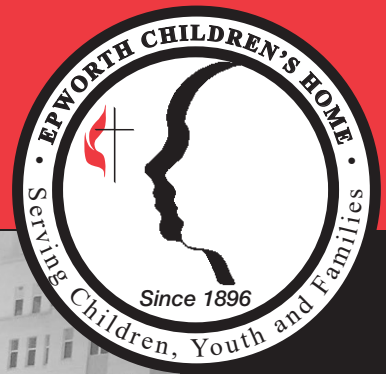


The Record

News from Epworth Children's Home



Graduation Celebrations!

Seven Epworth seniors at Dreher High School graduated at the end of the school year a few weeks ago! This represents the 7th consecutive year that 100% of Epworth's high school seniors have completed high school.

All graduates were honored at a special church service at Epworth and given a special recognition and gift from the Epworth Alumni Association. Included in the service was a recognition of two scholarship recipients from the Central Carolina Community Foundation's Rogers and Meredith Scholarship which provides \$5,000 renewable college scholarships to each student.

In addition to our seven high school graduates, two of the current Independent Living students recently completed their study programs, an Associate's Degree and an adult education GED. One of our graduates from the Independent Living Center recently moved into her own apartment and

the other is staying in the program while he goes back to school to train to be an Emergency Medical Technician.

Almost all high school graduates have a summer job before transferring to Epworth's Center for Independent Living. The center is located on Epworth's second campus (just a mile away) and prepares them for college, career training and workforce readiness.

On the afternoon of graduation a volunteer group, Milestones for SC, threw our oldest high school residents a party to celebrate. In addition to plenty of great food they were able to relax and enjoy the TopGolf Swing Suites interactive golf and sports simulator.

Congratulations to all of our graduates!



We Are Coming to Your Neighborhood!

Summer 2019

A Message from The Rev. John Holler
President

The headline in the South Carolina United Methodist Advocate read: “Epworth Launches Charleston Outpost”. Several years of prayer, planning, and fundraising have resulted in the first distance branch of Epworth Children’s Home. It will be followed by others and will allow many more children to be served in their home communities. Congregations and other partners will play an integral part in increasing the number of people whose lives are changed through Epworth’s district hubs.

The Charleston Hub will be housed on the campus of Bethany UMC in Summerville. The “303 Cottage” has been renovated and will provide office space for The Center for Family Engagement that will first focus on recruiting, training, and supporting foster parents, grandparents, and kinship caregivers. Additional locations will be identified in the Charleston District in the days ahead. Hubs in other districts will be opened as needs are identified and resources are acquired.

The launch event was a great success thanks to the support of the District Superintendent Sandra Stevens-Poirel, the planning of the Charleston District Ministry team, the leadership of The Rev. Mitch Houston and his staff, lay leader David Braddon, the congregation of Bethany UMC, and the presence of Bishop Holston and many others. I am most grateful for the planning and energy that went into the event.

Just prior to the Charleston District event Bishop Holston readily agreed to organizing “The Bishop’s Committee of 500” to help expand the mission to reach and enhance the lives of even more children in South Carolina and beyond. At the May meeting the Epworth Board of Trustees voted to establish the Bishop’s Committee of 500.

The committee of 500 will be comprised of individuals, families, and organizations who are interested in improving the lives of children by committing to give \$10,000 or more over a three to four year period to Epworth’s “Every Child is a Miracle” campaign.

The campaign is a response to the changing landscape of child protective services in our nation and state, and the urgent and increasing needs of our children. The primary purpose of this initiative is to enhance, expand, and sustain the life changing ministry to children and their caregivers who, with our donated resources, are given the opportunity of a new life.

This campaign will continue to strengthen Epworth’s traditional residential program, and provide funding for expanding program offerings to make them available to additional children in additional locations in our conference and beyond.

Continued from page 2 - Rev. Holler's Article

If during this next year 500 people step forward and pledge \$10,000 or more each, the Bishops Committee will generate at least \$5,000,000 life changing dollars. This will bring the total campaign giving to over \$8,000,000.

The campaign priorities are the purchase and renovation of the second campus, growing the innovative Institute for Child and Family Wellbeing, establishing missional hubs for children across the conference, growing the Epworth Endowment to help sustain Epworth for the next generation of children, and tithing to support Fairfield Children's Home and Hartzell School in Zimbabwe.

United Methodists are being called to action! Across South Carolina there are thousands of children in the foster care system and a shortage of high quality placements for our children. Congregations and individuals are being asked to provide a major solution to this complex problem. As resources are made available, Epworth staff members, in partnership with local congregations, are instituting a congregational foster care model to help children find loving and nurturing homes. Epworth's model provides the infrastructure and experience to recruit, train, and support foster parents and grandparents raising children as well as relatives raising children who cannot reside with their biological parents.

The current reality is one in five former foster children will:

- Become homeless after the age of 18
- At 24, only half will be employed
- Less than 3% will have earned a college degree
- 71% of women will be pregnant by the age of 21
- And one in four will have experienced post-traumatic stress disorder; twice the rate of US war veterans.

