

# Wings



Epworth Village  
a change for the better

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York, Nebraska

*“The children have brought us together to do this work . . . .”*

## Who are the people Epworth serves?

By Kerry Hoffschneider

It was 1924 at Mothers' Jewels Home, now Epworth Village. A letter was received at their headquarters located at 2119 North Division Avenue in York. It said a father was, "wholly incapable of giving those children anything like a good home. He is considered unsafe . . . By all means keep them there if possible."

Throughout its 122 years of existence, Epworth Village has received many pleas for help. Human beings have not changed a lot through the years; however, the ways mental and behavioral health issues are addressed have. From an orphanage to family-centered therapeutic treatment, Epworth has evolved with the times. Leadership says if they are asked one question more than any by outsiders and supporters it is, "Who are these people that you serve?"

First and foremost, the more than 1,000 people Epworth serves each month in their array of family-centered therapeutic programs including the Epworth Village Learning Center, Residential Services, In-Home Safety Services (IHSS) and Foster Care are people looking for hope. In Epworth's view, they are God's children and worthy of help and support. The agency's vision is telling of this mission, "Epworth Village believes all of God's people are of worth and value. We envision a world where families will have a clear pathway to the resources they truly need to lead healthier, more hopeful lives. We believe together we can find a way."

"Today we may be serving the family down the street, the boy next door, perhaps your son, daughter or maybe grandchild," said Tom McBride, President/CEO of Epworth. "We don't have an 'average' person in our programs because we serve everyone from infants to adults. They might be tall or they might be short. They may have no family or they may have a connected and caring



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# Optimism for the New Year by Tom McBride, President/CEO

It is the beginning of a New Year and with it the promise of joys and the certainty of trials and challenges. The common depiction of the changing of the years shows a baby in a diaper as the entering New Year and a bedraggled, bearded, tattered and torn adult as the departing year. With the Nebraska system reform efforts and myriad of changes we have all faced this year we could say our system might be the tattered and torn adult. It has certainly had its trials and tribulations.

However, I do liken Epworth Village more to the babe, the ever-optimistic one who is excited to bring the New Year into experience. Challenges and trials will be situations we will encounter and address as appropriately, professionally and positively as we can. We also know there will be joys; successes, celebrations and many, many of them. We cannot promise you our work with each child and family will be as resounding a success as we pray for, but I don't think you will find any agency trying any harder to make that so.



Epworth Village is not a program of "I, or me." Rather it is a program of "all of us together." Together we can make the difference in a life that is so desperately in need of help. One child at a time, one family at a time, we build a future that without us would appear very bleak. Thank you all for joining us in our work, our love, our mission.

## A NOTE from the Board

*by Monroe Golliday, Epworth Village, Inc. Board President*



Recently a member of the Epworth Village Board of Directors, who has been on the board for a number of years, told me how much she enjoyed the experience. The main reason she gave for this enjoyment was the "feeling of family" which created a special closeness and made her volunteer work so much more rewarding.

Having been associated with Epworth Village for 23 years I understand and appreciate what she feels. I have said many times that working with Epworth Village is like being part of an extended family. This family feeling leads to an additional sense of caring that is reflected in the relationships that are developed with the families Epworth Village serves. I believe these families can see the genuine concern the Epworth Village staff has for their particular situations.

The children and families Epworth Village serves are in the best possible hands. Epworth Village has the most professional, experienced, and well trained staffing available. With your appreciated support Epworth Village will continue with its ongoing mission of service.



It's a social epidemic  
1,000 people every month  
1,000 human hearts dealing with the pain of behavioral  
and mental health issues.



Here's the bottom line... Epworth Village, Inc. operates as a public/private partnership. This means we must raise 20% of our budget each year to fulfill our mission.

Children are growing into adults by the minute. Epworth is a crossroads in their precious lives. The time is now. We can't heal this epidemic alone. Children are looking at you and asking,

"Will you be part of the 20% solution?" Be a part. **Donate now.**

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# The people Epworth serves cont...

