

Come Make a Child's Day!

We need fun-loving & caring groups to spend time with kids & teens at Methodist Family Health! Large group games, crafts, devotionals, and music are just a few examples of how you can be in ministry with our children.

We also have a garden at our behavioral hospital that needs some love and refreshing for the next season!

See back page for guidelines.



Looking for a meaningful ministry opportunity for your church youth group or small group? Need volunteer hours for school or work?



Scan QR code or go to <https://bit.ly/mfhpastoralcare> to sign up!

Pastoral/Spiritual Care

**Can't come lead a group?
Here are other ways to plug in and volunteer to help meet the spiritual needs of our children!**

- 1) Pray!
- 2) Donate Bibles and devotionals/journals
- 3) Write notes for the children or staff in our care. Remind them that they matter and are loved!
- 3) Donate funds or food!
- 4) Help wrap Christmas gifts for our kids!
More info. coming soon.

For more details and to sign up, see <https://www.methodistfamily.org/pastoral-care/> or email Rev. Eva Englert-Jessen, Pastoral Care Director, at eenglert-jessen@methodistfamily.org.

- **CAN CUSTOMIZE ACTIVITIES ACCORDING TO YOUR GROUP'S GIFTS & INTERESTS**
- **YOU BRING MOST SUPPLIES, BUT WE CAN PROVIDE BASICS**

Guidelines for MFH Pastoral Care Volunteer Groups

Our pastoral care volunteers primarily serve at Methodist Behavioral Hospital in Maumelle (boys unit ages 6-10, or mixed units ages 6-17), or the Residential Treatment Center in Little Rock (ages 9-17). If you live near our group homes in Helena, Little Rock, or Magnolia, we are also happy to connect you! Our children need loving, supportive faith communities all over the state.

Things to keep in mind

- Groups are typically held in a gym, classroom, or both. We can also accommodate groups in our Little Rock chapel with advanced planning.
- We are happy to provide basic supplies like paper and markers. Beyond that, you will need to bring whatever supplies are needed for leading the games/activities you choose, except for sharp things (no pipe cleaners, staples, needles, scissors). If doing an activity that requires cutting, it's best to have things pre-cut.
- If you are a youth group coming to volunteer, please have at least 2 adults with you. Phones and other valuables will be put in a closet for safekeeping while you are here (unless you need a phone for a specific activity purpose).
- Get creative! Do you like to cook and want to teach some basics? Great! Are you and a friend or group involved in theater, improv, or comedy club? Fantastic! Is there an upcoming church or other holiday that you want to celebrate with our kids? Yay! The most important thing you bring is presence: It means the world to our clients to connect with people in the world who are not paid to be with them all day every day. We want these experiences to be shaped not only by our client's interests, but by your God-given passions and gifts.
- Many of our children have been in very traumatic relationships and situations. All of them are working on improving their behavior and using healthy coping skills so they can be reconnected with family and caregivers. Please keep this in mind as you plan. Sometimes behavioral issues can come up during group, but there will be staff around at all times to help! Overall, our clients are simply children and teens who deserve and want to enjoy being children and teens. You get to make a positive impact! You will also be asked to complete a confidentiality form.
- For faith/religious communities who are volunteering: About half of our clients are typically not religious/churchy teens, or have had not great experiences with church. Others come from very religious homes and find the church very important. Striking a balance between both (as much as possible) is helpful.
- Some of our teens are on the LGBTQ+ rainbow and using inclusive language and theology is important. We want them to be reminded of God's love for them, not shamed or excluded.

If you have any questions, please call Eva Englert-Jessen, Pastoral Care Director, at 214-537-8044.