special and allowed the youth to create wonderful tokens for their loved ones.

We entered Mardi Gras season in mid February, and enjoyed various parades around the Northshore area. Youth came home with tons of beads, doubloons, stuffed animals, and even food! It was great to see amazement in youth's eyes as they watched beautiful and detailed floats, as well as the awesome talent of the school bands that marched. The month of February ended with a great skating party. Thanks to the United Methodist Women of 1st United Methodist Church of Covington for sponsoring the party. It was a night of excitement, few falls, and once again, great food. March was filled with socials and school exams. Country Woods Church sponsored a social on March 14th, and the youth group of 1st UMC of Covington sponsored another skating party on March 15th. The youth also enjoyed a wonderful concert at St. Timothy's UMC on March 22nd, and were inspired by a great message.

I am truly amazed at all the activities our youth have been blessed to participate in and can only wait to see what the rest of 2009 brings. Thank you to all of our sponsors and donors, because you make many things possible.

Marlín Giacona
Program Director
The Methodist Home for Children of Greater New Orleans

Hornets Game

Thanks to tickets and t-shirts donated by Michael and Sue Dolittle from the Peja Stozakivic Children's Foundation, youth were able to attend a Hornet's game at the New Orleans Arena on Tuesday, February 6th. The youth had a blast and we are so grateful to the Dolittles for their thoughtful donation!!

Hall's 'Marks

by Doug Hall

Uncommon Paths to Lives of True Significance

I have been enjoying the book *Uncommon*, by Tony Dungy, a remarkably successful coach who led the Indianapolis Colts to Super Bowl victory in 2007. Coach Dungy writes that a life of true significance is marked by character, integrity, and courage, and emphasizes his walk with God. The book's title intrigued me. It comes from lectures Dungy heard from his own coach (Cal Stroll), when he was a freshman playing at the University of Minnesota:

"Success is uncommon, therefore not to be enjoyed by the common man. I'm looking for uncommon people."

This led me to reflect on how LMCH is also in need of "uncommon people" who want to make a positive impact in the lives of our youth. Lately, our experience has been that once we inform people of our mission, and the needs of our children, such exceptional people often come to us! What a blessing this has been. Here are just a few examples:

After attending the Breakfast in Mandeville, members of North Cross UMC, in Madisonville, expressed interest in helping to provide birthday parties for the youth at our Mandeville Home. This will support the efforts of St. Timothy on the Northshore UMC, whose Missions Committee has been meeting this need by themselves, and now have some "relief".

Rev. Chris Fryou of Waldheim UMC reports that several folks from his congregation, who also attended our Breakfast, have called him to say they want to get more involved with our youth. The United Methodist Women of Covington FUMC want to introduce arts and crafts projects to our kids. Stan Weber, of St. Timothy UMC, had a lap top computer he had rarely used, and donated it to our youth. Todd Giustiniano also donated a computer and printer to the Home.

Dr. Scott Bergstedt, of Henning Memorial UMC in Sulphur, shares that he plans to help us establish a computer lab for the residents of the Home we are building in southwest LA. Connie Shaw recently agreed to serve as our Local Church Representative for Lake Charles FUMC. Connie's Mother and four sister's grew up in the Ruston Home when we were known as "the orphanage". Passionate about helping to promote the Home for southwest LA, Connie has an appreciation and respect for the history of LMCH which is very personal. Connie is "uncommon". And our children are blessed by this.

Doug Hall, our ambassador to south Louisiana, delights in sharing the "latest" at Louisiana Methodist Children's Home. He is available to share with you, your church, UMW, UMM, or civic organization. Call him at (985) 860-5247.

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Pathways

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