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Board of Child Care and United Methodist Home For Children finalize merger to expand services in Central Pennsylvania

BALTIMORE, MD (January 1, 2019) - The Board of Child Care (BCC) announced today that its merger with the United Methodist Home for Children (UMHC) is complete. The two organizations announced last year their intent to merge and have been working diligently over the last 12 months towards this historic day. Bishops of the governing United Methodist Conferences, along with the boards of directors of BCC and UMHC, enthusiastically supported the merger. The Pennsylvania and Maryland State Attorney Generals as well as the Cumberland County Orphan's Court also approved the transaction.

Located in Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania, UMHC is an organization that shares a tradition of serving children and families through the social justice ministry of the United Methodist Church with BCC. UMHC has become United Methodist Home for Children, a Board of Child Care program.

"UMHC and BCC are excellent partners due to their shared United Methodist history, traditions, core values and methodology for delivering services," said Laurie Anne Spagnola, President and CEO of BCC. "I'm thrilled at the energy and enthusiasm the UMHC team has had throughout the past year and I am excited at the journey ahead of working together in this new way."

The prework for this merger has already enabled UMHC to leverage BCC's scale and deep expertise. For example, BCC's accredited and evidence-based treatment models are already enhancing UMHC's programs. In addition, at the end of last year, UMHC opened its first campus classroom to serve children who were unable to go to public school. Finally, late last year BCC partnered with UMHC to apply for and win a large federal residential grant. This grant would not have been possible without the new partnership.

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 hundreds of children and families across the mid-Atlantic. Young people receive services backed with evidence-based best practices and supported by two national accreditations that reflect the highest standards of service delivery.

[Enriching communities, one family at a time](#), BCC's \$45 million annual budget provides programs across the Mid-Atlantic. Offerings include early learning, mental health and therapeutic residential services. Headquartered in Baltimore, BCC operates facilities and group homes throughout Maryland and the Eastern Shore, WV, PA and the District of Columbia. To learn more, visit boardofchildcare.org. ###END###