

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 to find out more!

- | | |
|--|---|
| Winter coats | Bath towels |
| Winter clothing | Paper products (toilet paper, nakers, paper towels) |
| Bed pillows (new) | |
| Shampoo | |
| Twin sized sheets (new or gently used) | |
| Twin sized mattress pads | |
| Deoderant | |
| Body wash | |
| Toothpaste | |



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 2119 Division Ave., (402) 362-3353

Campbell's Labels and Box Tops for Education

Thanks to all of you. Campbells' Labels and Box Tops for Education continue to roll in. We are grateful to all of the individuals and groups who have taken this project to heart.

We thank the dedicated volunteers who continue to clip, cut and count all of the Labels and Box Tops we receive. This project is truly a group effort.

I just wanted you all to know you are doing a great job trimming and sorting the Labels and Box Tops before you send them. We really appreciate that; and so do our volunteers.

Speaking of volunteers, we have a new band of Box Top counters at York General Hearstone. This fun group has been meeting once a month and has counted more than 7,000 labels in the last three months; which means \$700 for the Epworth Village Learning Center.

Remember: Campbell's Labels have changed (the old ones are okay too), Box Tops are worth 10-cents each, and separating the two before mailing them in helps us out a lot.

Oh, and if you would like to give a program on the Labels and Box Tops effort for your UMW or club check out the DIY lessons on our website www.epworthvillage.org. Just click on the "Needs and Gifts" button to find the DIY link and choose the Campbell's "Do It Yourself" lesson.

Please give yourselves a big pat on the back from us for all of your hard work; God Bless and thank you so much for everything! Call anytime with questions, Marcia Schlegelmilch (402)362-3353 ext. 1135, mschlegel@epworthvillage.org



Wings

Epworth Village
a change for the better

Vol. 30 Issue 3

Fall 2010

York, Nebraska

"It works! It works!" Spiritual Life is Epworth Village

by Kerry Hoffschneider

The boy came running up to him, as fast as his young legs could take him.

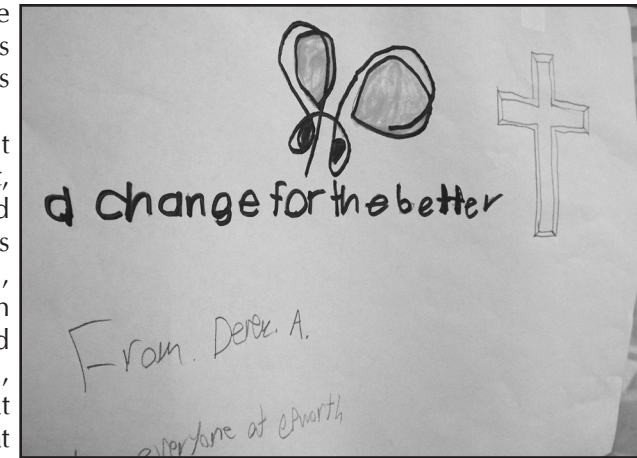
"Thomas! It works! It works!" He was jubilant, his smile stretching broad and genuine across his face. Out of breath, but with just as much excitement as he could muster, he proclaimed, "Today I got so mad at somebody in school that I got out of my chair, picked it up and was going to hit him with it. And then I remembered, Thomas is praying for me every day this week that God will help me control my anger. So, I set the chair down, sat in it, took my three deep breaths, and then went and talked to my teacher about what was bothering me."

That was when, at age 60, Thomas Reppart, Spiritual Life Coordinator at Epworth Village, says he learned how intercessory prayer works.

Spiritual Life at Epworth is an interesting subject to try and grasp in the confines of an article with so many unique "spirits" working for the agency each day, nearly 200 of them in fact. Spirituality at Epworth is not a "forced" program or rigidly-assigned "requirement," but rather presented as an opportunity for both staff members and children. It is an open door offered to everyone, but no one is pushed through. For Christians, this is just as Christ teaches all of us, we have a choice to follow Him or not.

So rather than seeing himself as the "grand poobah" of all things spiritual, Reppart truly appreciates and sees deep symbolism in his title of "Spiritual Life Coordinator."

Reppart prefers to view himself as a vehicle for the spirit to be shared, a shepherd. He says, "The 23rd Psalm is a good guide for my work, to 'lead beside still waters,' to accompany by prayer through the 'dark valleys of the shadow of deathly desperation,' to be a facilitator (with good humor) of 'mercy and goodness' all the days of a child's life here at Epworth."



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An Honorable Lunch by Curt Vodehnal, Residential Manager at Kruse Group Home

On any given day, you can find around 80 folks eating lunch in the Epworth Village dining room. But on Fridays, there is an extra buzz of excitement. For as long as I can remember, Celebrating Achievements in Life (CALs) has been a weekly tradition each Friday at noon. About every eight weeks, my boss and peers convince me that it is my turn to preside over one of the CALs Honor Tables. At least two special tables are filled with boys that will be honored. They receive quarters as a monetary reward for their success. They earn them for meeting treatment objectives, IEP objectives, mainstreaming to public school, getting jobs in the community or moving to a lower level of care. It is also an honor for them to be seated at the table with the Department Director or Unit Manager that presents the awards and they also receive a special dessert!

