



## United Methodist Children's Services of Wisconsin, Inc

### *Housing, Stability & Hope for Milwaukee Families*

United Methodist Children's Services is a social service agency established in 1962 by the Wisconsin Annual Conference and the United Methodist Women to address the unmet needs of pregnant teens and their children. Located in the Washington Park neighborhood of Milwaukee, today UMCS addresses many of the basic needs of families living in poverty:

- Safe, affordable housing
- Reliable food sources
- Safe, reliable childcare for multiple working shifts
- Access to quality community resources
- Development of coping skills to address everyday family issues
- Extended supportive services such as supporting access to health care, financial education, mental health & AODA support, transportation, and more



We recognize the difficulty families face in meeting these basic needs, especially when one need is dependent upon another. We know that many families desire a sense of stability and hope for the future, but many lack the skills or resources to overcome the barriers and challenges that they face.

**Based upon our fundamental belief in God's love, United Methodist Children's Services of Wisconsin, Inc. values the dignity, potential, and worth of each individual, and creates a nurturing environment and sense of community in which miracles happen.**

**We understand the interconnected nature of poverty and use a multi-faceted approach to address the struggles families face. UMCS reduces barriers to basic needs so that families can focus on developing roots in the community, building capacity to overcome challenges, and meeting their individualized goals.**

**Through housing, childcare, resources, and community engagement, we act as a stepping stone for families on their way towards stability.**

## Resources



The Family Resource Center is one of the largest emergency food pantry sites in Milwaukee County— in 2016 it distributed almost 150,000 pounds of food to over 7500 people. Besides distribution of 3-4 days of emergency food to individuals and families, the resource center also provides Senior Stock Boxes to seniors who live in poverty, a clothing & hygiene product bank, as well as other supportive services such as FoodShare & Health Insurance application assistance to help community members receive adequate benefits.

The Family Resource Center is supported by donations of food from the Hunger Task Force as well as food, clothing and hygiene products by individuals and congregations throughout Wisconsin. Individual and groups of volunteers help to keep the center running smoothly throughout the year and ensures that we can serve families 52 weeks/year.



UMCS understands that coming to a food or clothing pantry for assistance can be hard for individuals and families, but the resources that are received at the Family Resource Center can help to fulfill short-term needs so that families can focus on the long-term solutions that will help them move towards stability.

Those that work and volunteer in the Family Resource Center strive to treat each individual with compassion, dignity, and grace, and offer individualized supportive resources for each person's particular needs.

### *Join Us!*

Our partnerships with individuals, groups, congregations, companies, and other organizations are crucial to the success of UMCS and those we serve. To learn more about how you can help reduce the barriers to basic needs for children, individuals, & families, visit our website at [www.umcs-wi.org](http://www.umcs-wi.org), or contact Tina Itson, Director of Development at [tina.itson@umcs-wi.org](mailto:tina.itson@umcs-wi.org).