

The Record

News from Epworth Children's Home



Comeback Kid Charlie Sprints Ahead in School

We often use this space in *The Record* to highlight a special Epworth resident or to describe the exceptional progress one of our children is making. And while we will highlight an outstanding 10-year-old in this issue, we first want to first tell you about the Epworth educational service that is making a huge difference in his life and in the lives of many of our other residents.

Epworth's Barnes Learning Center has focused on the educational attainment of Epworth's children for more than 20 years. The Center provides a wide array of services, ranging from individualized academic tutoring in subjects across the curriculum, to SAT preparation courses for our high school age residents, to job market and life skills tutoring for our older youth. The services are tailored to each resident's individual academic and social needs.

National statistics indicate that most children who have experienced abuse and neglect in their homes fall, on average, between one-and-a-half to two full grade levels behind in educational attainment. When children arrive at Epworth to live, many fit this pattern, and they need assistance and personalized educational support outside of the classroom to help them catch up.

This is where the Barnes Learning Center's specialized services to Epworth's children make a huge difference. The Center augments what the residents learn at school and provides enrichment that helps them catch up in grade level attainment. It gives them the extra, personalized support they need to become successful and confident students for the first time in their lives.

Continues on page 11



Powerful Words Inspire Work that Changes Lives

Spring 2023

A Message from Beth Williams
President

I was sitting in church recently and the words to a hymn washed over me and struck me with their relevance in my life today. When I heard the line, “What a powerful name it is, the name of Jesus,” I began to think of that power of Jesus’s name, especially as it applies to our life at Epworth.

The presence of Jesus is with us every day in our work here with our children, their families, and in communities throughout South Carolina. The lessons Jesus has taught us about love for one another; acceptance of one another, no matter our differences; and a generosity of spirit and kindness that allows us to treat one another with respect, compassion, and love, are the focus of our work at Epworth. As I heard the words to the hymn that day in church, I realized very clearly that what we do at Epworth every day recognizes and embodies what Jesus teaches us.

In a busy and complicated world, when we stop and remember what Jesus brings to us in advocating kindness, understanding, and genuine caring for one another, our positive outlook on life is sustained and we can work to help and support one another. This is the kind of love and support we endeavor to bring to our children and their families at Epworth, as well as to communities across South Carolina in which we have active programs and services to assist families.

As I write this letter to you, we find ourselves in the springtime of the year, a time of renewal and rebirth in nature, and symbolically, a time when each of us can cultivate a fresh sense of our own potential for growth and goodness. This is what all of us who work at Epworth will continue to do over the coming months, bringing the best of ourselves and the best of our professional experience to help the children and families who depend upon Epworth to stabilize, improve, and enrich their lives.

And it is my pleasure to bring to you a most positive message in this edition of *The Record* in which we recount our successes over the past year in our annual report. I am both proud and happy to tell all of you that Epworth is doing more than ever before in its 127 years of existence to aid South Carolina children and families whose lives have been marred by abuse, neglect, poverty, dysfunction, and other adverse factors.

Here are some of the successes that our fine staff at Epworth’s Columbia campuses and our regional locations have helped children and families to achieve and enjoy over the past year:

- Epworth served 124 children who lived in its residential program over the past year;
- Epworth’s Family Care Center programs also served 42 recovering mothers with substance use history and their children;
- Twenty-five older youth who would otherwise be homeless were provided with room and board, staff support, and assistance with college, the job market, and life skills training living in Epworth’s Center for Independent Living;
- The Center for Counseling treated 670 clients, both from Epworth’s various programs, and from the community at large.

