

# The Record

*News from Epworth Children's Home*



*Annual Report Edition*

## *The Gift of the Magi*

*Written By Laurie Brandes*

Years ago there was a movie called the Gift of the Magi. The movie was based on a story about a poor young wife who sold her hair to buy her husband a chain for his watch. In turn, the husband secretly sold his watch to buy hair combs for his wife's long hair. We experienced the Gift of the Magi in a sense this Christmas at the Independent Living Center that is home to young adults between the ages of 18 and 23.

Anyone who has contact with IL realizes quickly that we operate as a family, not an institution. We literally live together through normal days, holidays, sick days, celebrations, daily schedules, and crises in the middle of the night. We regularly welcome new members, often on their birthdays, and we receive frequent visits from

those who have graduated from the program and wish to visit "home". Our residents stay very busy preparing for their next chapter of their lives: purchasing cars, renting apartments, getting their education, working multiple jobs and serving in the military to save money during their limited stay in the IL Center.

Like any large family, we are loud and have our speed bumps, but at the end of the day we strive to love and forgive. At least once a week I have to give this speech in my office, "We have a lot of people living together under one roof. We have many big personalities, opinions, and it's ok to make a mistake. Please give some grace as it has been given to you."

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## Why We Exist

Spring 2020

A Message from The Rev. John Holler  
President

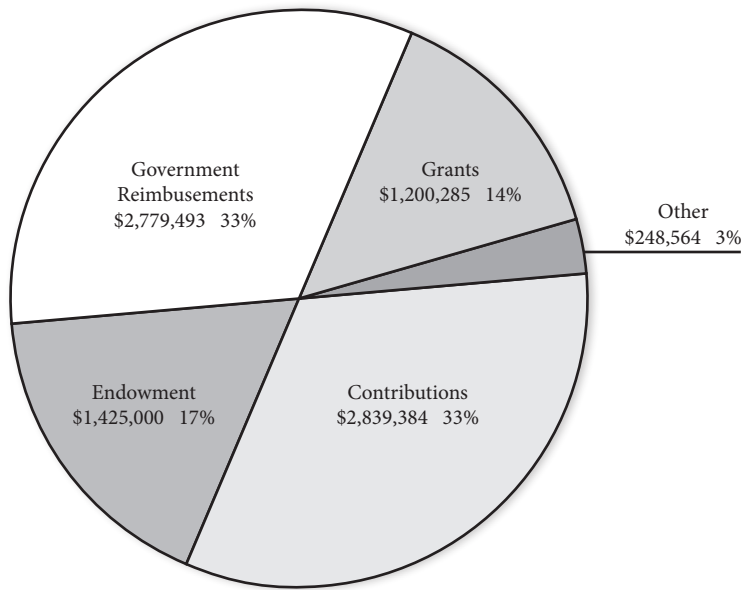
She is a senior in high school, and has been living at Epworth for two and a half years. She came to our campus from another county and after a period of adjustment she began to invest herself in her school and campus life. A couple of weeks ago she and her cottage case manager came by my office and after a brief chat she asked, "Are you willing to write a letter of recommendation for a college scholarship that I am applying for?" That, in part, is why Epworth exists!

Epworth Children's Home exists to serve all the people we can, as well as we can, with all of the resources we can gather. The key purpose of Epworth is to break the cycles of abuse, neglect, and hopelessness and replace them with opportunities for each person to live a life of self-respect, responsibility, and productivity.

