

## EPWORTH CHILDREN'S HOME

Epworth Children's Home is in its 111<sup>th</sup> year of caring for children from every corner of South Carolina. The work of Epworth continues to be framed by its mission statement:

**Epworth Children's Home ministers to children, youth, and families through a caring, accepting, safe, Christian community. Led by a professional team, the hurts of children, youth, and families are healed; hope is given; and faith in God, self, and others is developed.**

The primary goal of this conference ministry is to provide a safe, nurturing environment where children can mature spiritually, physically, socially, cognitively, and emotionally; and where children are prepared to lead wholesome and productive lives.

This conference year Epworth Children's Home:

- I. Continued the staff and budgetary re-organization that began under the leadership of Ted Walter. As a result of this effort, Epworth's financial position has been strengthened. Thanks to donations from individuals and from 705 of our 1026 churches Epworth has experienced a solid financial year.
- II. Adopted a Funds Development Plan that includes:
  - A. Organizing a President's Development Council
  - B. Establishing the Epworth Society of 1896
  - C. Implementing a Special Projects initiative
  - D. Establishing the Epworth Sponsors group
  - E. Implementing a matching gifts program
- III. Completed two cabins and a shower and dressing facility at Camp Glenayr. Each child had an opportunity to spend at least one week at Epworth's camp in Calhoun County.
- IV. Began training all staff who relate to residential care in the CARE model. CARE is an in depth, cutting-edge training program for individuals who work in the residential care field. This model was developed by the Cornell University Residential Care Project. This research based curriculum is based upon six underlying principals or beliefs that form good residential group care.
- V. Continued to strengthen the ties between Epworth and the United Methodist churches in South Carolina.

During this conference year the residential population averaged 82. In addition, an average of 18 children per week participated in the Epworth Early Intervention Center program. This program serves children who experience delayed development because of conditions such as autism, and Downs syndrome. This program also served forty-three families through its home based component.

In August the Board of Trustees adopted a budget of \$4,255,190 for the fiscal year 10-1-06 through 9-30-2007. This is an increase of \$122,690 from the previous year.

*John E. Holler, President*