- Epworth continued to establish foster care programs across the state, now administering six different programs in which 264 children and 164 families have been assisted, trained, and given the best of Epworth's staff and service and support over the past year;
- The Epworth Early Intervention Center assisted 116 preschool children, 91 in home-based programs and 25 on campus in the Epworth preschool, to receive special programming and educational strategies to help them prepare for kindergarten and early childhood educational programs. Children receive specially created individual education plans that address specific needs and deficits in their preparedness for school;
- Epworth's Circle of Parents, community-based self-help groups for parents, now has 16 groups established across the state, providing a chance for parents in challenging situations to share and help one another under the auspices of an Epworth facilitator;
- The Homebuilders program continues to be highly effective, bringing Epworth staff members directly into the home to help families in crisis learn parenting skills, life skills, and ways of managing family life in often challenging, critical situations. The program served 72 families in the past year;
- Epworth's Barnes Learning Center provided educational enrichment to children living on campus through its special tutoring programs to support and augment what they are learning in school. Over the past year, Epworth offered 2,322 individual tutoring sessions, assisting students in achieving grade level attainment. Children come to Epworth often more than a grade-level behind in their education; in the school year 2021-22, for example, 85% of the children entering Epworth tested below grade level in reading. Because of help at the Barnes Learning Center on campus, 61% had shown great improvement by the end of the school year, and 27% of this number had increased more than one grade level in reading skills. The same pattern holds true for math improvement;
- For the 10th consecutive year, 100% of Epworth's seniors either graduated from high school or achieved GED status. This is an amazing statistic that far exceeds the state graduation rate;
- Through its various continuing and latest programs, Epworth is highly attuned to the concept of Continuum of Care. This means bringing the best services and programming to our children and their families, meeting their needs in an evolving and continuing process. Through our residential services, our foster care services, and our community-based services, Epworth is bringing the best of care, support, education, and compassion to the children and families we serve.

This overview of our work at Epworth over the past year, which this edition of *The Record* highlights, reminds me once again of how the teachings of Jesus guide and permeate the work we do. The lyrics to the hymn that affected me so deeply that day in church remind me continually "what a powerful name it is, the name of Jesus." We strive to embody His teachings in the love, help, and support we provide to those we serve every day at Epworth. We are fortunate and blessed to have such a worthy outlet through which to follow and use what Jesus has taught us.



Circle of Parents®

Circle of Parents® is a peer-led parenting support group for parents and caregivers. It provides a safe place where anyone in a parenting role can openly discuss the successes and challenges of raising children and find support.

- Ongoing from previous year: 4
- New groups established 2022: 12
- Total groups: 16
- Current number of Circles: 7
- Total parents/guardians touched this year: 199 (non-duplicated) Children: 17 (non-duplicated)

The Center for Independent Living

The Center for Independent Living serves clients ages 18-23 who are either employed or in educational programs, or both at the same time. Admissions continued without pause during the ongoing pandemic. Many clients earned college credits and vocational training certifications.

Clients participated in additional life skills training including drivers' education and financial literacy.

- Clients Served: 25 Non-duplicated
- Ages Served: 18-23

Family Care Center

The Family Care Center serves mothers with substance use disorders and their children. The families live together in a cottage on Epworth's campus and receive treatment as a family unit.

- Clients served: 42
- 15 Moms
 - ▶ Age 18-24: 16.7%
 - ▶ Age 25-64: 21.4%
- 25 Children
 - ▶ Age 0-5: 45.3%
 - ▶ Age 6-9: 14.3%
 - ▶ Age 10-12: 2.4%

The Family Care Center had 12 successful discharges, with families being reunified upon discharge.

Residential Services

Epworth Children's Home residential care program serves children from South Carolina. Children come to Epworth after experiencing significant trauma like grief, loss, neglect and/or abuse and live with us on our campus in cottages with caring staff.

- Clients Served: 124 (non-duplicated)
 - ▶ Age 0-9: 3
 - ▶ Age 10-12: 5
 - ▶ Age 13-17: 104
 - ▶ Age 18-24: 12
- 47% of residents discharged from residential care were reunified with family or placed with a family member.

HOMEBUILDERS®

HOMEBUILDERS® provides intensive, in-home crisis intervention, counseling, and life-skills education for families who have children at imminent risk of placement in state-funded care. It is the oldest and best-documented Intensive Family Preservation Services (IFPS) program in the United States. The goal is to prevent the unnecessary out-of-home placement of children through intensive, on-site intervention, and to teach families new problem-solving skills to prevent future crises.

Total families served: 72

Foster Care

Epworth licenses individuals and married couples across the state of South Carolina for both Family Foster Care and Therapeutic Foster Care. Foster families benefit from proven, research-based training and around-the-clock support from Epworth Foster Care staff members. The children who reside with private foster families can also benefit from participating in the many additional resources that Epworth offers to families across their array of programs.

- **Total Clients Served: 264**
- **Total Licensed Families: 164**

Early Intervention Center

The Early Intervention Center serves children with developmental delays and disabilities through the Home-Based Program as well as the on-campus Preschool Program.

