



UMCS Autumn Newsletter

UNITED METHODIST CHILDREN'S SERVICES OF WI, INC.

United in Service to our Washington Park Community

NOVEMBER 2021



Tribute: Perry Huyck, Former UMCS Executive Director

Mr. Perry Huyck, our beloved friend, mentor, colleague, and inspirational leader was called to heaven far

too soon on October 6th, 2021. Many of you know Perry from his distinguished, 34-year tenure as UMCS's Executive Director, but you may not know that for the past two years he was a regular presence around here volunteering his time and talents each and every week. Whether he was fixing a bathroom sink, helping in the food pantry, chatting with residents, or sharing some of his wise counsel with staff members, Perry always did

it with grace, humility, and genuine care and concern for others. Things were just simply better when he was around. Every day here at UMCS we see reminders, large and small, of Perry's work, his influence and his remarkable commitment to the Wash-

ington Park neighborhood. We take comfort knowing that his spirit will continue to be present at UMCS in all that we strive to do. May we all continue to be inspired and nourished by the life and legacy of Mr. Perry Huyck.



Greetings Beloved!

It is my great joy to connect with you. YOU make such a tremendous difference in many lives. Thank you for your generous giving of your prayers, finances, and service.

Let's also give a shout-out to the AMAZING staff at UMCS and our Executive Director, Bill Schmitt. This past year has been full of challenges and opportunities and the UMCS team did all they can to turn blocks into stepping stones. We give thanks to a fruitful transition to in-house property management services and the positive impact it has made on the lives of our residents and



Rev. Ellen Rasmussen
UMCS Board Pres.

UMCS community. We have shared laughter and dreams, and together we have mourned the losses of life this past year. Most recently, the death of Perry Huyck, the former Executive Director whose passion for neighbors fueled the ministries of UMCS for decades. We give thanks to Perry for his leadership and continue to hold his family, the staff, and residents in prayer.

We give thanks for opportunities of connection like the **Day of Service (August 13)**, **Day of Celebration Block Party (August 14)**, and the **2nd Annual Chili Fest and Resource Fair (October**

15). We give thanks to all who serve to make these opportunities a reality and a success.

As we approach this season of giving, we give thanks for

the gifts that have been received and invite you to include UMCS in your holiday giving. You fund justice work and help to bring peace to families. Centuries ago, a carpenter named Joseph and his very pregnant wife, Mary, traveled to Bethlehem. One of their needs was shelter and suitable housing was not available. In urgent need, they accepted alternative shelter with the animals and gave birth to a precious son who would not be contained by the circumstances of his birth. Let us continue our work so that the need for safe and affordable housing is not an obstacle our neighbors need to overcome.

I am grateful for this opportunity to serve as President of the Board of Directors. We are blessed with a dedicated board and we appreciate your prayers as we continue to lead and support the transformative work of Bill and the staff at UMCS. Blessings to you and your loved ones.

Love & Peace, Rev. Ellen Rasmussen



COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

A Day of Celebration Block Party Sat., Aug. 14th 2021

We could not have asked for a better day to celebrate the amazing community here on the UMCS campus and in the Washington Park neighborhood. The event had great food from Morton Family BBQ and Tres Hermanos Mexican Restaurant, music by Reggie Moore of V100.7 Radio, pick up basketball games, kids activities, and a visit from the Artists Working in Education Van. The highlight of the party was the Dunk Tank Challenge – Bill vs. Leah – where both challengers were dunked 2x each by attendees!

UMCS wants to thank the sponsors, volunteers, staff, residents and neighbors who helped to make the event such a success.



Stay tuned for news of next year's celebration.

Chili Fest & Community Resource Fair Fri., Oct. 15th 2021

Chili, Resources, & Community... What could be better on a fall afternoon? On Friday, October 15, UMCS hosted the 2nd annual Chili Fest and Community Resource Fair where residents and area service providers came together for a chili cook off, chili eating, and to promote the resources available to the Washington Park neighborhood. We welcomed



16+ chili entries, 18 service providers, and over 150 guests to the event. The 2021 Chili Champion, Theresa Garcia, created an amazing chicken chili that will go down in the Chili Fest history books. Make sure you perfect those recipes in preparation for 2022!

UMCS invites you to Give First on Tuesday, November 23!

Before the hustle and bustle of the holiday season. Before Black Friday and Cyber Monday. Why not support your favorite area nonprofit on Giving First Day? UMCS has partnered with other area nonprofits to promote a new day of giving to bring the focus back to our local charitable community. To learn more about the Giving First Day initiative, see our website



Donate at: <https://bit.ly/UMCSGivingFirstDay>

Psst... UMCS is turning 60 years old in 2022!
Update your contact info on the envelope enclosed or on our online form <https://bit.ly/UMCSUpdate> so we can keep you updated on the celebrations.