

# Local Church Representatives: The Face and Voice for Epworth

As the Local Church Representative or LCR, you are an extension of the Epworth staff and a key storyteller. You are the face and voice of our children to those in your community. You play three key roles:



## AMBASSADOR

You serve as an ambassador for Epworth's children. Children who have been abused or neglected are among the most voiceless in our community. You can help give them a face and a voice in your faith community by telling their story.



## LIAISON

You help to connect your faith community to the ministry Epworth provides. Not all church members know about or understand the necessary and life changing ministry provided to children and families by Epworth. You can help connect the church and your pastor to the ministry by sharing information on a regular basis.



## ENCOURAGER

You will have the opportunity to hear and see firsthand the ministry provided to children. You can assist Epworth in their ability to continue to provide exceptional care for our children by encouraging those in your community to contribute to Epworth through their time and resources.

CONTACT CHURCH RELATIONS STAFF: CATHY JOENS AT [CJOENS@EPWORTHSC.ORG](mailto:CJOENS@EPWORTHSC.ORG) OR SHERRI MIMS AT [SMIMS@EPWORTHSC.ORG](mailto:SMIMS@EPWORTHSC.ORG) OR CALL THEM AT (803) 256-7394

# How Do You Go About This?

- Each month Epworth sends an e-mail newsletter update to our LCR's. The information in the newsletters may be shared with congregations during worship, Sunday school, or even printed in your bulletin or newsletter.
- We want to be sure that you know about the children and families in Epworth's care. Their stories are tributes to the work that you do to support them through your church and community. You will find stories in Epworth's quarterly publication, *The Record*. Please share these stories with your Sunday School class, congregation and community as a constant means of thanking them for their support.
- Offer to request materials for Epworth's two special offerings - Mother's Day (in May), and Work Day (2nd Sunday in September) and encourage your congregation to participate in the two special offerings.
- Encourage your congregation to be a sustaining congregation. A sustaining congregation contributes a minimum of \$6.00 per year, per member, to the mission of Epworth.
- Speak to the missions committee in your congregation to help that group understand that Epworth is a missional ministry and should be included in the congregations' missions efforts.
- Highlight needs of disadvantaged children at every opportunity.
- Encourage groups within the congregation to hold a fund raising event for Epworth.
- Invite a group from your church to visit the Epworth campus for a tour.

The logo for Epworth, featuring the word "Epworth" in a bold, sans-serif font. The letter "v" is stylized, with its two vertical strokes forming a heart shape.

# What We Do – Epworth's Growing Programs

At Epworth, we meet families where they are at their point of need, every day. In the past we served children and families primarily through our residential program. Today, however, we offer a wide and comprehensive array of innovative programs that serve families in the areas of prevention, intervention, and recovery. To learn more about our programs and how they serve children and families throughout South Carolina, check out this list:

## **Foster Care**

Epworth's Foster Care Program recruits and licenses qualified foster families for children ages 0-21. Foster families receive the training and resources needed to provide the same level of transformational care Epworth provides in its residential program.

## **Residential Care**

Epworth's residential care program serves children ages 12-18 on Epworth's historic campus on Millwood Avenue in Columbia. In addition to cottage staff, Epworth provides access to a full range of professional staff to facilitate comprehensive care including education, health care, recreational activities, as well as counseling services and pastoral care.

## **Center for Counseling**

The Epworth Center for Counseling provides counseling to children and youth, their families, and adults. Treatment begins with meeting one of our licensed therapists for an evaluation that will result in recommendations for services. Our goal is to move one towards a life of positive health and happiness.

## **Independent Living Center**

Epworth provides services to pursue Higher Education and/or career readiness for young people ages 18-23 who are "aging out" of foster care. The program prepares young people for transition into the adult world in a safe and supportive community.

## **Epworth Early Intervention Center**

The Epworth Early Intervention Center serves families with children who have special needs, developmental delays, and/or disabilities. The EEIC includes a preschool, home-based early intervention services and cooperative respite care.

### **HOMEBUILDERS®**

HOMEBUILDERS® provides intensive, in-home crisis intervention, counseling and life-skills education for families with children from birth to age 18 who are at imminent risk of placement in state-funded care. The goal of HOMEBUILDERS® 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.

### **Family Care Center**

The Family Care Center is a unique program for mothers with substance abuse difficulties and their children. The family lives together at Epworth while the mother receives addiction treatment. Epworth teaches parenting skills while providing care for the children and nurturing family bonds.

### **Kinship Care**

For grandparents and other adults caring for another person's child, Epworth's Kinship Navigator Program provides advocacy, case management, resources, and training to help kinship caregivers in the Midlands and Pee Dee access legal, financial, and other kinds of support. Our program also gives kinship caregivers full access to Katrina's Kloset, Epworth's well-stocked clothing and supply shop. All items and services are offered at no charge to kinship caregivers.

### **Family Resource Connection and Preservation Services**

Epworth's Family Resource Connection and Preservation Services (FRCPS) program helps families meet immediate or short-term needs, increase child safety, and strengthen family stability through parenting education and skill building, case management and help obtaining resources.

### **Circle of Parents®**

Epworth is the state partner to Circle of Parents®, a national organization that provides training and technical support for the development of parent-driven support groups with a parallel children's program called Children's Circle. These parent groups are peer led, mutual self-help groups for all parents.