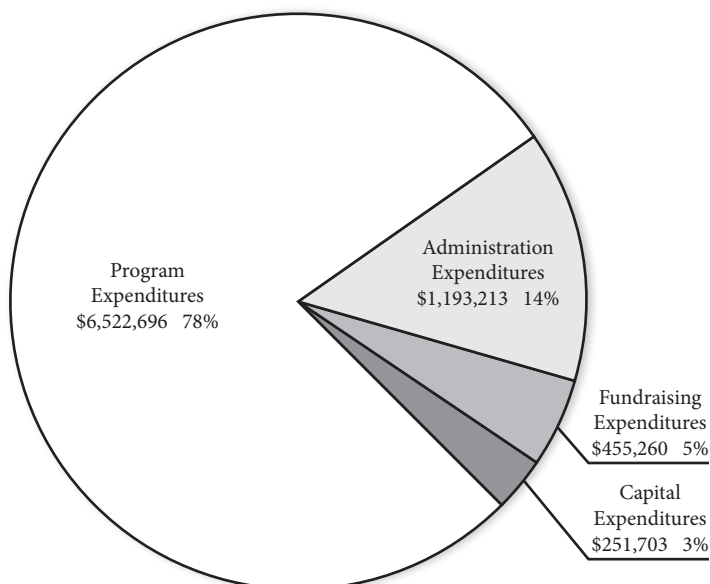
### Key accomplishments from the previous year include:

- I. **Continued to create a culture of success which is reflected in the following information compiled by Epworth's Performance & Quality Improvement department:** For the seventh year in a row Epworth has had a 100% graduation rate of high school students; 96% of residents had two or fewer behavioral referrals at school; 79% of residents achieved a C average or better each quarter; The 2018 audit resulted in no deficiencies in internal control, and received an unmodified or "clean" opinion of the financial statements.
- II. **Epworth was awarded major grants from The Duke Endowment and from Blue Cross Blue Shield for the expansion of the Institute for Child and Family Wellbeing:** The Institute, when fully established, will be comprised of specialized centers that will engage and serve children and family members through a collaborative strength based approach in order to improve the quality of life of the people it serves. This will be achieved by establishing missional outposts in congregations in each of the 12 districts in our State.
- III. **Opened the Center for Counseling on Epworth's second campus:** This center provides counseling for children, youth, and adults, and is open to the public. As this center grows and as missional outposts are established counselors will be deployed in communities where counseling services may not be readily available.
- IV. **Received the coveted 4-Star rating from Charity Navigator for sound fiscal management, and commitment to accountability and transparency for the eighth year in a row.** Fewer than 7% of all charities receive the 4-Star rating five or more years in a row. The 4-Star rating is the highest rating awarded.
- V. **Epworth was selected by the National Circle of Parents® as the lead agency in South Carolina to establish the Circle of Parents® network.** Circle of Parents was founded in 1999 and the groups are free, confidential, and focus on strength based practices. The plan is to establish groups in congregations across the S.C. conference. The main purpose of Circle of Parents® is to prevent child abuse and neglect and strengthen families.

**2019 Revenue Sources**  
**Total Revenue \$8,492,726**  
 (Unaudited)  
**Revenue**



**2019 Total Expenditures**  
**Excluding Depreciation**  
**Total Revenue \$8,422,872**  
 (Unaudited)



**2019 Individual & Business Sponsors**

*\$10,000 or more for Annual Operational Support*

Anonymous  
 Bonner Family Private Foundation, Inc  
 Building Systems Solutions, LLC  
 Colonial Life & Accident Insurance Company/Unum Group  
 C W and Dorothy G Love Foundation  
 CG Fuller Foundation  
 Franklin and Peggy Ann Coahran  
 Epworth Alumni Association  
 Green Pond Cemetery Association  
 J C Wilkie Construction, LLC  
 Mr. and Mrs. Rickie Lemay  
 Living Water Foundation  
 Mr. Donald R. Livingston  
 Mr. Lawrence S. Lumpkin  
 David and Rebecca McPherson  
 Dan and Karen Reider  
 SC United Methodist Foundation  
 Dr. and Mrs. John Schaberg  
 Jeff and Cathy Seymore  
 Steve and Kim Shellnutt  
 South Carolina Christian Foundation  
 Trinity Cathedral  
 The Cheerful Giver  
 Central Carolina Community Foundation

