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Epworth brings comfort to foster children with Build-A-Bear furry friends

ST. LOUIS, MO, August 2017 – Epworth Children & Family Services is thrilled to introduce a new furry friend that promises to bring comfort to children. Epworth CEO, Michelle Tucker, worked directly with the design team at Build-A-Bear to develop an exclusive E.P. Worth teddy bear that will be given to children entering into or moving within the foster care system.

Entering foster care is difficult for any child. It is often a time of confusion and sadness. Children typically do not leave home with all of their belongings and the items they do travel with are sometimes lost or misplaced at the time of removal or during placement changes.

Research shows that a stuffed animal can be an alternative support during transition. The comfort that comes from loving a stuffed bear can promote a safe environment in which a scared, lost or hurt child is more likely to open up and feel safe again. Many children will benefit from the comfort of having their own bear.

“Dedicated and caring staff do all that they can to ease the traumatic experience of a child being separated from a familiar environment. The introduction of E.P. Worth provides an additional tool to help Epworth establish trust sooner while working with our youth to transition them into foster care. We are extremely focused on the well-being of our clients and hope that our friendly-faced teddy bear will offer an enhanced sense of safety, security, and stability through extremely emotional times,” said Michelle Tucker, Epworth CEO.

Bears will be available on Epworth’s website at <http://fostercarebears.epworth.org>. A bear can be ordered for a foster child for a donation of \$40 and will arrive in a convenient carry-all bag along with a hygiene pack. A Give a Bear, Buy a Bear option is also available for a donation of \$75 and allows you to give a bear to a foster child and receive a bear to keep for yourself or give as a gift.

Bring comfort to a foster child by giving them the official E.P. Worth teddy bear!

About Epworth Children & Family Services

Headquartered in St. Louis, MO, Epworth Children & Family Services is a multi-service nonprofit agency that helps children, youth and families move toward self-sufficiency. Epworth offers foster care services, emergency youth shelter, residential treatment, in-home family therapy, transitional housing, psychological evaluation, prevention services and a 24-hour help line. For more information about Epworth Children & Family Services, call 314-961-5718 or visit www.epworth.org.

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