



Epworth's Annual Work Day Offering

Sunday, September 8, 2019

"Her name is "Legion". She numbers in the thousands.

There are thousands of children and youth in South Carolina who need our help (over 4,000 in the South Carolina Department of Social Services system alone, plus many more who have not yet been identified). They range in age from birth to 23. The future for many does not look bright, but together we can change that.

A Disturbing Statistic: Child abuse and neglect costs our nation over \$100 billion dollars every year. \$33 billion in direct costs and \$71 billion in indirect costs. That is over \$1 trillion dollars every 10 years. If you add in lifetime costs for adults who did not successfully navigate the child protective system transition into productive adulthood, the costs soar into the trillions of dollars per year.

These costs do not include the misery factor which chronicles lives filled with pain, anxiety, depression, failure, aimlessness, homelessness, addictions, and incarceration. Investment in lives on the frontend saves so very much on the backend.

Contrast this with William who came to Epworth at age 15. He struggled after he first arrived as he dealt with positive structure, and the expectations of performance in school. A couple of months ago he was informed that plans were being made for him to leave Epworth and return to his home. He said, "Why would I want to do that? This is my home. I am going to graduate from high school and then go into Epworth's Independent Living program and go to college."

A bit of help at the right time can change a life's trajectory. I encourage you to give generously to support the children and youth who are searching for a better way.

This annual Work Day offering is vital to our children's success. This year pledge to give a dollar a day for a year. Together we can make tremendous changes.

Rev. John Holler
President, CEO

**Children's names and photos changed for confidentiality.*



Did you know?

100% of your Work Day offering provides comprehensive care for children at Epworth. Epworth is not an apportioned item in the Annual Conference. Work Day is a vital means of supporting Epworth's ministry to children and families who are in need.

Did you also know:

- That South Carolina ranks in the bottom tier in the nation in overall child wellbeing.
- Next to the last tier in economic wellbeing.
- Next to the last tier in children's health.
- And ranks in the bottom tier in education.