**Gifts to the “Every Child is a Miracle” campaign are not reflected in these totals.**

# Investing in Care!

## 2019 Residential Service Figures

January 1st – December 31st 2019

- Year-end residential population 12/31/2019: **65**
- Average residential population for 2019: **68**
- Total Days of Care Provided: **24,675**
- (41%) 57 out of 138 of residents discharged from Residential Care were reunified with family or placed with a family member
- Total number of children served in 2019: **196**
- Average stay for children during 2019: **231 days**
- Gender: Male: **41%** (81 of 196)      Female: **59%** (115 of 196)
- Race: African American –103/196 =**52%**      Caucasian—66/196=**34%**
- Bi-racial— 16/196=**8%**      Hispanic—11/196=**6%**
- Ages: (0-6) = (0 of 196)= **0%**  
(7-12) =(3 of 196)= **2%**  
(13-21)=(193 of 196) **98%**

## Epworth Family Care Center

2019 Data

*The FCC serves mothers with substance addictions and their children. The families live together in a cottage on Epworth's campus and receive treatment as a whole family.*

Total number of mothers served: 9

Total number of children served: 16

Total number of graduations: 4

## Epworth Early Intervention Center (EEIC)

2019 Data

*The EEIC serves children with developmental delays and disabilities.*

Preschool: 20

Home-Based: 73

Respite: 7 children from 4 families

Volunteers: 11

Student Interns: 0

Total contributions to the EEIC were \$11,306.43

## Epworth Foster Care Program

Midlands: (Opened 2018)

61 Total clients were served this year (non-duplicated)

Average Length of stay was 103 days

- Top 3 placing counties were Richland, Aiken & York
- Client gender – Majority of clients served were male
  - ♦ 41% (25 of 61) were female
  - ♦ 59% (36 of 61) were male
- Client Age – Majority of clients served were in the 0-5 age range.
  - ♦ 72% (44 of 61) were between 0-5 years old
  - ♦ 20% (12 of 61) were between 6-10 years old
  - ♦ 8% (5 of 61) were 11 years old or older

Lowcountry: (Opened August 2019)

12 Total clients were served this year (non-duplicated)

- Top 3 placing counties Charleston, Berkeley, & Jasper
- Client gender – An equal amount of males and females were served
  - ♦ 50% (6 of 12) were female
  - ♦ 50% (6 of 12) were male
- Client age – Majority of clients served were in the 0-5 age range.
  - ♦ 92% (11 of 12) were between 0-5 years old
  - ♦ 8% (1/12) were between 6-12 years old.
  - ♦ 0% were 11 years old or older

## Epworth Academic Points of Interest 2018-2019

- During the 2018-19 school year, 93% of residents tested below grade level in reading on initial assessment testing.
- By the end of the 2018-19 school year, 74% of those residents had shown improvement in their reading scores on follow-up assessment testing.
- During the 2018-19 school year, 85% of residents tested below grade level in math on initial assessment testing.
- By the end of the 2018-19 school year, 59% of those residents had shown improvement in the math scores on follow-up assessment testing.
- During the 2018-19 school year, 3038 tutoring sessions were offered with an attendance rate of 75%.
- During the 2018-19 school year, the tutoring center provided 7 certified tutors, a Career Counselor and a Digital Literacy Coach who served 169 residents.
- During the 2018-19 school year, 79% of residents maintained an overall “C” average or higher.
- During the 2018-19 school year, 50% of residents earned Honor Roll.
- During the 2018-19 school year, 93% of residents had 2 or fewer behavioral referrals during a quarter.
- 100% of seniors graduated or earned their graduation equivalency diploma (GED) at the end of the 2018-19 school year. This is the 7th consecutive year with 100% graduation rate.

Note: Data for Assessment testing is based on residents who are at Epworth at least 90 days.