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family. Their common denominator is they are facing a mental or behavioral health issue that is serious enough that it has disrupted virtually every facet of their lives."

The news is saturated with stories about the state budget and Nebraska legislators considering a number of bills that will impact the "system of care" for a host of families facing numerous issues. Currently, McBride said nearly 15 agencies have either closed doors or programs due to a complicated array of funding issues. Yet, despite the "chaos" in the current system, he said Epworth Village continues to provide care to people in a variety of circumstances and from all walks of life.

"Throughout my years here, I have witnessed many wonderful things," said Dave Rea, Lead Residential Manager. "For example, there are times when 'treatment' is playing ball with a client who never had a chance to do that because no one ever took the time to teach him how. There are also the hundreds of times we allow kids to express their points of view on things when few people have listened to them before. It's neat to hear what they have to say."

"We have some children who are recent immigrants to this country," said Eunice Williams, Therapy Director. "The child may have gotten involved with negative peers and broken laws, taking him into the legal system. The child is then placed in a living unit where we provide help in the form of

more violence, but with forgiveness."

Some children come from abusive homes, but many other parents are vital partners with Epworth in the success of their children. "Mental health treatment offers children and



families an opportunity to grow and learn in a safe, structured setting," said Kristi Weber, Vice-President of Programs. "I have sat and talked with many parents who share in the excitement of their child's successes. Parental involvement makes a huge difference in treatment. Behavioral health services at all levels of care are important options in providing opportunities for some of the most deserving individuals in this state."

Family re-unification at all levels of care is the ultimate goal, although that doesn't end up being the case in every scenario. The IHSS program is designed to have caring staff members involved with families directly in the home setting. The following is an example of one of the diverse people they serve. Brandee Ehlers, who is a supervisor in this department, took a young mom to the Epworth "Christmas Store." The "store" consisted of a host of donated items where children and families from all program areas could pick out toys and items they needed. When Ehlers first told the mom about the "store" filled with donations from across Nebraska, she seemed hesitant and wasn't sure about using it, feeling as though she would try to pull some gifts together herself. However, Ehlers was able to convince her to use the resource.

Not long after, the Development Office at Epworth received a stack of donations, neatly folded and clipped together among them were three dollar bills. Under the bills was a note that said, "A donation from a mother served by IHSS for the Christmas store." Ehlers said the mother had insisted upon giving Deb Makovicka, operator of the "store," all the money she had to pay for the toys she received for her son.

"For many of the youth we treat, it must be realized that the mental health issue they are facing is something chronic and will be with them perhaps the rest of their lives," said McBride. "But we help them identify how they can manage this illness and when there is a recurrence how they can minimize that episode. A child happily returning to their family is a success. A child moving forward in school is a success. A child who is appropriately socially active is a success. Receiving a high school or college graduation announcement or a wedding invitation from a former client is a success."

"There are many different people working at Epworth Village," said Rea. "But there is a commonality among us all that we agree upon, the children have brought us all together to do this work."



Individual Therapy. We also work with parents and siblings in Family Therapy. When the parents do not speak English, we get an interpreter to communicate during Family Therapy sessions. Their own cultural family values are considered and used to solve the problems with the child and to get them back in the home and function in the current culture."

"I had a student who had an explosive temper because of the environment he came from," said Scott Wiles, Director of EVLC. "One day while working with him, he suddenly exploded and began to punch me in the head. I and Tom McBride were able to gain control of this young man without hurting him. Shortly after he began to cry and state he doesn't want to hurt anyone. I was able to sit next to this young man and tell him I forgive him, and I'm here to help. For the first time in his life, people didn't respond to his violence with

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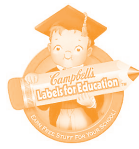


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Darryl & Rebecca Wubbels  
York County Aging Offices  
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Ellis UMW  
Lewis Family  
Osceola UMW  
St. James United Methodist Youth Group, Bellevue  
Stromsburg Ladies for Slife  
Utica UMW  
Wayne UMW

