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Shineforth (formerly UMFS) *Offering Scripts*

Below are scripts that help summarize the work of Shineforth for your congregation. These can be used in a variety of ways: as a quick summary of Shineforth before the offering, as a mission moment during the service, or as copy for your bulletin. You can also download a full color bulletin insert, short Shineforth videos, and other resources at [UMFS.org/church](https://umfs.org/church).

Shineforth Quick Summary

Shineforth's mission is to be the unwavering champions that every child deserves, and their vision is to strengthen Humanity, one child at a time. Shineforth Child and Family Services works with vulnerable children and families in Virginia to help them reach their full potential, equipping them with the skills and support they need to *shine*. They provide foster care and adoption programs, specialized education schools, and mental health programs. Your support of Shineforth through this offering will help vulnerable children spark their inner light and achieve brighter futures. Thank you for supporting this transformative ministry.

Shineforth Mission Moment

Shineforth Child and Family Services has a mission to be the unwavering champions that every child deserves. For more than 125 years, this organization has reflected the values that built it – compassion, justice, service, and care for those most in need. Shineforth is guided by the words of John Wesley: “Do all the good you can, in all the ways you can, to all the souls you can, at all the times you can, with all the zeal you can, as long as ever you can.”

In an effort to do all the good that they can in all the ways that they can, Shineforth serves vulnerable Virginia children and families who need

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support to see their bright futures. They provide foster care and adoption programs, specialized education schools, and mental health programs.

Your support of the Shineforth offering will provide families with the support they need to care for vulnerable children in the foster care system. One of the ways Shineforth does this is through our Family Support Partners. As a Family Support Partner, Melani, a foster and adoptive parent herself, continues to impact the lives of youth in foster care. With years of lived experience navigating the foster care system and community resources, she helps foster families do the same. Melani wants any prospective foster parents to know that even though there may be difficult moments, opening your home to a child in need is “...one of the most rewarding journeys you’ll experience.”

Your support of Shineforth will also help children struggling with mental health challenges like James. After spending time in a juvenile detention center, 14-year-old James was referred to Shineforth’s Child and Family Healing Center. “A therapist with [Shineforth] called me right before James moved there and just said, ‘I hear you and believe you, and it will be okay,’” James’ mother, Jessica, said. “James’ stay at [Shineforth] allowed Jessica to reestablish their relationship, and because she knew he was being taken care of, set boundaries with her son.” “It was a healing experience, not only for James, but for our whole family,” Jessica said.

Your offering gift will also support students who need specialized education like Josiah. As a child on the autism spectrum, Josiah struggled in school. Josiah’s guardian, Mary, recognizes Charterhouse School as a great experience for Josiah’s growth and maturity. “Everybody that worked with him was a part of his success,” Mary said. “I credit Charterhouse for giving him what he needed. Because of Charterhouse, I have the faith that he will be able to get a stable job.”

Your gift to Shineforth will help children and families in crisis, providing them with much-needed resources and tools for success. Together, we can help them spark their inner light and create a brighter future.



SHINEFORTH

UNWAVERING CHAMPIONS *for* CHILDREN & FAMILIES