

# UMCH PROGRAMS

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## HIGHER EDUCATION HOMES

### ALABAMA

These homes in Tuscaloosa and Florence provide a stable and loving environment for college-age youth in foster care or alternative living situations. Supportive staff is available 24 hours a day and provides stability and continuity for the young adults. UMCH also provides scholarships for students in foster care.

## BABIES FIRST

### ALABAMA

This program provides residential group care for mothers ages 14–20 and their children, ages birth to 4. Long-term goals include strengthening bonds between mothers and children, building self-esteem, and preventing repeat pregnancies while single.

## FOSTER CARE/IN-HOME PROGRAMS

### ALABAMA + FLORIDA

UMCH serves 37 counties in Alabama and Florida through its foster program. The agency recruits and trains foster families to provide temporary homes for abused and neglected children. Therapeutic Foster Care serves children with mental health issues, and Enhanced Foster Care serves large sibling groups. In addition, Respite Care is offered for short-term stays (weekends to 2 weeks) and provides support and relief for other foster families.

## TRANSITIONAL LIVING

### ALABAMA

Transitional homes fill the gap for youth who are old enough to leave group homes or foster care but aren't ready to live independently. Participants, ages 17–21, must hold a job, attend school or pursue a vocation. They receive financial assistance and guidance while learning necessary life skills.

## RESIDENTIAL GROUP HOMES

### ALABAMA + FLORIDA

Three group homes serve youth who can no longer live with their parents or in a foster care setting. The kids, ages 11–18, often have mild to moderate emotional and behavioral problems. Family members remain involved whenever possible.

## FAMILY PRESERVATION

### ALABAMA + FLORIDA

The FOCUS (Family Outcome Centered Unification Services) program aims to keep families together by helping parents who have lost or are at risk of losing their children. The intensive in-home treatment provides them with the skills necessary to handle challenges in a healthy way and provide safe, loving homes. The program has a 95–98 percent success rate.

## CRESTVIEW TEEN CENTER

### FLORIDA

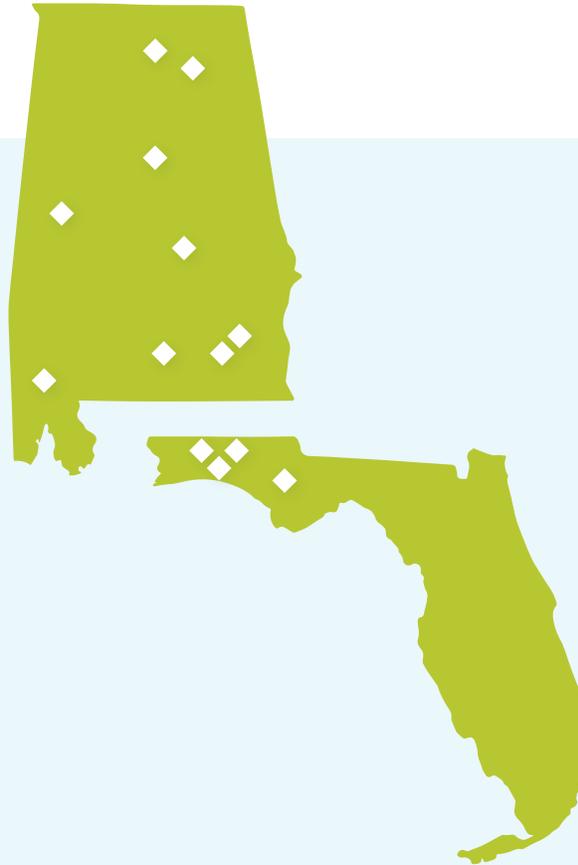
This center serves youth in foster care as well as foster parents in Okaloosa County, Florida. Services include tutoring sessions, study skills training, interview training, career fairs, and programs that help with social skills. Students also receive assistance with resumes, job applications and dressing for success. All foster parents and caregivers have access to a clothes closet, supply room and food pantry to help offset expenses.

## ADOPTION SERVICES

UMCH serves couples hoping to adopt within the United States or from other countries. The staff conducts training and home studies and is a support system for prospective families. Staff also links birth parents with vital services and resources.

# ALABAMA + NW FLORIDA

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