

The Record

News from Epworth Children's Home



Home for Fall Break

Mike joined the Epworth Children's Home family about five years ago as a young teenager. He grew up in an unstable family, raised by an overwhelmed single mother. He did okay in school but had a difficult time without stability and support when the school day ended. Eventually taking care of Mike became too much for his mother. She moved out of state and Mike came to Epworth.

Mike's life transformed when he came to Epworth. The stability of caring and loving adults gave him the structure he needed to thrive. As he started high school, the struggles of his childhood began to fade away. He now had a place to call home and he began to focus on the future. He

graduated from high school and earned a full scholarship, including housing, to college.

His first semester went by quickly and soon it was fall break. Epworth arranged for Mike and four other Epworth students at the same college to come back home. To the staff's pleasant surprise, when they rolled up to the dormitory, there was Mike and his other Epworth friends standing at the curb with bags packed.

As the van started the return trip, a voice from the back seat yelled, "Thank you for coming to get us!" It was Mike. The staff responded, "No, thank you – all of you- for going to college and making a better life

Continued on page 3



Epworth is New All Over Again

Fall 2019

A Message from The Rev. John Holler
President

The Old Brochure

Sherri Mims, who is the Associate Director of Church Relations, while doing some research in Epworth's archives, noticed a thirty year old brochure that summarized many of Epworth's programs that existed during the tenure of President Charles Hutchins. The brochure began with the statement, "Epworth Children's Home was established in 1896, and chartered by Act of The South Carolina General Assembly. Under the direction of a 21 member Board of Trustees, Epworth is a private, non-profit service institution of the South Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church."

Ahead of Its Time

The brochure then described the theoretical orientation of Epworth's mental and behavioral health work, and described some of the programs Epworth offered to children and families at the time. Some of the services listed were: Residential Care (children living on campus), Foster Family Care (recruiting and training foster parents), Family Counseling, Emergency Shelter Care, Adoptive Placement, Compensatory Education, Higher Education (college and technical education), Diagnostic and Evaluation Service, Services to the Retarded and Handicapped (the language used during that period of time), Post Placement Follow-up (assistance to reunited families), In-Family Aid (now referred to as community based services where children do not need to be removed from home, but families need resources to function well).

The brochure summed Epworth's programmatic work up by stating, "No longer simply a 'children's home', Epworth's program has been expanded to serve children and entire families through a multi-service child and family ministry."

Epworth is New All Over Again

After a period of transition, and a time of financial gauntness, Epworth has polished the old, created something new, and is energetically and passionately serving children, youth, and families through caring, accepting communities, where hurts are healed, hope is nurtured, and faith in God, self and others is restored. Currently through an array of trauma-informed services, Epworth provides comprehensive care to nurture and help regenerate those whom we serve.

Epworth Today

The Residential Care program continues to remain strong with nine cottages that house children 13 to 18 years of age. The children are assigned to living space depending on age and gender. The Center for Independent Living consists of youth 18 to 23 years of age who are pursuing college, work certifications, and are making a transition to the world of work and self-sufficiency. The Center for Family Enhancement focuses on recruiting, training, and aiding foster families, kinship families, and grandparents raising children in the Columbia and Charleston areas.

Epworth has purchased a second campus and opened a new counseling center. It has created The Center for Social Enterprise that forms partnerships with other organizations that give Epworth's youth the opportunity to learn entrepreneurship skills. Epworth Early Intervention Center that serves children who experience early childhood developmental delays is operating at capacity. The Family Care Center that serves children and their mothers in an on campus environment, where they learn the skill sets needed to live productively and independently is experiencing new growth.

The words in the thirty year old brochure expressed it best as it stated, "No longer simply a "children's home", Epworth's program has been expanded to serve children of all ages and entire families through a multi-service child and family ministry." We might also add, "And our footprint has expanded beyond the campus walls with the opening of our Charleston outpost."

The Old Brochure

The old brochure, as will this article, closed with the question, "How can you help?" The old brochure asked for generous offerings through special appeals, it suggested making contributions in memory or in honor of relatives and friends, and to become a perpetual giver by leaving a bequest or establishing a trust. The suggestions of yesterday are still viable today for helping to change lives for years to come.

Continued from cover

for yourself." Mike quickly replied, "No, no, no. Thank you. Thank you for believing that we were good enough to even go to college. "

By mid-afternoon, they pulled into the Epworth parking lot and a blur of students sprinted from the door. "I'm home!" exclaimed Mike as he bolted across the parking lot. The staff tried to catch him to remind him to get his luggage, but it was too late, he was already half way across campus. From building to building he ran, knocking on doors and hugging anyone who answered. Mike was home!



