

WESTERN KENTUCKY UNITED METHODIST FAMILY SERVICES

Timm Fair, Chair

Western Kentucky United Methodist Family Services (WKUMFS) is a 501(c)(3) Foster Care Support Agency of The Tennessee-Western Kentucky Conference of The United Methodist Church. Its ministry aligns perfectly with The Tennessee-Western Kentucky Conference mission; especially *offering Jesus Christ to the hurting world, one neighborhood at a time*. The Bible says, “Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves; ensure justice for those being crushed. Yes, speak up for the poor and helpless, and see that they get justice” (Proverbs 31:8-9).

The oppression of children entering foster care comes primarily from neglect or drug abuse by their birth parents. There are about 8,888 children in foster care in the state of Kentucky deprived of the normal blessings of a healthy family environment. WKUMFS engages this mission field in the Purchase District by establishing connections with social workers and foster parents as it prays for and serves these hurting children.

WKUMFS’ mission is threefold: 1) Provide for the care and maintenance, support, and education of foster children and foster families. 2) Transform local churches by informing them of the ever-present need for foster parents, respite parents, and adoptive parents. 3) Develop foster children into good citizens of the community through experiencing the love of Jesus Christ.

The WKUMFS Board of Trustees consists of volunteer laity and clergy from local area United Methodist churches along with Purchase District ministry leaders.

“When doubts filled my mind, your comfort gave me renewed hope and cheer.” (Psalm 94:19)

Local United Methodist Congregations

You Can Provide Comfort to Foster Children and Foster Parents!

When congregations are inspired and equipped to help foster and adoptive families, every child is cared for, every family has hope, congregations are strengthened, and communities are healthier and safer.

- Become a foster or adoptive parent or provide respite care to parents
- Start a prayer initiative for foster children and parents
- Host an adoption/foster care awareness training event
- Host special events for foster children such as Easter egg hunts and fall festivals
- Volunteer to serve on a Citizen Foster Care Review Board
- Join the WKUMFS Board of Trustees or donate

Improving the life of foster children is the measure of success. The Kentucky foster care program measures success against its permanency goals. They are 1) return to birth parent, 2) permanent relative placement, and 3) adoption. There are 231 children awaiting adoption in Western Kentucky. Foster parents often adopt their foster children after bonding with them. Jesus described the final judgment like this, “And the King will say, ‘I tell you the truth, when you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were doing it to me’” (Matthew 25:40).

Thank you to all who have supported this ministry!