# Investing in Care!

\$10,000+ Congregational Sponsors		
Mt Horeb UMC	Lexington	\$70,504.96
Chapin UMC	Chapin	\$52,065.00
Trenholm Road UMC	Columbia	\$46,505.25
Bethany UMC	Summerville	\$30,473.65
Central UMC	Florence	\$30,440.85
Shandon UMC	Columbia	\$28,193.00
Buncombe Street UMC	Greenville	\$27,391.00
Grace UMC	North Augusta	\$25,043.80
Reidville Road UMC	Moore	\$24,799.00
Union UMC	Irmo	\$22,326.15
Green Pond UMC	Smoaks	\$20,375.00
St Johns UMC	Rock Hill	\$19,984.17
First UMC	Myrtle Beach	\$19,870.00
St Johns UMC	Aiken	\$19,755.00
Mt Hebron UMC	West Columbia	\$19,685.93
St Andrew by the Sea UMC	Hilton Head Island	\$18,971.00
First UMC	Isle of Palms	\$18,525.00
Sharon UMC	Greer	\$17,453.00
St Johns UMC	Anderson	\$17,007.50
Clemson UMC	Clemson	\$16,469.57
Dickson Memorial UMC	Townville	\$14,195.00
Highland Park UMC	Florence	\$14,182.00
Edisto Island UMC	Edisto Island	\$13,208.34
Macedonia UMC	Mullins	\$13,081.92
Lyman UMC	Lyman	\$12,912.00
First UMC	Marion	\$11,814.06
Advent UMC	Simpsonville	\$11,121.80
Piedmont Park UMC	Taylors	\$10,500.00
Shady Grove UMC	Cameron	\$10,132.00
Carteret Street UMC	Beaufort	\$10,075.90
Congregational totals include gifts from the congregation, special offerings and individual congregation members.		

Number of Churches by District that Gave \$0			
District	Total	District	Total
Anderson	16	Marion	25
Charleston	23	Orangeburg	17
Columbia	6	Rock Hill	13
Florence	35	Spartanburg	13
Greenville	18	Walterboro	36
Greenwood	16		
Hartsville	37	<b>Total</b>	<b>255</b>

Highest Congregation Giving by Total Dollars By District		
Anderson	St Johns UMC	\$17,007.50
	Clemson UMC	\$16,469.57
	Dickson Memorial UMC	\$14,195.00
Charleston	Bethany UMC	\$30,473.65
	First UMC	\$18,525.00
	Edisto Island UMC	\$13,208.34
Columbia	Mt Horeb UMC	\$70,504.96
	Chapin UMC	\$52,065.00
	Trenholm Road UMC	\$46,505.25
Florence	Central UMC	\$30,440.85
	Highland Park UMC	\$14,182.00
	Ebenezer UMC	\$5,878.00
Greenville	Buncombe Street UMC	\$27,391.00
	Sharon UMC	\$17,453.00
	Advent UMC	\$11,121.80
Greenwood	Grace UMC	\$25,043.80
	St Johns UMC	\$8,655.00
	McCormick UMC	\$5,193.00
Hartsville	Lyttleton Street UMC	\$9,152.00
	Bethel UMC	\$7,265.00
	St Luke UMC	\$5,480.00
Marion	First UMC (Myrtle Beach)	\$19,870.00
	Macedonia UMC	\$13,081.92
	First UMC (Marion)	\$11,814.06
Orangeburg	St Johns UMC	\$19,755.00
	Shady Grove UMC	\$10,132.00
	Trinity UMC	\$4,940.00
Rock Hill	St Johns UMC	\$19,984.17
	Philadelphia UMC	\$6,328.00
	Woodland UMC	\$5,469.00
Spartanburg	Reidville Road UMC	\$24,799.00
	Lyman UMC	\$12,912.00
	Cannons Camp Ground UMC	\$9,720.21
Walterboro	Green Pond UMC	\$20,375.00
	St Andrew by the Sea UMC	\$18,971.00
	Carteret Street UMC	\$10,075.90