Epworth Planned Giving

Thinking Ahead: Maximize Year-End Giving with a Planned Gift

With new federal tax laws in effect, now is a great time to look ahead to the end of the tax year and maximize charitable contributions through planned giving. Depending on an individual's financial situation, donors may have opportunities to give in new ways this year. Below are a sample of planned gift options to consider:

- Charitable Gift Annuities pay you income for life. The Epworth charitable gift annuity program now allows donors to receive a guaranteed lifetime rate of return as high as 9 ½ % (based on age) in return for a gift to Epworth.
- IRA Charitable Rollover saves on income tax (for ages 70 ½ or older!) An IRA rollover generates neither taxable income nor a tax deduction, so donors benefit even without itemizing. Also, IRA charitable rollover gifts can satisfy all or part of minimum required distributions.
- Bequests and Estate Gifts establish your legacy. When reviewing will and estate plans, including the children at Epworth can establish a donor's legacy. Monetary or remainder bequests, and also listing Epworth as a beneficiary of life insurance are simple ways to make an estate gift. Donors making estate gifts of \$25,000 or more are added to Epworth's prestigious giving club, The Society of 1896.

For additional information, please contact Lisa Livingston Fusco, Senior Director of Development and Communications, at (803) 256-7394 or by email at lfusco@epworthsc.org.

Always check with your tax advisor or accountant on how this general information might relate to your personal situation.

Mary Wimberly Clark Planned for Epworth's Future

Mary Wimberly Clark was not blessed with children of her own. She was passionate about children though and wanted to make a difference for the children of South Carolina. She did so by remembering Epworth in her estate plans.

"Mary was a bright business woman and a philanthropist. She was the executive assistant to the President at Colonial Life and Accident Company for her career," said Tommy Garvin, friend of Mary's. "She always managed her business affairs and she also prepared her will just the way she wanted it" he added. "She was also a supporter of animals, her church, children, and other wonderful organizations here in Columbia."

Mary Wimberly Clark's gift helps to ensure the future of Epworth through the endowment. Planned gifts are such a critical need for Epworth that the Board of Trustees provided for endowment growth in the current Every Child Is A Miracle campaign by establishing a three million dollar goal. Planning for the future is key.

Just as Mary did, please consider a gift to Epworth through your estate. For more information, please contact Lisa Livingston Fusco at (803) 256-7394 or lfusco@epworthsc.org.

Early Intervention Center

Respite Cooperative

Are you the parent of a child with special needs? Do you need a break? Since 2002, Epworth has provided a monthly Respite Cooperative at the Epworth Early Intervention Center. Children ages one to twelve years, who have developmental delays and disabilities AND their siblings enjoy a fun play period in a safe environment while their parents have the opportunity to go on a “date,” run errands, or rest. If you are interested in participating, please contact Jessica Mearns at (803) 681-0212.

Home-Based Early Intervention

Once again, the EEIC Home-Based Early Intervention Program received a score of 100% compliance on the SC Department of Disabilities and Special Needs annual review. Epworth was the first qualified provider to contract with SCDDSN to provide early intervention services in the community in the early ‘90s. Since that time, the Home-Based program consistently provides high quality, developmentally-appropriate, family-oriented services for

children identified as having developmental delays, disability and/or who are at-risk for developmental delays. All services are provided by Early Intervention Specialists in natural environments, such as homes, child care settings, and community settings. If you have any questions on how to access early intervention services, please contact Jessica Mearns at (803) 681-0212.

Preschool Program

The Epworth Early Intervention Center provides an inclusive Preschool program designed to serve children with developmental delays and/or disability and their typically-developing peers in a traditional early education setting. The only program of its kind in the state, the EEIC Preschool, nearing its fortieth anniversary of excellence in early education, boasts a small class size of only ten students per day with three teachers and a teachers’ aide. This faith-based program teaches empathy and kindness, in addition to ensuring that children make significant developmental progress towards identified milestones. For additional information and/or to visit the program, please contact Jessica Mearns at (803) 681-0212.



All three programs of the Epworth Early Intervention Center are nationally accredited by Council On Accreditation (COA). Additionally, the Preschool program is state-accredited by ABC Quality, ensuring compliance with high quality early education standards.

Lowcountry Hub Opens



In partnership with the Charleston District and Bethany United Methodist Church in Summerville, Epworth's first mission outpost and hub opened on August 29. This is the first hub of its kind which begins the expansion of Epworth's footprint to serve in greater ways through the Institute for Child and Family Wellbeing.

Currently, in the greater Charleston area over 250 children are in need of foster homes and across South Carolina there are thousands. The Charleston District heard this need and recognized it as a ministry in which it wanted to make a difference. Bethany UMC in Summerville offered a vacant cottage on its campus as Epworth's Lowcountry Hub. Bethany, with support from the Charleston District, renovated the cottage for this purpose. This building provides office space for staff as well as a meeting room and kitchen. Epworth's congregational care model provides the infrastructure and expertise to recruit,

train, license and support foster care parents with the resources they need to provide high quality care to foster children. Local congregations partner to identify and encourage families to become foster care families and also commit to supporting these families and children when they are placed in the homes. In preparing for a placement, many times families need support that comes in the form of supplies and clothing for the child, meals, and access to services. During transitions, both children and parents need support in different ways. Anytime a child receives something just for him or her, it is special. "We already know that when children are removed, that is one trauma and then when siblings are separated, that is another trauma", as quoted by Enid Jenkins, Department of Social Services Lowcountry Director. Remembering the child at the time of placement with a special welcome makes a big impact.

