

Our History

1900-2010



1900



The Virginia Annual Conference is granted a charter from the state legislature and builds an orphanage on property in Richmond at 3900 West Broad Street.

The orphanage flourishes as a farming community and includes a school, print shop and dairy. The orphanage also operates a farm and camp in New Kent County.



1929

At the outset of the Great Depression, many children are placed at the orphanage because of financial necessity. The number of residents peaks at 365 children between 1929 and 1935.



1933

The church designates the month of December to raise funds for the orphanage. Prior to this, the Board requests that a 10 percent assessment on pastors' salaries be the means of financing the orphanage operation. Farm income and later, special church collections, provide funds to operate the orphanage.

1935



The Social Security Act is enacted. Combined with public assistance, this means children no longer have to be placed in institutional care because of financial necessity. From this date forward, the number of children living at the orphanage for custodial care declines.



1951

The name of the orphanage changes to the Virginia Methodist Children's Home. Programs now serve more children on a temporary basis and return them to their families.



1953

The farm operation at the Broad Street site is discontinued. Child labor laws prohibit farming as a profitable venture.



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1959



The farms in New Kent County are closed and sold. Funds from the sale, plus funds from land sold on Broad Street, in addition to a Conference Fund Drive, are used to finance new cottages and other buildings on the Broad Street property.



1979



Charterhouse School opens on the Broad Street campus and is named after the Methodist founder John Wesley's school. Charterhouse School will provide greatly needed special education for residential youth.



1980

To meet the changing needs of society and to better identify our program goals, the Annual Conference votes to change the name of the Children's Home to United Methodist Family Services of Virginia. Now a special emphasis is placed on working with the whole family to help meet the needs of children.



1984

Programs expand to include adoption and foster care as well as a residential treatment program for youth.

Regional centers open in Northern Virginia and Tidewater.

1993



A groundbreaking takes place for Guardian Place, a 120-unit apartment building for people over 55 with low-to-moderate income.

A satellite office of the Northern Virginia Regional Center opens in Harrisonburg. Services include home studies and post-placement supervision for international and private domestic adoptions and services for parents putting their children up for adoption.



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1996

Fredericksburg Regional Center opens, offering treatment foster care and mentor services.

1998



United Methodist Family Services teams with WRIC-TV and corporate sponsors to create *A Child Waiting*, a weekly television series profiling children waiting for adoption.

An outcomes measurement system to inform our customers and the community of our strengths and accomplishments is created.

2000



United Methodist Family Services celebrates 100 years, and sees unprecedented progress in its first-ever capital campaign.

Guardian Place II opens. With Guardian Place I, it provides 235 apartments for adults 55 and over who live on a fixed income.



2001

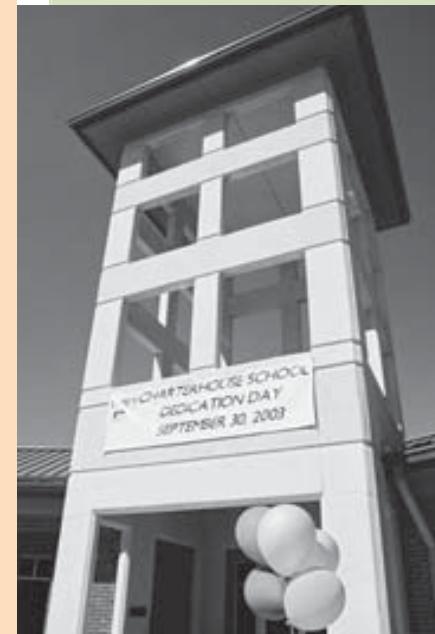
A regional center opens in South Central Virginia with a satellite office in Farmville.

2002

A national grant is awarded to UMFS creating a regional Quality Improvement Center on Adoption, which will demonstrate the effectiveness of public-private collaboration in finding permanent families for waiting children over the next five years.



2003



The new building for Charterhouse School opens on the Richmond campus.

The old Charterhouse School building houses a new program called Charterhouse School Therapeutic Day Program for youth ages 11-18 who struggle to function in their current school setting.



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2004

A new program for sexually reactive male youth opens, addressing the special needs of males ages 11-17 who have engaged in behaviors often related to loss, neglect or physical or sexual abuse.



UMFS receives a federal grant for Virginia's Children of Promise, a program that mentors children of incarcerated parents.



2005



United Methodist Family Services adopts UMFS as its operating name. Along with its new operating name, UMFS launches a new brand to unify its communications, signage and marketing efforts.

2006

UMFS becomes a local partner of Wendy's Wonderful Kids, a signature program of the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption, and receives a grant to support a full-time foster care/adoption recruiter in the Tidewater Regional Center.

2007

Leland House, operated by UMFS in collaboration with the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Policy and Management Team, opens in Centreville to provide short-term intervention and stabilization for youth ages 12-17 in a residential setting.



2008

The Charterhouse School Day Program expands to three classrooms and introduces summer and after-school programs.

2009



FamilyCARE (Collaboration, Advocacy, Resources and Empowerment) Services and Therapeutic Treatment Services in the Public Schools are added to the UMFS Network of Services, along with Project LIFE, a collaborative effort of UMFS and the Virginia Department of Social Services.

2010

Charterhouse School adds career and technical education to its curriculum as the Day Program prepares for further expansion on the Richmond campus.

UMFS celebrates its 110th anniversary of serving children, youth and families throughout Virginia!