

Western Kentucky United Methodist Family Services (WKUMFS)
Timm Fair, Chair

Who We Are

WKUMFS is a health and welfare services ministry of the Purchase District in relationship with the Tennessee-Western Kentucky Conference. Our ministry to foster children and foster parents fulfills a command in scripture, which says, "Learn to do good. Seek justice. Help the oppressed. Defend the cause of orphans. Fight for the rights of widows" (Isaiah 1:17).

What We Do

Foster children have suffered a physical or emotional injury, neglect, sexual abuse, exploitation, or abandonment before entering foster care. Through the generosity of our donors, our mission is to share the love of Jesus Christ with them by giving them some traditional experiences of a healthy family, for many a first-ever experience. Some examples are a festive Christmas party, scholarships to Lakeshore or DayShore, a summer outing at Venture River Water Park, and laptops for graduating high school seniors.

We also work with foster parents to enhance a foster child's safety, health, and development when needed. Some examples of this are buying a bed, new clothing, violin lessons, graphing calculators, autism testing, or other immediate needs upon placement in a foster home. We facilitate the placement of preschool and elementary foster children entering foster care in homes with working foster parents by temporarily underwriting (50 percent) the cost of daycare or after-school supervision.

There is a need for more foster parents in our area. We educate local churches by informing them of the ever-present need for foster parents, respite parents, and adoptive parents. We encourage them to seek opportunities to help foster children in their local community.

More information about WKUMFS is available on our website,
<https://sites.google.com/wkumfs.org/www-wkumfs-org/home>

Fruitfulness

Jesus says, "A tree is identified by its fruit. If a tree is good, its fruit will be good" (Matt. 12:33a). The fruit of this ministry is caring for children in distress and the foster parents who take them in. We could not do this without the generosity of our donors; they are the tree. Our donations come from Purchase District local churches, individual members, Sunday school classes, United Women In Faith, and Methodist Men. They donated \$21,783 this past year, and with the \$6,400 from the TWK Conference, all our expenses were covered last year. The tree is good.

The fruit of this ministry shows in the faces of the children who feel joy at our annual Christmas party, the delight of playing outdoors at Venture River Water Park, and the comfort provided them with a warm bed and new clothes to wear to school. A better future is ahead because they receive needed development services, including special education, testing, and training. We shelter them by enabling their placement in foster homes with working parents by underwriting the cost of daycare or after-school care (50 percent of the cost). We allow teens aging out of foster care into independent living to step out on a firm foundation by helping furnish their new apartments. Lastly, and most importantly, eight children we supported found a permanent home through adoption in 2022. Their lives are better; the fruit is good.