## Highest Per Member Giving by District (599 or Fewer Members)

District	Church Name	Total Gifts	Members	\$/Member
Anderson	Ebenezer UMC	\$4,750.00	23	\$206.52
	Dickson Memorial UMC	\$14,195.00	137	\$103.61
	Zion UMC	\$600.00	6	\$100.00
Charleston	Edisto Island UMC	\$13,208.34	80	\$165.10
	Wrens Chapel UMC	\$1,000.00	15	\$66.67
	New Hope UMC	\$9,677.00	157	\$61.64
Columbia	Whaley Street UMC	\$6,505.00	56	\$116.16
	College Place UMC	\$2,402.00	42	\$57.19
	Zion UMC	\$1,515.00	27	\$56.11
Florence	Elim UMC	\$2,300.00	28	\$82.14
	Andrews Chapel UMC	\$1,165.00	18	\$64.72
	Scranton UMC	\$3,000.00	54	\$55.56
Greenville	Fews Chapel UMC	\$3,743.94	65	\$57.60
	Bethel UMC	\$2,980.00	54	\$55.19
	Sharon UMC	\$17,453.00	342	\$51.03
Greenwood	Spann UMC	\$1,325.00	19	\$69.74
	New Chapel UMC	\$2,068.00	31	\$66.71
	Ridge Spring UMC	\$765.00	14	\$54.64
Hartsville	Bethel UMC	\$7,265.00	84	\$86.49
	Ashland UMC	\$405.00	13	\$31.15
	Bethlehem UMC	\$2,999.40	135	\$22.22
Marion	Boykin UMC	\$3,700.00	41	\$90.24
	Macedonia UMC	\$13,081.92	265	\$49.37
	Antioch UMC	\$2,678.25	56	\$47.83
Orangeburg	Shady Grove UMC	\$10,132.00	52	\$194.85
	Salley UMC	\$725.00	8	\$90.63
	Springfield UMC	\$2,185.00	25	\$87.40
Rock Hill	Hanging Rock UMC	\$3,246.00	88	\$36.89
	Shady Grove UMC	\$500.00	18	\$27.78
	Bethel UMC	\$3,246.00	128	\$25.36
Spartanburg	Roebuck UMC	\$5,230.00	79	\$66.20
	Reidville Road UMC	\$24,799.00	432	\$57.41
	White Stone UMC	\$1,625.00	31	\$52.42
Walterboro	Green Pond UMC	\$20,375.00	53	\$384.43
	Mt Tabor UMC	\$2,955.00	27	\$109.44
	Gillette UMC	\$1,655.00	17	\$97.35

## Highest Per Member Giving by District (600 or Higher Members)

District	Church Name	Total Gifts	Members	\$/Member
Anderson	Clemson UMC	\$16,469.57	1054	\$15.63
	St Johns UMC	\$17,007.50	1382	\$12.31
	Trinity UMC	\$4,378.50	754	\$5.81
Charleston	Bethany UMC	\$30,473.65	3512	\$8.68
	Hibben UMC	\$4,225.00	617	\$6.85
	John Wesley UMC	\$8,354.08	1224	\$6.83
Columbia	Trenholm Road UMC	\$46,505.25	1677	\$27.73
	Chapin UMC	\$52,065.00	2449	\$21.26
	Mt Hebron UMC	\$19,685.93	1347	\$14.61
Florence	Central UMC	\$30,440.85	2298	\$13.25
Greenville	Memorial UMC	\$7,804.00	665	\$11.74
	Buncombe Street UMC	\$27,391.00	2656	\$10.31
	Aldersgate UMC	\$9,470.00	1296	\$7.31
Greenwood	Grace UMC	\$25,043.80	1743	\$14.37
	Central UMC	\$2,539.00	617	\$4.12
	Main Street UMC	\$4,685.12	1162	\$4.03
Hartsville	Lyttleton Street UMC	\$9,152.00	959	\$9.54
	St Johns UMC	\$5,057.00	619	\$8.17
	St Luke UMC	\$5,480.00	1133	\$4.03
Marion	Belin Memorial UMC	\$9,660.00	2658	\$21.17
	First UMC (Myrtle Beach)	\$19,870.00	1177	\$16.88
	First UMC (Conway)	\$9,032.00	804	\$11.23
Orangeburg	St Johns UMC	\$19,755.00	2105	\$9.38
Rock Hill	St Johns UMC	\$19,984.17	2072	\$22.02
	Philadelphia UMC	\$6,328.00	811	\$7.80
	Pleasant Hill UMC	\$5,343.00	729	\$7.33
Spartanburg	Lyman UMC	\$12,912.00	715	\$18.06
	Bethel UMC	\$3,800.00	1277	\$2.98
Walterboro	St Andrew by the Sea UMC	\$18,971.00	771	\$24.61
	Bluffton UMC	\$6,402.50	688	\$9.31
	Bethel UMC	\$4,206.00	616	\$6.83

