



Epworth's Mother's Day Offering
Sunday, May 10, 2026

A Miracle Born of Love and Support

Over time, a supportive, nurturing environment can help heal the traumatized hearts and minds of children and teens who have been neglected or abused. The four Anderson* siblings, who range in age from 11 to 16, are a good example. The two girls and two boys were removed from their Low-country home in 2024 to protect them from physical and emotional abuse from a parent who was addicted to alcohol. Social workers brought them to Epworth.

None of the children had attended school regularly in years. Their father's unpredictable temper kept them in a constant state of anxiety to the point that they found it hard to talk with outsiders or look anyone in the eyes.

Their fear was palpable to all who attended a 2024 Christmas party thrown each year by Lady Gamecock Coach Dawn Staley and the Richland County Sheriff's Department. The party showers Epworth residents with attention and gifts, and most kids have a blast. But that first year, the siblings kept their eyes on the table in front of them and spoke to no one. One deputy who tried her best to draw them out, said she could see that they'd been through something awful.

For months, Epworth counselors, tutors, faith and activities staff and cottage parents worked closely

with each sibling to build their trust and help them catch up with their age group in school. It was slow going, with many setbacks. But by the end-of-school party Epworth holds each summer, a blossoming could be seen. The siblings laughed, played in the water slide, and joked with several other kids. As summer progressed, they opened up more and more. They enjoyed participating in Epworth's volunteer opportunities like working at the local animal shelter. By mid-semester last fall, all four were making As and Bs in school. At the 2025 Christmas Party, the children hugged the deputy who had shown interest in them the year before. The deputy teared up and in a presentation she made to a community group the following weekend she told them about Epworth and the children's transformation, describing it as a miracle.

After the children's father was convicted of child abuse and jailed this winter, the Andersons were cleared to return home. While happy to reunite with their mom, they expressed gratitude for the safety, guidance, love, and stability Epworth staff had provided that pivotal year.

Your support helps many children like the Andersons find a way through daunting challenges. Thank you, and may God bless you!

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

Epworth

Serving Children & Families

Did you know?

1,293
Number of children served through our residential, foster care, and kinship programs in 2025

2,230
Number of children and families served by all Epworth programs in 2025

100%
Of your Mother's Day offering provides comprehensive care for the children at Epworth.