## Volunteer Hours

Sheri Beins  
Tammy Boston  
Ms. Lorelei Edwards  
Monroe Golliday  
Ms. Eilene Hanson  
Kathleen F. Highstreet  
Abbi Kleinschmidt  
Ann McCall  
Doug Moore, York College  
Mrs. JoAnn Norquest  
Mrs. Carol Penner  
Mrs. Treva Perkins  
Beverly Petersen  
Kathy Pierce  
Delores Rader  
Janet Schlegelmilch  
Shirley Trauger  
Suzanne Vanous  
Mr. & Mrs. Stuart Wiley  
York College Men's Basketball Team  
York General Hearthstone Residents

Check out our website:  
[www.epworthvillage.org](http://www.epworthvillage.org)

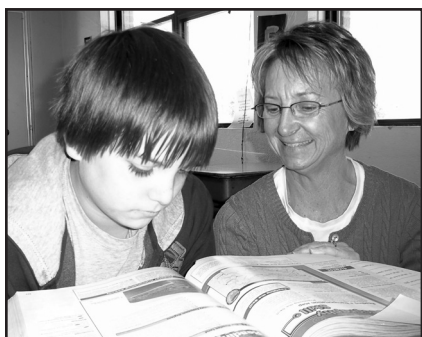
The site is filled with stories about clients and staff! It has volunteer opportunities and our needs list. It also has ways to donate online! It's another great way to stay connected with Epworth Village, Inc.!



## An Attitude of Gratitude

by *Abbi Kleinschmidt,*

*Epworth Village Foundation Board President*



*Pictured is Abbi Kleinschmidt, Foundation Board President, with a student at the Epworth Village Learning Center. Abbi has substituted at the school many times in the past and enjoys the connection with the children.*

As we begin 2011, we are full of gratitude, for all of our supporters who have so generously opened their hearts to the needs of our precious children being served at Epworth Village. In this past year, we have bared witness to what awesome things happen when you ask people to step up and help. Our board members are inspired to keep extending our reach as we know the possibilities are endless to connect with other people who will partner with us to invest in such a life-changing agency as Epworth Village.

The Epworth Village Foundation provides a path that allows Epworth Village, Inc. to plan for the future, the opportunity to dream, to envision new ideas and to set long term goals. Each and every gift to the foundation provides a building block for ensuring the longevity of our agency. Every time a gift is given to Epworth Village Foundation, hearts are opened and possibilities abound!

There is a heart-warming story that has been circulating around the village concerning a young mother who was shopping at the Epworth Village Christmas Store. The "store" consisted of generous donations of toys and needed items for the precious people Epworth serves. The young mother's heart was so overcome with joy for being able to provide a few gifts to her children that she was moved to donate all she had to Epworth. It doesn't matter what that actual dollar amount was, what matters is the heart that she gave it with. This is what really moves mountains at Epworth Village, people just like her, who care and who are willing to answer the call, the best they can!

Our supporters are people who have a vision, who see the need and are willing to invest in a life-changing program. They know in their hearts that Epworth fills a need and will continue to be necessary long into the future. We currently have an opening on our foundation board for someone willing to actively assist us in meeting our goal of extending our footprints further and further. Please contact me if you would like to take the opportunity to serve an agency so vital to the wellbeing of our children, our most precious resource.

**akleinschmidt@hotmail.com,  
(402) 759-2589**



## Meet Public Relations Coordinator

*Thatcher McBride*



Thatcher McBride has been named the new Public Relations Coordinator at Epworth Village.

McBride has been employed with Epworth Village for nearly eleven years and has served as a para-professional, Residential Therapeutic Specialist and most recently as a teacher at the Epworth Village Learning Center.

Prior to Epworth, McBride attended Wayne State College and York College where he achieved his degree in Education with endorsements in K-12 Physical Education, Secondary Speech, Theater and Coaching. McBride directed the Theater Department at the York High School and was president of the York Men's Softball League for two years. He continues to be actively involved in the Yorkshire Playhouse.

