



THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Dear Friends,

How fortunate we are to have the ministry of our UMFS for so many families in need. I know the effective work of our outreach through this most marvelous ministry. I have seen firsthand how the lives of children and youth are saved for good through intervention at critical moments.

My grandparents raised their three grandchildren from infancy on. I was the middle child in our family. When I was in middle school, my grandmother became critically ill. She had surgery for cancer and went through a long recovery. During those long months, we all hoped and prayed she would survive a major illness. I was unaware at the time that my church family had intervened and made plans for the 3 of us children to go to the United Methodist Children's Home in Enterprise, Florida, should the need arise. My pastor, Sunday School teacher, teacher at school, parents of my best friends, and other well-meaning adults in our family circle all cared about us deeply and carefully made plans.

At the same time, my grandmother had other plans. She was a woman strong of courage and spirit. She bargained with God and pleaded with God to let her live long enough to see us all grown. That was her fervent prayer and wish. I believe she wrestled with God and prevailed! For after almost a year, it was clear that my grandmother would recover and continue to provide for our needs and be there for us every day of her life. She lived until we were all grown.

So many families are torn apart for so many reasons. We know what the caring, loving, supportive environment of our UMFS can mean in such times. I invite you to join me in generously supporting the work of our UMFS. At Christmas time, Jesus' birth signals that God is always willing to protect and provide for every child in all of creation.

A blessed Christmas,

Charlene Kammerer