



Epworth

Work Day Offering

September 13, 2026

Give online at epworthsc.org

A Safe, Nurturing Home for Anya

Last summer an emergency shelter contacted Epworth about Anya, a 12-year-old girl with autism who was nearing the shelter's 21-day stay limit. She and her mom had fled a domestic abuser and years of trauma in another state. They lived in a motel until their meager funds ran out, then Anya and her mom were separated into two different homeless shelters. Anya's mom applied for subsidized housing but the process was expected to take a year or more.

The shelter that housed Anya asked if Epworth could accept her as a private admission until her mom could find stable housing. In private admissions, young people are not referred by a state agency but rather by individuals, families, churches and other organizations.

Epworth welcomed Anya.

When she arrived, her hair was matted and she recoiled if anyone tried to help her brush it. For weeks, she barely said a word to the staff or her cottage mates, instead burying herself in electronic games. She refused to follow a daily schedule, take showers and do chores.

However, as the months went by, Anya relaxed into the rhythm of daily life. She came to trust her house parents and made friends with the other girls. She chose to care for her hygiene, get ready for school and do her chores without reminders. She learned how to cook simple meals and do her own laundry. She excelled in her middle school courses. She found excursions like skating and swimming exhilarating. She had never experienced a Christmas the way Epworth celebrates the season. She offered to lead the prayer at her weekly Bible study. As Anya emerged from her shell, staff and cottage mates began seeing a compassionate, kind and sensitive young woman.

Anya and her mom have since been reunited and are happy being together once again. The silent, broken young woman who first entered Epworth is now more mature, self-sufficient and excited about her future. Your kind support allowed Epworth to be there for Anya when she needed a safe, nurturing haven. God bless you for all you do.

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

Epworth

Serving Children & Families

Did you know?

1,306

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 Work Day offering provides comprehensive care for the children at Epworth.



2900 Millwood Ave. Columbia, SC 29205 | (803) 256-7394 | Give online @epworthSC.org