- Preschool: 25 (non-duplicated)
- Home-Based: 91 (non-duplicated)

Center for Counseling

The Epworth Center for Counseling is an outpatient counseling center for children, teens, and adults. The licensed and trained therapists specialize in treating a variety of mental, behavioral, and substance use concerns.

- Clients served: 670 (non-duplicated)
- Client's served since program's inception: 946 (non-duplicated)

Intensive In-Home Services

Epworth's Intensive In-Home Services (IIHS) is a four to six month program which provides an array of services and support to families who are involved with the SC Department of Social Services. IIHS works with families throughout four stages of service intensity in an effort to increase effective parenting, communication and coping skills through in-home counseling and additional behavioral services. This program began serving clients in December 2022

- 3 families served
- Top referring counties: Fairfield, Richland

Volunteers in 2022

- Total number of volunteers on campus 1,398
- Total number of volunteer groups 128
- Hours Served 5,551



Investing in Care!

\$10,000+ Congregational Supporters		
Church	City	Total Amt
Shandon UMC	Columbia	\$61,112.00
Mt Horeb UMC	Lexington	\$53,725.00
Chapin UMC	Chapin	\$43,108.05
Belin Memorial UMC	Murrells Inlet	\$37,743.39
Buncombe Street UMC	Greenville	\$35,236.75
Bethany UMC	Summerville	\$31,256.58
First UMC	Isle of Palms	\$27,200.92
St Johns UMC	Aiken	\$23,675.91
Ebenezer UMC	Yemassee	\$23,675.00
St Andrew by the Sea UMC	Hilton Head Island	\$22,435.00
Advent UMC	Simpsonville	\$22,378.00
Trenholm Road UMC	Columbia	\$21,422.00
Central UMC	Florence	\$20,933.50
Grace UMC	North Augusta	\$18,928.00
Union UMC	Irmo	\$18,463.00
First UMC	Myrtle Beach	\$18,055.00
Highland Park UMC	Florence	\$18,027.00
Manning UMC	Manning	\$17,584.00
Carteret Street UMC	Beaufort	\$14,724.82
St Johns UMC	Rock Hill	\$13,773.82
Trinity UMC	West Columbia	\$13,637.00
First UMC	Conway	\$12,943.00
Surfside UMC	Surfside Beach	\$12,860.00
Hibben UMC	Mount Pleasant	\$12,855.00
Gramling UMC	Gramling	\$12,660.00
Clemson UMC	Clemson	\$11,887.73
First UMC	Marion	\$11,693.00
Sharon UMC	Greer	\$11,332.23
Lyman UMC	Lyman	\$11,243.00
Edisto Island UMC	Edisto Island	\$11,160.50
Shady Grove UMC	Cameron	\$10,934.00
Dickson Memorial UMC	Townville	\$10,880.00
St Johns UMC	Anderson	\$10,859.00
Point Hope UMC	Mount Pleasant	\$10,755.00
Mt Hebron UMC	West Columbia	\$10,278.00
John Wesley UMC	Charleston	\$10,165.65
Leesville UMC	Batesburg Leesville	\$10,137.00
Macedonia UMC	Mullins	\$10,107.00
Harmony UMC	Edgefield	\$10,065.24

