



UMCH Family Services
a ministry of the United Methodist Church

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**United Methodist Children's Home Hires New Executive Director
and Announces Future Plans and Name Change to UMCH Family Services**

Sean Reilly takes the helm of the child caring organization that plans to sell land and focus on Adoption, Treatment Foster Care and Family Mental Health

Worthington, OH, October 10, 2011 – United Methodist Children's Home CEO William W. Wilkins announced today the 100-year-old child caring agency has hired Sean Reilly as Executive Director and is changing its name to UMCH Family services. In addition, UMCH Family Services has the intention to sell the land under the UMCH campus to create an endowment and is continuing to focus on its three programs including Adoption, Treatment Foster Care and Family Mental Health Services.

Sean Reilly will begin his post as Executive Director October 25. With extensive children's behavioral health experience, Reilly has held senior executive positions with Applewood Centers in Cleveland and Buckeye Ranch in Columbus. Prior to this, he was a clinical social worker at Harding Hospital.

With the mission to strengthen hurting children and their families, to arrive at its new direction, UMCH Family Services has spent the past year in a process of strategic planning with its Board and staff that included researching the industry climate and effective child caring models and consulting with industry experts.

Nationwide social service and healthcare systems are in the midst of major change. National directives support that there will be far fewer child welfare agencies/providers over the next several years and the child welfare system will focus on whole family care, stabilizing the family and creating safety, permanency and well-being for the child. While UMCH considered many options through its planning process, the new strategic path to focus on its Adoption, Treatment Foster Care and Family Mental Health Services aligns most appropriately to serve future child caring needs. Further, UMCH Family Services will no longer provide residential treatment on its campus (residential services ceased December 2010) but it continues to partner with other agencies that do offer residential services.

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The new name *UMCH Family Services* more accurately describes services the agency provides yet maintains a connection to its past, as it will continue to be a ministry of the United Methodist Church.

“We are pleased Sean is taking the lead as our new Executive Director during such an important time in our history. As we near our 100-year anniversary, which we will celebrate in 2012, we have the opportunity to operate a child and family caring agency that will ultimately touch many new lives and will survive and thrive in the years ahead,” said William W. Wilkins, CEO, UMCF Family Services. “Behavioral health for children is no longer about bricks and mortar; it’s about people and programs. Today, the emphasis is on providing appropriate services to help keep families together – a national directive supportive of Wesley Family services (UMCH’s family and children’s mental and behavioral health outpatient program), Treatment Foster Care and Adoption. As we move forward, we know the future will mean listening to our customers and responding with services that work for them while providing those services in a high quality manner and making certain we are financially prepared to deliver on our commitments.”

To financially secure its future, UMCH is pursuing the sale of most of its UMCH Campus. The sale will not include the West Ohio Conference of the United Methodist Church Center site nor will it include the ground under the Sunrise facilities. With no estimated timing on the land sale, when it does occur, the proceeds will be earmarked toward the establishment of a family and children’s services endowment which will ensure UMCH Family Service’s continued help to children and families for years to come.

The intended endowment will help provide the necessary funding to support Adoption, Foster Care and Wesley Family Services, and will support activities related to strengthening families and children who are most in need in the community, giving UMCH Family Services the potential to touch more families and make a difference in many more lives.

“Through the months of streamlining, revamping and revitalizing, we have maintained the single-minded mission to strengthen children and families through becoming excellent across all of our program service areas including Foster Care, Treatment Foster Care, Adoption Services and Wesley Family Services,” said Wilkins. “And, we are taking the necessary strategic steps to ensure we will be strengthening our community by providing care, nurture and treatment for hurting children and families in Ohio for the next 100 years to come.” **Note:** Wilkins’ appointment as Interim CEO ends October 31, 2011.

About UMCH Family Services

UMCH Family Services, nationally accredited by the Council on Accreditation and certified by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services and the Ohio Department of Mental Health, is a ministry of West Ohio Conference of The United Methodist Church. With a team of highly qualified and caring professionals dedicated to providing every child the best possible opportunity to reach full potential, major program areas include adoption, treatment foster care and family mental health services.

About Sean Reilly, LISW-S

Sean Reilly is an experienced children's behavioral health services executive with more than 30 years of experience inside the child welfare industry. Most recently, Reilly served as managing partner with Executive Resources. Prior to this, he was executive vice president at Applewood Centers in Cleveland where he oversaw all clinical and environmental services for the multi-site mental health and social services agency. He also worked in an executive capacity at Children's Aid Society and the Buckeye Ranch. He spent the first decade of his career as a clinical social worker at Harding Hospital, providing group and family therapy. Reilly received his BSSW, as well as his MSW, from The Ohio State University. He also completed the Case Western Reserve School of Business Mental Health Executive Leadership Program. He has served on numerous boards and committees including Ohio Council of Behavioral Healthcare Providers, The Ohio Association of Child Caring Agencies and the steering committee of the Tapestry System in Cuyahoga County.

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