

"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us."

September 2022

Dear Christmas with Epworth Partner,

As fall approaches and we are beginning to move away from the heat of the summer, we are looking forward to the events that fall brings. Of course, this also means that the holidays are right around the corner! We are getting excited about cooler temperatures, holiday sights and sounds, twinkling lights, decorating the tree, baking cookies, church events and activities, and opening gifts on Christmas morning. Because of your kindness and generosity, year after year, our children have wonderful holidays filled with excitement and love as they experience Christmas in their home here at Epworth. Thank you for helping us to create warm holiday memories for the children who we serve.

It may seem a tad early but Christmas will be here before we know it! Here at Epworth, the cottage staff and foster families are already collecting wishes from the children so that they will be ready for you on October 3rd when the wish list goes live on the website. Each year, the children's wishes and other necessities populate a master wish list in SignUp Genius to simplify communicating the wishes to you. Also included in the wish list are items for use for the other 364 days of the year, days like arrival day. When children come to Epworth, they receive a welcome basket filled with a comforter, sheets, towels, clothing, pajamas, shoes, undergarments, toiletries and school supplies. Arrival day is like Christmas to our children as they generally arrive with nothing but the clothes on their backs. While placement day for children placed with foster families looks a bit different, foster children are also remembered with First Night Bags and other things as needed in the early days of their placement. Your generosity allows Epworth to provide for children we serve all year long, especially during the holidays, on transition days and on their birthdays.

On October 3rd, the wish list will go live and can be found at <a href="www.epworthchildrenshome.org">www.epworthchildrenshome.org</a>. Enclosed is an information sheet that explains the process for Christmas with Epworth, how to choose wishes from the wish list on SignUp Genius, packaging, drop off instructions as well as information on making financial contributions. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions. You may reach me at 803-681-0304 or by email at <a href="mailto:brobinson@epworthsc.org">brobinson@epworthsc.org</a>. I will be delighted to talk with you.

Again, thank you for helping us to make Christmas extra special for the children here at Epworth. Blessings to you and yours as we approach this special time of year and celebrate the birth of our Savior.

Gratefully,

Beth C. Robinson Volunteer Coordinator

P.S. The Columbia Drop Off location will be held at the Maintenance Building on our Millwood Campus. If supporting another office within the state, notification with location address, times, and instructions will be shared with you by email after completing the online sign up for the designated program area you wish to support.