Highest Per Member Giving by District (599 or Less Members)				
District	Church Name	Total Annual Giving	Members	\$/Member
Anderson	Dickson Memorial UMC	\$10,880.00	132	\$82.42
	St Johns UMC	\$10,859.00	596	\$18.22
	Grace UMC	\$6,755.00	580	\$11.65
Charleston	First UMC, Isle of Palms	\$27,200.92	580	\$46.90
	Hibben UMC	\$12,855.00	561	\$22.91
	Edisto Island UMC	\$11,160.50	80	\$139.51
Columbia	Trinity UMC	\$13,637.00	220	\$61.99
	Cayce UMC	\$8,775.27	455	\$19.29
	Grace UMC	\$7,631.88	266	\$28.69
Florence	Highland Park UMC	\$18,027.00	550	\$32.78
	Manning UMC	\$17,584.00	494	\$35.60
	Ebenezer UMC	\$7,303.00	227	\$32.17
Greenville	Sharon UMC	\$11,332.23	349	\$32.47
	Emma Gray UMC	\$6,847.00	187	\$36.61
	Disciples UMC	\$3,401.75	257	\$13.24
Greenwood	Leesville UMC	\$10,137.00	399	\$25.41
	Harmony UMC	\$10,065.24	117	\$86.03
	Nazareth UMC	\$7,060.00	236	\$29.92
Hartsville	Lamar UMC	\$6,910.00	224	\$30.85
	Trinity UMC	\$4,935.70	333	\$14.82
	Wesley UMC	\$4,360.00	431	\$10.12
Marion	First UMC	\$11,693.00	554	\$21.11
	Macedonia UMC	\$10,107.00	251	\$40.27
	Poplar UMC	\$7,650.00	41	\$186.59
Orangeburg	Shady Grove UMC	\$10,934.00	54	\$202.48
	Wagener UMC	\$8,998.36	92	\$97.81
	Trinity UMC	\$6,921.10	530	\$13.06
Rock Hill	Shady Grove UMC	\$10,934.00	54	\$202.48
	Wagener UMC	\$8,998.36	92	\$97.81
	Trinity UMC	\$6,921.10	530	\$13.06
Spartanburg	Gramling UMC	\$12,660.00	265	\$47.77
	Trinity UMC	\$8,683.00	529	\$16.41
	Roebuck UMC	\$7,684.00	79	\$97.27
Walterboro	Ebenezer UMC	\$23,675.00	64	\$369.92
	Carteret Street UMC	\$14,724.82	579	\$25.43
	Green Pond UMC	\$8,425.00	29	\$290.52

Congregational totals include gifts from the congregation, special offerings and individual congregation members.

Highest Per Member Giving by District (600 or Higher Members)				
Charge	Church Name	Total Annual Giving	Members	\$/Member
Anderson	Clemson UMC	\$11,887.73	1032	\$11.52
	St Mark UMC	\$8,906.00	869	\$10.25
	Bethesda UMC	\$3,840.00	720	\$5.33
Charleston	Bethany UMC	\$31,256.58	3529	\$8.86
	John Wesley UMC	\$10,165.65	1079	\$9.42
	Bethel UMC	\$7,872.00	746	\$10.55
Columbia	Shandon UMC	\$61,112.00	3089	\$19.78
	Mt Horeb UMC	\$53,725.00	5109	\$10.52
	Chapin UMC	\$43,108.05	2539	\$16.98
Florence	Central UMC	\$20,933.50	1903	\$11.00
	Friendship UMC	\$263.00	713	\$0.37
Greenville	Buncombe Street UMC	\$35,236.75	2479	\$14.21
	Advent UMC	\$22,378.00	2387	\$9.37
	Mauldin UMC	\$6,375.00	1539	\$4.14
Greenwood	Grace UMC	\$18,928.00	1723	\$10.99
	Central UMC	\$5,052.93	607	\$8.32
	Main Street UMC	\$4,149.28	686	\$6.05
Hartsville	Lyttleton Street UMC	\$9,445.00	977	\$9.67
	St Luke UMC	\$9,161.00	1126	\$8.14
	St Johns UMC, Lugoff	\$8,125.00	610	\$13.32
Marion	Belin Memorial UMC	\$37,743.39	2718	\$13.89
	First UMC, Myrtle Beach	\$18,055.00	1193	\$15.13
	First UMC, Conway	\$12,943.00	797	\$16.24
Orangeburg	St Johns UMC, Aiken	\$23,675.91	2110	\$11.22
Rock Hill	St Johns UMC, Rock Hill	\$13,773.82	1966	\$7.01
	St Johns UMC, Fort Mill	\$9,502.00	950	\$10.00
	Pleasant Hill UMC	\$8,210.00	709	\$11.58
Spartanburg	Lyman UMC	\$11,243.00	716	\$15.70
	Bethel UMC	\$6,835.00	1236	\$5.53
Walterboro	St Andrew by the Sea UMC	\$22,435.00	601	\$37.33
	Bluffton UMC	\$7,105.00	685	\$10.37
	St George UMC	\$1,925.00	645	\$2.98

