



Epworth's Annual Work Day Offering
September 10, 2023

From Fear to Hope

Richard arrived at Epworth Children's Home in the middle of the night in September 2020, a scared 15-year-old from a very small town. The prior week, his siblings had run away and alerted law enforcement to neglect in the home.

When he first got here, Richard was nervous. Already disengaged from and failing in school, he especially dreaded the prospect of having to attend a large city school where he knew no one.

But within weeks, life began to change. Richard formed a close friendship with his cottage roommate, and soon, other teens.

As the months went by, Richard's case managers and house parents could see that he was intelligent and inquisitive. They were impressed by his computer gaming and self-taught music skills. They witnessed increasingly positive signs. When Richard learned about a scouting troop through Epworth, he joined. He'd never had the chance to do anything like that before, and he loved learning how to camp, handle tools, and perform basic

carpentry. He worked with a tutor at Epworth's Barnes Learning Center, to help him pull up his grades. He was willing to listen to adult guidance and follow the rules. He eventually began influencing his cottage peers to do the same.

Today, Richard is so close to one of the boys he met at Epworth, he considers him a brother. He passed all his high school courses last year, and if he can stay on track, he will graduate in December. He is now the senior patrol officer in his scouting troop. Richard said Epworth's support and counseling have given him a way to express his feelings and thoughts without being judged, and that has made a real difference in the way he sees himself and his future.

Richard plans to move into Epworth's Independent Living Center once he graduates and is working with his Epworth counselor to pinpoint the professions he might like to pursue.

With your help, Epworth offers young peo-

ple like Richard the tools and wraparound support they need to overcome difficult beginnings and traumatic experiences to live independently and successfully.

When you make an Epworth Work Day offering, you help us provide the activities, programs and services that imbue these young people with vision, ideas and self-confidence. Thank you for supporting Epworth in its mission and for generously using your resources to make a profound difference in the lives of disadvantaged children, teens and young adults across South Carolina.

Beth Williams
President & CEO

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