"I am committed to the mission of this organization and the youth that it serves. I am very excited to stay connected with our wonderful group of current supporters and to also introduce those who are not familiar with our mission with the vital work we do benefitting communities across Nebraska. The people who work at Epworth have a passion for helping children and families and I am looking forward to sharing that passion with the greater public."

With McBride's experience working directly with the children and families Epworth serves each day, he will bring a new perspective and talents to the already great Public Relations team!

# Save the Date!

## 2011 Heart of the Matter Event is:

Thursday, September 22  
Stone Creek Event Center  
McCool Junction, Nebraska . . .

*It's never too early to reserve your table! Contact:*  
*Kerry Hoffschneider*  
*(402) 362-3353 ext. 1144*  
*kerry@epworthvillage.org*

# Adoption brings family together

by Thatcher McBride, Public Relations Coordinator

Adoption is an amazing thing that brings families together to start a new journey in life. National Adoption day was November 20, and it was a very special day for two little girls named Jade and Kaeleigh. Pat and Clarence Shiley were at the Lancaster County Courthouse that day to finalize the adoption of these girls.

Allen Meade, a Foster Care Specialist at Epworth Village, was in attendance that day, and has supported the family throughout the end of their foster care process. Meade said he was excited that, "I would witness something that carries a deep meaning to children in foster care, the precious gift of permanency."

Before the adoption hearing, Judge Heideman came out to visit with the Shileys. Kaeleigh was also walking Foster Care Specialist Meade around showing him different decorations and pictures, proclaiming "I am a Shiley now." She knew the name change was part of the adoption, and she shared this news with strangers she passed in the hall. During the hearing, Jade also became overwhelmed with emotion and began to cry. The court room was silent as she covered her face and then said, "I don't know why I'm crying, this is good."

As Meade left the family at the end of the celebration, he said "I realized how lucky I am to be able to work with families and play a part in helping them feel supported."

The Epworth Village, Inc. Foster Care program supports families in the counties of Adams, Butler, Clay, Fillmore, Hamilton, Hall, Jefferson, Lancaster, Platte, Polk, Merrick, Nance, Saline, Seward, Thayer and York Counties. The process of becoming a foster family involves an in-depth interview and 30 hours of pre-service foster parent training. Families go through an assessment process, learn state regulations and also go through a series of background checks. The training and home study process can take up to six months or more for the first child to go into the home.



Pictured is Allen Meade, Foster Care Specialist (fourth from left) with the new Shiley family. Meade joined them as they celebrated the adoption of two, precious girls.

Epworth Village's Foster Care program offers three options for those interested: Respite Care, Agency Supported Foster Care and Foster to Adopt. All three branches require various levels of training and have different goals attached. The main thing is the understanding that foster parents must develop from the get-go, said Meade. Epworth is here to serve families and children who have experienced a crisis situation within their own home and need temporary assistance. Foster families provide security, consistency and love for children and work as part of a professional team to help heal families. There is literally someone available 24-hours-a-day, 7-days-a-week to answer your calls.

**The Epworth Village Foster Care Program is actively seeking new foster parents. Contact Hannah Miller about both opportunities at (402) 366-6653.**