# *Blythewood High School Provides Holiday Wishes*

“Our organization supporting Epworth, made people aware of the children’s home right here in Columbia!”- Kareem S.

The Student Activities organization at Blythewood High School selected Epworth Children’s Home as the beneficiary for their annual Holiday Wishes campaign. The Holiday Wishes assembly is the school’s culminating event to showcase and celebrate the dedication of students and staff to helping others during the holiday season.

“At first, Epworth was just an idea we had with student leadership as a project we might like to take on. As a group, we all decided to call Epworth’s faculty and ask them a few questions about the items they would need and if they had any ideas of what we could possibly do to help. The moment we got off the phone with their Volunteer Coordinator, I knew they needed as much help as they could get, and in my heart, I knew Blythewood could exceed their expectations and give them the help they truly needed.”  
-Carol Ann Craig

Under the leadership of Ms. Macy Hunter, BHS’ Student Activities Director, the group came to the Epworth campus to further discuss their ideas on how they could impact Epworth through this year’s Winter Wishes campaign and assembly. Blythewood High students were provided a tour of the Epworth campus and they were amazed that this place existed right in Columbia! Epworth was privileged to showcase our campus to this insightful group of young leaders; and they were ready to take on the fundraising challenge to support Epworth with supplies, donations, and goods to support all those on campus.

“We promoted this fundraiser by hanging up flyers, social media, and reaching out to everyone we could. Our advisor sent weekly emails letting people know where we were on ticket sales. We also announced over the intercom every morning how much ticket prices were for the dance fundraiser. We hung up flyers everyday to let people know the items we were collecting. There was a competition between all of our classes to see who could collect more donations. We wanted everyone to participate in our service project and tried to reach out to everyone we could!” -Wyatt B.

“The most memorable part of the collection drive for me personally was seeing all of the collected items assembled in our Holiday Wishes Assembly the night of setting up. It is a different experience to plan and organize a project, but to actually finally be able to see it come together is what is so special. All of the



hours of work and dedication on behalf of Blythewood High was sitting right in front of us and we know that all of these donations would be put to good use. It’s rewarding to see all of the schools and your hard work accomplished, or to witness a goal getting met, but it’s another thing to know that the work will help someone else out for the next couple months or so. Finally being able to see all of the items laid out for everyone to see is when the moment and the work becomes more real, and you realize that these items will actually help and have an impact on others lives.” -Riley M.

After strategic planning and organization, the date to drop off the wish list items from Blythewood High School was set. Students and teachers arrived with car loads of gifts for our campus. The biggest surprise was

the additional donation shared by BHS totaling \$3,800.00 all to be donated to Epworth's mission.

Before the students left one of our staff asked them how this project impacted their holiday season.

"As I have grown older, the holiday season has become less about the gifts I am receiving and more about others. It genuinely made me joyful to know that I was able to make someone else's Christmas better with the contributions from our Holiday Wishes project this year. I find comfort in the fact that we chose Epworth as the organization we sponsored because I know they will take care of children that are in need for years to come." -Kailey B.