Highest Congregational Giving By Total Dollars By District	
District	Church Name
Anderson	Clemson UMC
	Dickson Memorial UMC
	St Johns UMC
Charleston	Bethany UMC
	First UMC, Isle of Palms
	Hibben UMC
Columbia	Shandon UMC
	Mt Horeb UMC
	Chapin UMC
Florence	Central UMC
	Highland Park UMC
	Manning UMC
Greenville	Buncombe Street UMC
	Advent UMC
	Sharon UMC
Greenwood	Grace UMC
	Leesville UMC
	Harmony UMC
Hartsville	Lyttleton Street UMC
	St Luke UMC
	St Johns UMC, Lugoff
Marion	Belin Memorial UMC
	First UMC, Myrtle Beach
	First UMC, Conway
Orangeburg	St Johns UMC, Aiken
	Shady Grove UMC
	Wagener UMC
Rock Hill	St Johns UMC, Rock Hill
	St Johns UMC, Fort Mill
	Pleasant Hill UMC
Spartanburg	Gramling UMC
	Lyman UMC
	Trinity UMC
Walterboro	Ebenezer UMC
	St Andrew by the Sea UMC
	Carteret Street UMC

Number of Churches by District that Gave \$0

District	Total	District	Total
Anderson	20	Hartsville	41
Charleston	24	Marion	29
Columbia	7	Orangeburg	23
Florence	38	Rock Hill	14
Greenville	17	Spartanburg	12
Greenwood	14	Walterboro	39
Total			278

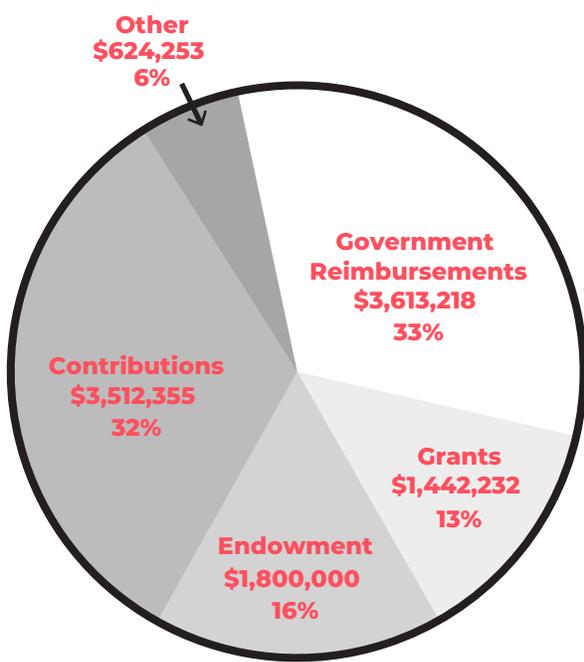
Epworth Academic Points of Interest 2021-2022

- During the 2021-2022 school year, 85% of residents tested below grade level in reading on initial assessment testing;
- By the end of the 2021-2022 school year, 61% of those residents had shown improvement in their reading scores on follow-up assessment testing, and 27% of those residents improved their scores by more than a grade level;
- During the 2021-2022 school year, 88% of residents tested below grade level in math on initial assessment testing;
- By the end of the 2021-2022 school year, 70% of those residents had shown improvement in the math scores on follow-up assessment testing, and 45% had improved their scores by more than a grade level;
- During the 2021-2022 school year, 2,322 tutoring sessions were offered;
- During the 2021-2022 school year, the tutoring center provided eight tutors, a career counselor, and an academic and behavioral coach who served 108 residents;
- During the 2021-2022 school year, 72% of residents maintained an overall “C” average or higher;
- During the 2021-2022 school year, 94% of residents had two or fewer behavioral referrals during a quarter
- 100% of seniors graduated or earned their graduation equivalency diploma (GED) at the end of the 2021-2022 school year. This is the 10th consecutive year with a 100% graduation rate.

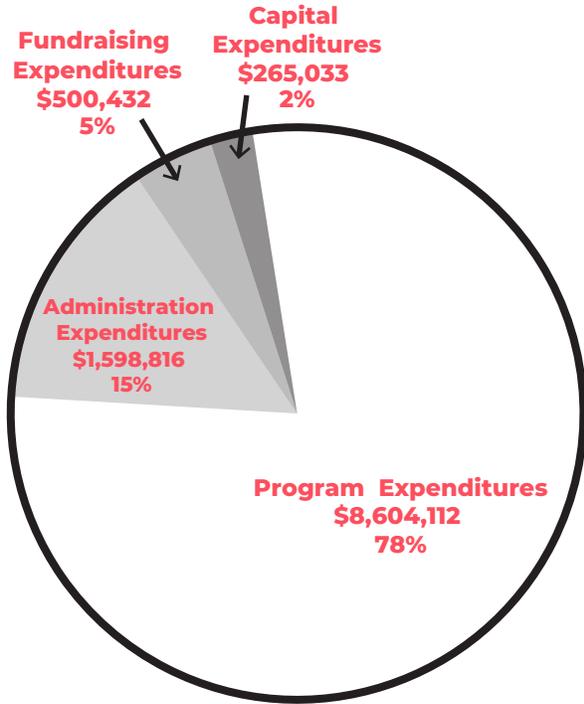
Note: Data for assessment testing is based on residents who are at Epworth at least 90 days. We served a total of 108 residents in the tutoring program last year but only 33 residents are included in the assessment data.