Epworth does much better than this. The more children and youth who are served the greater the number of lives that are changed through caring communities of faith.

You Are Invited to Join the

BISHOP'S COMMITTEE OF 500

By making a pledge to contribute \$10,000 or more to Epworth Children's Home's Every Child is a Miracle campaign to be paid over a period of from 1 to 4 years.

For additional information, email or call Lisa Livingston Fusco or John Holler
at (803) 256-7394

lfusco@epworthsc.org
jholler@epworthsc.org

*Every Child is a Miracle,
but some miracles need your help.*



Celebrating Our First Birthday!

Epworth Ice Cream is approaching the one-year anniversary of the retail launch, and we're just in time for a hot, South Carolina summer. We've made a lot of progress in the last year, but we can't seem to get to the entire state fast enough.

Our initial sell-in focused on Columbia area stores, despite the steady requests from customers and churches all over the state to deliver the Original Peanut Butter recipe. Despite the 80 year-old age of this wonderful recipe, we were starting fresh as a "new" brand at retail. While we made our way to over 40 churches last Fall throughout the state, making pints available at retail takes more time and broader coverage. We recently added stores in the I-26 corridor, the Upstate, Aiken, and many locations in-between. We are just now starting to touch stores in the Low Country and hope to expand availability during the coming months.

Epworth

ICE CREAM®

What Have We Learned From Customers?

First and foremost, we are consistently told how much people love this ice cream. Our goal was to make the richest, most flavorful ice cream we could, and it appears we are meeting the mark. While big national brands are cutting ingredients and selling "frozen dairy dessert" (because they no longer qualify as ice cream), Epworth chose to offer the good stuff, and our customers taste the difference.

Next, our retailers are asking for more. The early months required that we visit stores and ask them to sell our ice cream. More recently, stores are calling us to ask if they can have it. That's driven by customers being more aware of the brand (and asking for it when they shop!), but also by the coming summer season when ice cream sales grow.

More recently, retailers have started to ask for more flavors. We're working on that as fast as we can, but we need to concentrate on gaining more stores for now.

What's Next?

We continue to offer programs in United Methodist Churches throughout the state, and they have proven popular with pint sales, single-serve cups for events, and food-service tubs for meals. These programs are an important part of our efforts since they allow us to reach many of the people who've known Epworth Ice Cream for a long time, but also because they allow us to serve areas where our retail sales have not yet started. If you're interested in selling or serving ice cream in your church, please email Marc Coty at marc@epworthicecream.org.

Our push in retail stores continues. We sell in specialty grocery stores, but we also sell in many other retailers such as cafes, bakeries, pharmacies, butcher shops, nurseries, assisted living homes, restaurants, and numerous other locations. If you have an idea for a store who might like to sell Epworth Ice Cream, please send us an email at info@epworthicecream.org.

Thank You So Much...

Thanks to the many of you who are buying Epworth Ice Cream already. We appreciate the business, and we are excited for the sweet progress!

What is Epworth Ice Cream?

Epworth Ice Cream was born in Columbia South Carolina during the Great Depression. Subsidized with a surplus of peanut butter, orphanage staff relied on the government ration in countless meals. However, none became as popular as its infusion with fresh cream from the onsite dairy. Today our peanut butter ice cream is the flagship flavor in a product family where 100% of profits benefit the Epworth Children's Home, helping children and families live a better life.



Stokes Devotion

Some mornings can be harder than others when it comes to getting the day started, we can all relate! Epworth cottages start each day anew, but staff and residents also encounter obstacles before leaving for work or school, which could have a negative impact on the entire day. Establishing a consistent and productive start to the day is important for everyone. In serving as a Life Skills Specialist in the Stokes Cottage, divinity student Faye Jones has designed a morning routine for the ladies in the Cottage that is not just positive, but one that is really starting to pay off for each of the Stokes residents.

Two years ago the Stokes Cottage staff encouraged their residents to begin each day in a positive way. Ms. Faye decided to get things started in such a way by hosting a daily morning devotion for the cottage and all were invited. In a short time, the number of morning devotion participants grew. The Stokes girls began to show an interest in leading the morning devotions and the staff were elated that this simple start to the day had grown into a coveted and focused routine for the entire cottage.

Daily devotions have taught the girls in Stokes Cottage to hold one another accountable. The girls enjoy their daily routine and use the topic of the morning devotion to support and guide them through the day. Ms. Faye has shared that most of the Stokes girls come home with a story of how the morning devotion allowed something great or positive to take place during their day. What started off as a staff suggestion has turned into the cottage's daily routine where each young lady has the opportunity and support to cultivate their faith.

No matter the day, each morning around 7:15 am, you will hear the Stokes girls yelling "DEVOTION" up and down the cottage hallway to round up staff and residents. God wants more of us, and it is essential that we cultivate our faith just like the young women in Stokes Cottage. We can all learn from our young leaders of Stokes Cottage. What are you doing to start your day off right and in order?