At the first of January we received an email from Cathy Williams, a fifth grade teacher at Round Top Elementary in Richland School District Two. Ms. Williams' fifth grade class heard of Blythewood's impact and wanted to make a change to support the Epworth community as well. The class held a coin collection drive entitled, "Change, changes things." With this, the group set a goal for \$400 to share with Epworth. Needless to say, Ms. Williams' fifth grade students EXCEEDED their goal by presenting a check to Epworth's Volunteer Coordinator for \$1,000! The students chanted their excitement in this accomplishment; and through this endeavor they learned that through their giving they also received.

Thank you to each of these schools in Richland School District Two for their selfless giving to those in need. Additionally, many thanks to the leadership at Blythewood High School and Round Top Elementary, for supporting a vision of humanity created by students to support others. Epworth Children's Home thanks both of these learning institutions for providing an awareness and support for Epworth Children's Home.

*Continued from Cover*

This fall our residents completed their Christmas gift list which would be purchased by generous donors. After a big Thanksgiving dinner, we put up our Christmas tree. Soon thereafter, piles of gifts started showing up under the tree. Everyone knows that Santa does not come until Christmas Eve, even for the IL adult residents. Curious, I looked at the tags. The residents were spending their minimum wage paychecks buying gifts for each other. There were gifts to and from roommates, the same room mates who argue over who ate whose burritos. Also, the staff was spending their personal funds buying gifts for the residents. The following weekend, I was doing room inspections. I found in the residents' bedrooms gifts from the residents to staff, the same staff who have to nag them to do chores and get up early. These piles of gifts signaled to me the residents feel the love in our often tough love. And the greatest of these is love- 1 Cor 13:13.

Christmas Eve morning, our Life Skills Specialist Ms. Liz decided to cook a big breakfast for everyone. When we finished eating, I was suddenly handed a dancing Snoopy stuffed animal by one of our 19 year old boys. Amidst a roar of laughter, the gift opening spontaneously began. Staff and residents handed each other a flurry of gifts. Our adult residents and staff acted like children again as they pleaded "Open my gift!" and "Oh, I love this, thank you!". It was one of the most pure Christmas moments I have experienced in my life.

Laurie Brandes, Director, Independent Living Center.

"Heaven is a lot like a playground", Jesus said, " and unless you remember what it was like to be a child, you won't get in" - William Griffin

# Foundations for the Future

It has been said that life is a series of defining moments - the good, the bad, moments of struggle and pain and moments of victory. For one man, a lot of moments of hurt and pain led to a lifetime of brave decisions and generosity. Born in Kentucky and raised by kind and devoted grandparents during his formative years, this boy was loved immensely by them. They provided a warm and loving home, one where extended family dropped by often, and family dinners full of laughs and stories around the table were woven into each week. By working alongside his grandfather, even from a young age, he gained a passion and value for hard work and a strong work ethic. His grandparents laid a strong foundation of hard work and deep love that would carry him through the years to come.

However, when his parents were able to take him back home, he experienced nothing but turmoil. At only age 9, he wanted to work, to contribute. He began delivering newspapers and did so well into his teens. He took work wherever he could find it, at the local grocery and shoe stores. He loved and valued his work, especially the people with whom and for whom he worked. They became his family. However at home, with his parents, life was different. His earnings were taken or he was told how to use his money, the money that he worked so hard to earn. This dictator style of parenting from his father, especially, created resentment. Their relationship could be considered fragmented on its best day. This was a young man who cared so much for others and worked so hard, yet found little to no love at home. Somehow, though, he still found a way to respect his parents. This likely came from his early years with his grandparents who had instilled in him such strong values.

Through all years of heartache, he preserved. Until one day as a college student he watched a movie that changed the trajectory of his life. *Spartacus*, starring Kirk Douglas, was released in 1960 and is about a Roman slave who rebels against his masters. The film's focus on class and suppression had such an impact on this college student's life that, once the film ended, rather than going to take his final exam, he went home, loaded up his life and moved to California looking for a better life – as far away from the hurt of his childhood that he could get.



