

EPWORTH CHILDREN'S HOME

Epworth Children's Home has completed 113 years of providing residential care for children from South Carolina who cannot remain in their own homes.

The primary goal of this annual conference mission is to provide a safe, nurturing, faith centered residential environment, where children who are not able to remain in their homes receive the best possible care, and are prepared to lead wholesome and productive lives.

During this conference year Epworth Children's Home:

- I. Continued to implement the CARE (Children and Residential Experience: creating conditions for change) model developed by the Cornell University Residential Care Project. This research based curriculum is based upon six underlying principles that form good residential group care. The Cornell University Residential Care team continues to train, and observe our staff members at regular intervals.
- II. Joined Cohort IV which is a group of 12 child care agencies in North and South Carolina. The University of North Carolina at Charlotte, in cooperation with the Duke Endowment, has implemented a program of outcomes research in residential treatment settings for children and youth. Through this outcomes based research we will be better able to determine what the most advantageous options are as we care for our residents.
- III. Averaged 79 children per day in the residential population plus four college students who live off campus. In addition, the Epworth Early Intervention Program averaged 18 children per week in a preschool program. This program serves children who are developmentally delayed. The EEIC program also served 46 families on a regular basis through its home based component.
- IV. Moved into year two of a Funds Development Plan that includes the goal of moving the current giving level of \$4.74 per church member to \$6.00 per member. In the calendar year 2008 church giving increased by \$58,000. That is an increase of .26 per member. Three-hundred and five churches representing 40,723 members failed to respond to Epworth's financial appeals.
- V. Closed the elementary and middle school on campus and opened the after-school tutoring and enrichment center. All Epworth children now attend public schools in Richland District One.
- VI. Adopted a budget of \$4,082,181 for the fiscal year 10-1-08 through 9-30-09. This is a reduction of \$448,475 from the previous year's budget.
- VII. Established an Early Intervention Funds Committee that is charged with raising the amount of money each year that will enable the EEIC to operate at its current capacity.

The Epworth Board of Trustees after careful study reaffirmed the policy of reducing the amount received from the endowment fund each year by \$200,000 until the maximum draw is 5%. The difference in the endowment funds revenue and operating costs is to be covered in increased donations and other revenues.

Revised mission, purpose and vision statements were adopted by the Board of Trustees. They are as follows:

Mission: The mission of Epworth Children's Home is to serve children, youth and families through a caring, accepting and safe Christian community, where hurts are healed; hope is nurtured; and faith in God, self and others is developed.

Vision: The vision of Epworth Children's Home is to provide superior services for the greatest number of individuals through competent, caring adults who are trained in the most effective, research based methods of child and family care.

Purpose: The purpose of Epworth Children's Home is to honor God and neighbor by breaking the destructive familial cycle of neglect, abuse and shame, and replacing it with an opportunity for each child to live a life of self respect, responsibility and productivity.

Only 10% of Epworth's income is generated from a combination of state and federal money, and fees for service payments. This is far lower than most other homes. It is largely through the generosity of South Carolina United Methodist that once again Epworth has been able to provide over four million dollars in fully subsidized services to children and families in South Carolina.

John E. Holler, Jr., President