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United Methodist Home for Children announces plan to strengthen services to young people and their families in Central Pennsylvania

MECHANICSBURG, PA (March 8, 2018) - The United Methodist Home for Children (UMHC), located in Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania, today announced its plans to merge with the Board of Child Care (BCC), an organization that shares its tradition of serving children and families through the social justice ministry of the United Methodist Church. UMHC will become United Methodist Home for Children, a Program of the Board of Child Care.

“This merger will enable UMHC to leverage BCC’s scale and deep expertise, thereby, continuing our 100-year legacy of providing exceptional care to young people and their families in Pennsylvania,” said Dan Brannen, President and CEO of UMHC. “BCC is an excellent partner due to its United Methodist history, traditions, core values and methodology for delivering services.”

UMHC was founded in 1917 by the Central Pennsylvania Conference of the Methodist Church (now the Susquehanna Conference of the United Methodist Church) as an orphanage. Each day, the Mechanicsburg campus serves approximately 35 children between the ages of 12-20 using a collaborative trauma-informed approach to care. UMHC contracts with county Children, Youth and Family agencies to provide safe, residential care to young people and supportive services to their families.

Similar to UMHC, BCC began as three orphanages operated by the United Methodist Church in Maryland and the District of Columbia during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Today, it is a highly-respected provider of early learning, mental health and therapeutic residential services to more than 700 children and families across the mid-Atlantic. Young people receive services backed with evidence-based best practices and supported by a national accreditation that reflects the highest standard of residential treatment services.

Bishops of the governing United Methodist Conferences, along with the boards of directors of BCC and UMHC, enthusiastically support the merger. The Pennsylvania State Attorney General and Cumberland County Orphan’s Court will also need to approve the transaction.

It is anticipated that the merger will be completed in the fall of 2018. A smooth transition to ensure minimal disruption to employees, children and operations is expected.

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