Leaving a Legacy through Epworth Children's Home

One of the best ways to leave a legacy is to provide for a charitable bequest in your will. Tax laws favor those who are charitably inclined. More importantly, you are providing meaningful support for all that Epworth does – and will do for generations to come.

An **outright charitable bequest** or devise can be of money, stocks, bonds, real estate, or other assets. Epworth Children's Home would be named in a separate item of the will to receive a specific dollar amount or a percentage of the estate. Or, we could be named to receive "x" number of shares of stock, a particular piece of real estate, etc. The bequest may be made unrestricted or for a particular purpose. It could specify whether the funds may be currently expended or whether a permanent endowment is to be created, with only the income to be used on an annual basis.

In a **residual bequest**, we would be named to receive all the rest, residue, and remainder of your estate after provision has been made for your heirs.

You may prefer a **contingent bequest** which generally provides for us only if others named in your will are not surviving.

It is also possible to be charitable and provide for surviving loved ones at the same time. Individuals may provide for the **creation of a unitrust or an annuity trust** in their will to provide for lifetime income to named individual beneficiaries, such as a surviving spouse or surviving children. Thus, we would not receive the funds immediately upon death, but only after the death or deaths of the life income beneficiaries named.

Example: Sam Smith creates a testamentary charitable remainder unitrust by providing in his will that upon his death a trust be created with the following provisions: Six percent of the fair market value of the assets in the trust, valued annually, will be paid in quarterly installments to his wife Trudy for her lifetime. When Trudy dies, the trust assets will be transferred to us. Such a trust can save significant estate taxes for certain individuals.

Another charitable estate planning option is simply to provide for us in a **codicil** (an amendment to your will). A codicil is a separate document that can add, subtract, or modify a will provision - including a provision for a charitable bequest. Thus, you could provide for us without having your entire will redrafted.

For additional information, please contact Lisa Livingston Fusco at lfusco@epworthsc.org, 803-256-7394. This information is necessarily general in nature. Since it cannot discuss all the ifs, ands, or buts, do not rely on it for your individual estate planning. Consult with your attorney on how this general information applies to your situation. We do hope that while you are developing your estate plan you will consider Epworth Children's Home as a potential charitable beneficiary. Thank you!



Epworth to Expand Services with BlueCross BlueShield Foundation of South Carolina Award

Epworth Children's Home received a grant to expand services to provide individual, couples and family counseling through a new child and family counseling center, scheduled to open later in 2019. The award extends over a three year period to establish the Epworth Center for Child and Family Counseling in Columbia in 2019, with satellite sites opening in subsequent years in the Pee Dee, Low-country and possibly other regions of South Carolina.

"We are thrilled that the BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina Foundation has awarded Epworth with the start-up funding needed to begin the Epworth Center for Child and Family Counseling," says John Holler, President of Epworth. "Family settings, whether they are biological, kinship, foster or adoptive in nature, need to be healthy, nurturing environments for children. The new center will provide children and families who have experienced trauma and other challenges the opportunity to receive high-quality mental health services that can prevent family disruptions by encouraging positive personal growth and developing healthy family relationships."

The counseling center is one of many community-based programs within the new Epworth Institute for Child and Family Wellbeing, which began operation in early 2019 with the support of The Duke Endowment. The institute, headquartered on Epworth's second campus in Columbia (the former property of Carolina Children's Home), provides a variety of child and family services beyond Epworth's renowned residential group home on its original Millwood Avenue campus.

In addition to its Columbia headquarters, the institute is designed to foster operations in satellite hub locations around the state. Earlier in 2019, Epworth established the first satellite hub by launching a foster parent recruitment and support program for the Low-country based in Summerville. The newly funded counseling center will provide another opportunity to expand to future hubs and continue to expand Epworth's service footprint to reach more children and families in need.

The Foundation selected Epworth as one of 13 organizations working to improve the health of South Carolina's economically vulnerable citizens during its spring of 2019 funding cycle. Headquartered in Columbia, the Foundation is an independent licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association. Its mission is to promote and support healthier South Carolinians, particularly the economically vulnerable, by supporting solutions to address gaps in health care and serving as an agent of change to support innovation and value-added public-private partnerships.



**South Carolina
FOUNDATION**



Epworth
Children's Home

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Invest. Care. *Transform.*
(803) 256-7394
www.epworthchildrenshome.org

The Rev. John E. Holler, Jr.
President

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**Children's names and pictures have been changed for confidentiality.*

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The mission of Epworth Children's Home is to serve children, youth and families through a caring, accepting and safe Christian community, where hurts are healed; hope is nurtured; and faith in God, self and others is developed.

Food Truck Rodeo

Tuesday, October 1, 2019 • 5:00-8:00PM @ Epworth

Mark your calendars for the 7th Annual Epworth Food Truck Rodeo presented by the Friends of Epworth. Sample a wide variety of culinary creations from the best food trucks in Columbia! Bring a picnic blanket and enjoy music, games and fun for the whole family. No admission or parking fees but donations are appreciated. Proceeds from the event will benefit Epworth Children's Home.

