

Epworth News and Events for April



Epworth Mother's Day Offering **Sunday, May 8th**

The South Carolina UMC Annual Conference has designated this day to take a special offering for the ministry of Epworth Children's Home. Epworth is not an apportioned item. It relies heavily on the offerings received on Mother's Day to provide the quality care to the 100 plus individuals who are in Epworth's care at any given moment.



April Program Spotlight:

Circle of Parents

What is Circle of Parents? Circle of Parents is a national network of parent-led groups where parents and caregivers share ideas, successes, and strategies for raising thriving children. Circle of Parents began in 2000 and now has groups in over 20 states. The model is informed by research which shows that Circle participation has a positive impact on families in multiple areas.

Regular Circle group meetings are led by parents with the assistance of a trained facilitator. Discussion topics may include anything related to raising children. Many Circle groups provide well-planned children's programs or childcare so that kids are in a safe, purposeful environment while parents participate in their group. Groups may be open to the general community or tailored to commonly shared circumstances, such as foster parents, birth parents, teen parents, kinship care givers, fathers, etc.

Common values of groups that use the Circle of Parents model include:

- Inclusiveness
- Focus on Thriving Children
- Parent Ownership of the Group
- Shared Leadership
- Trust and Respect

Epworth is the state partner for Circle of Parents. We work with churches and other agencies to train facilitators and help them launch a Circle for their community. This program reflects our commitment to meeting families where they are and strengthening and supporting families before they are in a crisis.

If you think your church might be interested in hosting a Circle of Parents, consider recruiting a team of two from your church to attend one of our virtual trainings.

The next Circle of Parents is scheduled for April 22-23, with sessions on Friday night from 6-8 pm and Saturday from 9am -12pm and 1 -4 pm.

Registration link:

<https://epworthch.wufoo.com/forms/circle-of-parents-training/>

For more information, contact Kathy James at (803) 849-8294.



Wear Blue Day

Friday, April 1st was #WearBlueDay2022 in honor of Child Abuse Prevention Month!

All across the state, Epworth staff wore blue because we believe that all children deserve a childhood full of love, care, and free from abuse. We are working diligently across our array of programs to continue to break cycles of abuse and neglect in South Carolina.