Fast forward sixty years when this distinguished gentleman approached Epworth with an idea. You see, he had come to know Epworth after moving to South Carolina in the late 1970s to manage one of the biggest building projects this area had seen. He married the love of his life and they had a wonderful life together until she passed away just last year. He is now taking care of his future plans and wants to ensure that children who come from difficult circumstances will always have a home at Epworth. After much exploration and conversation to be sure that the idea would be beneficial for both parties, he has deeded his home to Epworth with a retained life estate.

If you would like to discuss a gift to Epworth, please contact Lisa Livingston Fusco at [lfusco@epworthsc.org](mailto:lfusco@epworthsc.org) or at 803-256-7394.

*Continued from Page 2 - Rev. Holler Article*

- VI. Congregational giving increased for the 13th year in a row.** The average giving per church member was \$8.57 in 2019. There were 255 congregations that failed to respond to the conference appeals for children's ministry through Epworth, however 722 congregations responded to the appeal to participate.
- VII. The Every Child is a Miracle financial campaign has received over \$6,000,000 (of the \$10,000,000 goal) in contributions and pledges.** This campaign which was authorized by the 2017 Annual Conference is enabling Epworth and United Methodist to strengthen and expand God's transformative work with children and families. Campaign contributions are not counted in the figures listed in section VI above.

## **Objectives for the coming year include:**

- I. Opening regional outposts in the Spartanburg District and the Greenville District.** This will include establishing a hub in each of the two districts at churches within the districts.
- II. Establishing satellites in other congregations in the Charleston, Greenville, and Spartanburg districts.** The first ministry activities will involve recruiting, training, and providing support for foster parents, grandparents raising children, and other relatives raising children. These congregations will also help with establishing Circle of Parents groups.
- III. Reaching the goal of raising \$10,000,000 for the Every Child is a Miracle financial campaign.** This campaign will retire the debt on Epworth's second campus, strengthen and expand Epworth's transformative work, and enable Hartzell School and Fairfield Children's Home in Zimbabwe to give children futures filled with hope.
- IV. Select and open the next outpost of the Institute for Child and Family Wellbeing in addition to the Greenville and Spartanburg district outposts.** This will involve acquiring funding and finding congregations that are willing to donate space and volunteers to make it sustainable.
- V. Begin planning for Epworth's 125th year anniversary.**

**Please know this about Epworth:** Epworth has completed 124 years of providing homes, quality care, and other foundational services for children and families from across South Carolina in a faith centered environment. Epworth is now engaged in helping to change the child protection environment in our state as Epworth innovates and models trauma informed and evidence based practices. Epworth continues to aid "all the children we can, as well as we can, with all the resources we can gather."

## *Life Has Changed Dramatically*

As this edition of the Epworth Record goes to press, we find ourselves in the midst of the coronavirus outbreak. Epworth is in a semi-quarantine status. Our residents are out of school, we are not accepting new admissions, children cannot leave campus, the campus is closed to visitors and volunteers, and all spring trips, and fundraising events have been canceled.

We are operating with fewer than normal staff members. Some are working from home, some have conditions that may put them at risk if they report for work.

The children are getting bored in spite of their distance learning work, and they want to go to Chick-fil-A and McDonalds. They are enjoying sleeping late, and recreational activities on campus and are looking forward to going back to school.

Thank you for your continuing prayers and support. Stay well and we hope you move through this different time in good fashion.



**Epworth**  
Children's Home

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(803) 256-7394

[www.epworthchildrenshome.org](http://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 caring, safe Christian communities, where hurts are healed; hope is nurtured; and faith in God, self and others is developed.**

## *Thank You for Your Membership In The* **BISHOP'S COMMITTEE OF 500**

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Epworth is seeking 500 individuals and families who are interested in improving the lives of South Carolina's children and families through committing \$10,000 or more to advance the mission of Epworth Children's Home. This commitment may be pledged for multiple years.

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

[lfusco@epworthsc.org](mailto:lfusco@epworthsc.org) or  
[jholler@epworthsc.org](mailto:jholler@epworthsc.org)



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



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