2022 Revenue Sources
Total Revenue: \$10,992,058
(Unaudited)



2022 Total Expenditures, Excluding Depreciation
Total Expenses: \$10,968,393
(Unaudited)



\$10,000 Individuals and Business Sponsors

Aflac
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The White Family Matthew 6:21 Fund
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The Wolfe Family Foundation
David Yezbak

Estate Gifts

Martha Bolen Estate
Donna Collins Estate
Martha Claire Farmer Estate
William T. Giffen Estate
Robert W. Healan Estate

**Deceased
Gifts to the Every Child Is a Miracle Financial Campaign are not
reflected in these totals.*



Epworth's Annual Mother's Day Offering
May 14, 2023

Charlie is a 10-year-old Epworth resident who exemplifies how the Center's services change lives. When Charlie arrived at Epworth in 2021, he was a second grader who had been identified as a student with a developmental disability. He struggled both academically and behaviorally in school and was having a particularly difficult time with basic skills in reading and math.

Like all our residents, Charlie attended the public school zoned for Epworth's location. Since the special education class placement Charlie needed was not offered at the elementary school to which he was zoned, Epworth staff in the Barnes Learning Center worked with a special education consultant to get Charlie placed in another elementary school in the district that offered the specific academic help he needed. Charlie also began tutoring at Epworth after school to receive additional support for basic reading and math skills that he needed to improve. Epworth's tutoring center continued to provide services to Charlie over the summer.

When Charlie's birthday arrived, he was no longer eligible for developmental disability services, and he had to begin transitioning to an educational program that would gradually place him in regular classrooms in some subjects, while retaining special education classes for support the rest of the school day. His schoolteachers helped him academically and also helped him to manage negative behaviors and the frustrations he frequently felt as he was mainstreamed into regular classrooms.

With continued tutoring after school in the Barnes Learning Center on Epworth's campus, and counseling to address his behavioral problems, Charlie gained confidence and began to work hard to attain grade level status. Both his academic performance and his behavior improved significantly.

When tests indicated that Charlie no longer needed any special education classes, he had to transfer schools, back to the elementary school to which he was originally zoned. Teachers there worked to make Charlie feel at home, and he has continued to receive extra support and help at the Barnes Learning Center. Christy Mooneyhan, director of Academic Achievement at Epworth, reports that Charlie's grades are excellent, and that he "continues to attend tutoring on campus every afternoon and has even asked to stay longer than his scheduled sessions to continue working on homework or improving his skills. He's thriving during his placement with us and it is because of the amazing support that has been wrapped around him."

Charlie's cottage parents at Epworth describe his willingness to help with chores in the cottage and to be a helper and friend to other children who live there with him. They comment about Charlie's positive attitude and his enthusiasm for life. Charlie's progress since his arrival at Epworth has been amazing. He has made huge strides in his academic levels and in his behavior, but most importantly, he seems to understand that he has a support system here that has allowed him to transform into a happy, healthy child who is full of life and believes in himself.





Epworth
Children's Home

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Invest. Care. *Transform.*
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Beth Williams
President

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**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 caring, safe Christian communities, where hurts are healed; hope is nurtured; and faith in God, self and others is developed.

A thoughtful way to honor or remember a friend or loved one is with a gift to Epworth. The honoree or designee will receive a card notifying him or her of your very kind gift. The form below is made available for your use.

My gift is in Honor or Memory of:
(Check one. Please print clearly the way you wish all names to be listed.)

Please notify:
(Addresses required for acknowledgements.)

Name

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City, State, Zip

Please include this form when sending in your donation. Donations may be mailed to
PO Box 50466, Columbia SC 29250. Thank you!

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