## Honors & Memorials

### In Honor of...

**Dr. & Mrs. Arthur Backus**  
Mr. and Mrs. Harold Backus

**Barbara Yost**  
Georgia Bishel

**Don & Shirley Briggs**  
Rev. Shirley Carpenter

**Emmanuel Faith Lutheran School**  
Brandee Ehlers

**Brad Hoffman**  
Kay Goehring

**Christina Fusley**  
Mr. & Mrs. Fred Guggenmon

**Mr. & Mrs. Joel Schultz**  
Mr. & Mrs. Emmett Hale

**Sandra & Bobby Hinsley**  
Irvin & Ruth Ann Hess

**Mike & Pat Meichenry**  
H.P. & Coleen Hirschfeld

**Dorothy Mattinson**  
Mrs. Ardys Miksch

**Pastor Bill & Kathy Hunter**

**Pastor Judy Dye**  
Miriam Miller

**Lila Koca**  
Miligan UMW

**Samantha Murphy**  
Kathy L. Murphy Buschkoetter

**The Myer Family**  
Frances Myer

**Robert & Arlene Newcomb**  
Doug & Kyle Newcomb

**O'Neill UMW**  
Margaret Crumly

**Loraine Eurek**  
Mr. & Mrs. Earl Reed

**300/500 Halls at York General Hearsthone**  
568 Hall at St. Elizabeth Medical Center

**Fred & Kristi Scheele**

**Lyle Stock**  
Mr. & Mrs. Dave Stock

**Harrietta Reynolds**  
York First UMW

### In Memory of...

**Lyle Bahensky**  
Mrs. Vanice Bahensky

**John Upton**  
Mr. & Mrs. Alan Chrisman

**Rev. Harold Coates**  
Rev. C. Irene Coates

**Cy Cooley**  
Winifred Cooley

**Peyton Hoffman**  
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**Velma Cox**

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**Ray Eichman**  
Adell Eichman

**Warren Dickey**

**Jack Dinsdale**

**Thomas Dooley**

**Bess McCord**

**Dale Pohl**  
Epworth Village, Inc.

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Lyle Foight

**Cecil Green**  
Mrs. Cecil Green

**Chris Hawks**  
Thomas A. & Hulaine Hawks

**Brian Hedrick**  
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**Norman Harris**  
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**Harvey Holbrook**  
Beth Pullen

**Bill Rempel**  
Patsy Rempel

**Betty Rood**  
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**Byron Scarborough**  
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**Dean Samuelson**

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**Jodi Schmaderer**  
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**Roger Weber**  
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**Rev. M. Manick Samuel**  
Mr. & Mrs. Dwight Willcock

**Elwyn Willnerd**  
Dorothy Willnerd

## CURRENT NEEDS

### Ways to help...

We are in need of some items! **In fact, supplies are really low or completely out!** So if any of the "stuff" on the following list sounds like items you could round up, that would be SO very much appreciated. Contact Kerry Hoffschneider at (402) 362-3353 or email [kerry@epworthvillage.org](mailto:kerry@epworthvillage.org) to find out more!

Toilet Paper  
Kleenex  
Paper Towels  
Napkins  
Twin sized mattress pads  
Deodorant  
Shampoo

Body wash  
Toothpaste  
Toothbrushes



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**Executive Director** - Thomas G. McBride - [Tom@epworthvillage.org](mailto:Tom@epworthvillage.org)  
Epworth Village, Inc., Box 503, York, NE 68467-0503, 2119 Division Ave., (402) 362-3353

## Campbell's Labels and Box Tops for Education

Here at Epworth Village we appreciate the fact that so many of you take time out of your busy lives to clip, cut and mail Campbell's Labels for Education and General Mills Box Tops for Education to Epworth Village.

Your participation in the Campbell's Labels for Education program over the years has afforded Epworth Village the opportunity to receive several new vehicles at no cost to the agency; along with a wonderful assortment of much needed classroom materials, not to mention monies raised through the Box Tops program which directly benefit Epworth Village Learning Center, our school.

Thanks to your efforts we have surpassed our Box Tops collection goal for the 2010-2011 school year already and there is no where to go but up with over \$4,600 dollars raised as of December 2010.

Epworth Village Learning Center has been blessed by your stick-to-itiveness and determination to do all you can for the very special children we serve.

As label coordinator I would like you to know a few important things: First and foremost; it is helpful to us if you separate the Labels from the Box Tops. Watch for old style labels with the familiar "Campbell's Kid" and also for new labels featuring an apple for the teacher, both kinds are fine. We need UPC code and logo only. Trimming them down really does save postage when you (and we) send them in.



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