



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.

Housing



UMCS has 72 units of housing ranging from 2 to 3 bedrooms and 1 to 2 bathrooms. The units range from those designated for low-income families, for those in the county's behavioral health supportive program, and for those who are moving out of homelessness. All residents that we serve are low-income, and often these apartments are the first quality living space that many of our families have experienced.

Our residents are supported through additional services to ensure that their social, mental, physical and other needs are met. Through social work and case management residents are provided with crisis intervention & mental health monitoring, community building activities & classes, mediation & conflict resolution, and other important family services that help support the well-being of families.



Our current program boasts excellent participation statistics. On an annual basis, approximately 30% of our units remain occupied by the same families as they move toward self-sufficiency. Families focus on improving work opportunities, saving for home-ownership, increasing their education, and other goals while living in a safe environment with family-oriented activities.

Approximately 70% of the units turn over annually, most due to families moving to more permanent environments due to family needs or goals. Through supportive case management and quality housing, UMCS acts as a stepping stone for families as they work to fulfill their goals.

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.