Keeping children in their community and with people who love and take good care of them is crucial and it is a part of what we do to support the placement. "Your prayers, your thoughts, your energy; all the things you do beyond what we are doing here today to help make South Carolina a place where children are welcomed and loved and to make sure they feel extra, extra special", as stated by Rev. Holler, President of Epworth Children's Home. Congregations in the Charleston District will certainly make a difference in the lives of foster children and families right here in this community and we are so thankful for this partnership. "We thank Epworth for venturing out beyond Columbia and spreading the love in the Lowcountry," said Jenkins.



Counseling Center

When thinking of the impact Epworth has made over the past 120 years in countless lives, it is an overwhelming and almost inconceivable thought. However, Epworth recognizes there is much more work to be done in the lives of children and families. In order to continue meeting the challenge of our mission, Epworth has extended its reach through the formation of the Institute for Child & Family Wellbeing.

The Institute is a ministry of Epworth that is housed on Epworth's Trenholm campus, formerly the location of Carolina Children's Home. The Institute is comprised of several Centers, which include: The Center for Family Engagement; The Center for Child & Family Counseling; the Center for Independent Living; The Epworth Center for Social Enterprise; and the Epworth Family Care Center.



As of August, the Institute, under the direction of Mara Jones, opened Epworth Center for Counseling. Located at the back of the Trenholm campus, the Center for Counseling is housed at 1154 Sunnyside Drive, Columbia, SC 29204. Staying true to Epworth's mission of serving children, youth, and families, the Center for Counseling offers counseling services to address a variety of needs including depression, trauma, attachment concerns, family and relational counseling, and much more. Traditionally, Epworth is viewed as a residential facility for children but the Center for Counseling is available to anyone who may benefit from counseling services. The Center for Counseling is a resource open to the community and is accepting referrals for children, teens, and adults. To learn more or to make an appointment, contact the Center for Counseling at (803) 667-4697.

Mrs. Bobbie Yajnik

An Epworth mentor takes part in multiple trainings, interviews, and serves a one year commitment to their assigned mentee. Within this volunteer role a mentor meets with their mentee for a minimum of four hours each month. The mentoring program at Epworth is built on the decision of a mentee and mentor; the mentoring relationship is never forced or required by an Epworth resident.

Mentors at Epworth dedicate their time and talents to residents at Epworth. A mentor's diligence and faithful service is integral in the mentor/mentee relationship. Through their presence, the mentor has the chance to build a lifelong relationship built upon trust, faith, kindness, and compassion. The opportunities for a mentor to support their mentee are endless! Mentors attend school events and extracurricular activities. To that end, mentors are often visiting their mentees to bring words of encouragement on a regular basis. The residents at Epworth are blessed to have volunteers that give of their time and talents in the capacity of a mentor. This publication's spotlight recognizes Mrs. Bobbie Yajnik.

The mentors for each resident at ECH are hosted by a Cottage Case Manager. The Stokes Cottage Case Manager, Ms. Logan Leverage, has had the opportunity to work with Mrs. Bobbie since during her time as a volunteer. Ms. Logan celebrates Mrs. Bobbie's mentor qualities regularly. She is described as "loving, caring, wise, and open minded. Mrs. Bobbie wants to meet each resident where they are and support them with where they can go and who they can be. She visits faithfully each week and builds a foundation of trust and understanding with the resident."

Mrs. Bobbie is known as the Stokes Cottage "good luck charm." At present, Mrs. Bobbie, is working with her third mentee residing in the Stokes Cottage. She had been matched with two other Epworth residents who have gone on to be reunited with their families. Mrs. Bobbie is willing to take part in any activity to build a trusting relationship with her assigned mentee. This includes playing board games at the cottage, taking a trip to Soda City Farmer's Market, and even touring her workplace in the neonatal unit at a midlands hospital. Ms. Logan knows that any mentee assigned to Mrs. Bobbie will have a great understating of the importance of education, the opportunity to visit new places and the chance to build one's confidence by stepping out of their comfort zone. Epworth is certain that Mrs. Bobbie's "good luck" streak will continue and this combined with her kindness, compassion, and love will continue to be a blessing in the lives of each of our residents. Thank you, Mrs. Bobbie for your devotion to Epworth Children's Home!



Epworth
Children's Home

PO BOX 50466
COLUMBIA SC 29250

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Columbia, SC
Permit No. 424

Invest. Care. *Transform.*

(803) 256-7394

www.epworthchildrenshome.org

The Rev. John E. Holler, Jr.
President

© 2019 Epworth Children's Home

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

In an effort to be good stewards of God's gift, please help maintain current records to help with mailing costs.

Make corrections on the label and mail it back to us.

- ☐ Name Change
- ☐ I receive more than one copy
- ☐ Address change
- ☐ I'd like to receive this publication by email

☐ Please remove me from the mailing list

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.

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.*



Epworth
ICE CREAM®

Ship to friends and family everywhere
with our new mailer packs.



Build your 4-pack now at:
www.epworthicecream.org