

## UNITED METHODIST CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Located on Milwaukee's north side, United Methodist Children's Services (UMCS) serves Milwaukee County low income children and families. Because of the support we received from United Methodist individuals and congregations in 2006, we served 27,003 individuals including over 9,000 children during 2006

Twenty of these families (including 36 children) were provided housing and a comprehensive array of services within our Transitional Living Program, a program designed to enable low income, single female-headed families to achieve economic self-sufficiency.

Over 26,000 people including 8,778 children were direct recipients of emergency and supportive services through our Family Resource Center. These families received emergency food, clothing, information, and referral services.

While their parents were either working or attending school, 45 children received safe, quality childcare in the agency's Growing Tree Children's Center.

The growth of the UMCS programs, and the need for them has been phenomenal. In 1981, the agency served just nine families at one time. In 2002, the agency served almost 15,000 individuals, and in 2007, the number

served is on track to reach over 27,003.

We accomplished all this with a small professional staff, skilled volunteers, and the financial support of United Methodists throughout the state of Wisconsin. We encourage you to come and become better acquainted with our facility, staff, and families. Together, miracles can continue to happen.

Please contact Perry Huyck at (414) 344-1818 or [phumcs@sbcglobal.net](mailto:phumcs@sbcglobal.net) for more information or to schedule a visit.

### **Quick facts regarding United Methodist Children's Services expansion into affordable housing**

**The plan:** Phase 1 includes six townhomes set for construction in 2007 and completion in 2008. Phase 2 includes 24 apartment units set for construction in 2008 and completion in 2009. Half of the units will be designated for individuals living below 50% of the County Mean Income (CMI), 40% for individuals living below 60% of the County Mean Income, and 10% open for market rate rental.

**The reason:** 1) Many of the women who leave the Transitional Living Program of United Methodist Children's Services find that the cost of market rate housing returns them to poverty. Having affordable housing available for women leaving the Transitional Living Program removes one of the barriers to continued success beyond the program.

2) The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has determined that Milwaukee County needs 29,000 more affordable rate housing units to address current needs. Our project makes a very small dent in the overall number but will provide an important option for our neighbors in Washington Park as the neighborhood goes through revitalization.

The funding: Approximately 80% of this project will be funded with a WHEDA (Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority) tax credit grant. That leaves UMCS \$1.2 million to raise or finance. We hope to complete the project without taking out any loans, so that we can return all rent money to fund our vital social service programming, rather than to pay a mortgage. Commitments of \$200,000 in funding from individuals, churches and foundations by August 2007 will help us avoid taking out a loan and paying interest expenses when we close on the first phase of the project.