



# Epworth's Annual Mother's Day Offering

## Restoring Hope and Family

In Epworth's foster care program, a family has been caring for a young boy, Jake\*, for a few months. Jake's situation was unique, as he had previously been placed with a kinship placement with his younger brother. After Jake had been with his Epworth foster family a short while, the kinship family caring for his younger brother was so impressed with how well Jake was doing that they asked that his little brother, Will\*, also be placed in the foster home. The boys were ecstatic to be together again.

From day one, the foster family has prioritized maintaining contact and connection with the boys' birth family. They ensure that the boys visit their extended family regularly, attend birthday parties for their cousins, and meet for various activities and events with their birth family whenever possible. Maintaining this connection to their family of origin has been crucial in the boys success and happiness.

The foster parents have also gone above and beyond to keep in connection with the boys' birth mother, who is currently incarcerated. Using a third party address and appropriate boundaries in place, the mom is able to send and receive letters to keep in touch with her boys. The foster family's willingness to go to great lengths to maintain contact in a healthy way has not only

been beautiful for the boys, but for their birth mom as well. She is so thankful for the foster family and the way they are loving her sons, as well as for the support that Jake and Will are receiving from Epworth.

This Mother's Day, Jake and Will will celebrate their birth mom and their foster mom with gratitude. Thanks to your generosity to Epworth, our staff is able to help facilitate these family connections and restore hope and healing to children and families in a variety of really tough situations. Thank you for supporting and giving value to all of God's children this year. Children can never have too many supportive adults in their lives. We thank you as well for your continuing support of the children who live with us on Epworth's campus. Your generosity allows Epworth to continue to expand our mission through new programs and services to meet the needs of children and families.

Thank you for considering a generous gift to Epworth this Mother's Day.

**Mark 10:13-14**

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



### Did you know?

**179**

Number of children who lived at Epworth last year, each one from our own communities in SC.

**225**

Number of children served through Epworth's Foster Care Program

**100%**

Of your Mother's Day Offering provides comprehensive care for the children at Epworth. **Epworth is not an apportioned item in the Annual Conference budget. Mother's Day is your opportunity to support Epworth's ministry. If every United Methodist in S.C. contributed \$10.00 the offering would total \$2,394,520!**

Based on 2020 church numbers