



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.

Childcare



Quality childcare is an important need for most families, especially when parents need a safe place for children to learn and play while they are working, in school, or meeting their family's basic needs. The Growing Tree Children's Center is a state licensed, 3-star quality childcare program that serves children in the United Methodist Children's Services housing program as well as those who live in the surrounding community. Up to 40 children are served during 1st shift, and the center has recently expanded to provide care for up to 12 children during the 2nd shift—a program that is rare in Milwaukee by greatly needed by our families. The Growing Tree Children's Center also offers a program during the summer for school-aged children to offer quality summer programming for students up to age 12.



Children who enter the program are assessed with the Ages & Stages Questionnaire to identify the individual needs of each child in order to develop supportive programming. From referrals for speech therapy to early literacy development to handling specific behavioral needs, we work with families to provide the resources needed for children to have safe, quality care. The Growing Tree Children's Center is also fully committed to resourcing the complete needs of a family, and referrals to the other services within UMCS are offered to families needing support beyond childcare, so that all of the basic needs of a family can be met.

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, or contact Tina Itson, Director of Development at tina.itson@umcs-wi.org.

'Where Miracles Happen'