

Worthington Children's Home Ends Residential Treatment Program

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WORTHINGTON, Ohio --

A very public battle over what to do about a home for troubled teens took another turn Monday. The [United Methodist Children's Home](#) in Worthington now says they'll no longer take in teens at the facility.

For more than 100 years, The [United Methodist Children's Home](#) has existed, and big changes to its residential treatment program were cut Monday.

"It has been a tough time. We were basically forced to make the decision," said [Bill Wilkins](#), CEO of the home. [Dick Goetz](#) lives right behind the facility and said he didn't know the change was coming.

"I'm surprised to hear it. (I) don't know where the revenue comes from," [Goetz](#) said.

Revenue is an issue the board can't ignore, and Monday, they said goodbye to half of the facility.

"This morning, I met with 40 people that lost their jobs, some immediately, and some in the future," [Goetz](#) said.

Goetz's back yard leads right to the children's home campus.

"We've had an excellent relationship. They've cooperated with us, no problems," [Goetz](#) said.

He said a few of the recent incidents, including the assault of a nearly 80-year-old woman, alleged to have occurred at the home, came as quite a surprise. It also drew attention from neighborhood groups that were demanding sweeping changes. The requests and incidents weren't the sole reason for the changes, [Wilkins](#) said.

"We made a strategic decision that operating the program is not in the best interest of the home," [Wilkins](#) said.

It was certainly a financial decision as the [Franklin County Department of Job and Family Services](#) gave references to the children's home, leaving the residential program floundering.

Now comes that rebuilding here, and many neighbors and [the CEO](#) want to work together to find a way forward.

"Absolutely, I'm going to reach out to the community and include them in planning our future," [Goetz](#) said.

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