I asked some of the Kruse children what CALs meant to them. LJ told me, "It feels good because you get paid for working your way up in treatment and for school stuff like meeting goals. It's cool!"

I was recently reminded how important events like CALs can be. I was talking on the phone to my friend David in Iowa. He asked when the next time was that I would be working on the weekend. I said I happened to be "on call" for the agency that very weekend. With excitement in his voice he said, "That means you get to hand out the quarters!" At that moment, I was unable to connect what he meant and asked, "What?" He replied, "on Friday, to the kids that meet their goals, you get to give them their quarters. I think that is the best part of your job!" I was completely taken aback that

David even remembered what seems like such a tiny part of my job. His statement put an entirely new emotional light on this simple weekly event for me. So any time my peers want to convince me I should preside over CALs, I will be the one that is honored to celebrate with the boys.

The original symbol of CALs time was "CAL" the Caterpillar. I was unable to locate Cal so I assume he turned into the Epworth Village Butterfly several years ago and spread his wings. I've worked directly with more than 250 boys throughout my years at Epworth. They've spread their wings and flown away too.

The CALs program has been a marvelous incentive for the children at Epworth Village. CALs monies are made possible through the generous donations of United Methodists across Nebraska. Contact Kerry Hoffschneider to find out more ways you can help at (402) 362-3353 or email kerry@epworthvillage.org



Epworth Recipient of \$25,000 Grant.

Walmart Foundation and Nebraska Advisory Council support EVLC

Epworth Village, Inc. is the recipient of a \$25,000 grant that will impact the quality of their educational programming.

The Walmart Foundation and the Nebraska Advisory Council granted the request for funds through the State Giving Program. A letter from the foundation said, "We believe that your organization is doing important work to the communities you serve and we are proud that we are able to support you in your efforts. Thank you for the work your organization does to create opportunities so people can live better."

The grant monies requested will go towards technology improvements and other equipment additions at the Epworth Village Learning Center, the educational component of the agency's family-centered integrated system of care serving more than 1,000 people each month.

"This grant will greatly benefit the classrooms at the Epworth Village Learning Center. Our program is always working to remain cutting-edge and technology is a vital

component that ensures we are best meeting the needs of the children in our care. Support such as this has impact on not only the programming of today, but on the lives of the children we serve for years to come," said President/CEO of Epworth, Tom McBride



From left: Scott Wiles, Education Director (EVLC); Tom McBride President/CEO of Epworth Village, Inc.; Traci Peterson, Assistant Manager at the York Walmart; Allan Schmidt, Residential Manager at Epworth's Dinsdale Residential Treatment Center and part-time CSM at the York Walmart and Gordon Hall, Grant/Research Specialist at Epworth Village, Inc.

Epworth Village gets to the "Heart of the Matter"

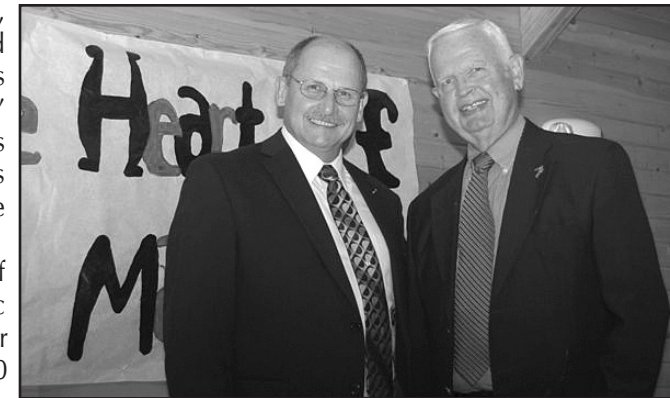
Fundraiser brings in more than \$27,000 for family-centered treatment Families.

It was a night of awards, gratitude, generous donations and at the "heart" of the evening, was a look at the "Heart of the Matter," the work Epworth Village, Inc. does 24-hours-a-day, 365-days-a-year as they serve more than 1,000 people a month across Nebraska.

More than 330 supporters of the family-centered therapeutic treatment agency came together to celebrate the work nearly 200 Epworth employees accomplish through their array of services; In-Home Safety, the Epworth Village Learning Center, Family-Centered Therapeutic Services, Foster Care and Residential Treatment.

The event brought in more than \$27,000 for the agency, with the help of 42 table sponsors and corporate sponsors Henderson State Bank, Strong Financial Resources, York State Bank, Cornerstone Bank, R & A Transport, Mid-America Vision, York General Hospital, Union Bank and Midwest Bank. In-kind sponsors were Allan and Shelly Clark of Stone Creek Event Center, Grand Central, Ginny's Hallmark, Nick Norman and LaMoine Roth.

The night's program included an array of thank yous including Abbi Kleinschmidt for all her work with the Epworth Village Foundation and the Harrington sisters' ongoing investment to the village through the Eunice Harrington Project 4 Empowering



Pictured from left is Tom McBride President/CEO of Epworth Village with "Freddie" award recipient Sen. Jim Jensen at the Epworth Village "Heart of the Matter" fundraising event held at Stone Creek Event Center in McCool on Thursday, September 9. Last year, Kathy Bigsby Moore, Executive Director of Voices for Children was named the recipient of the "Freddie." Previous award winners were Candy Kennedy, Executive Director of the Nebraska Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health and Jeff Santema, Legal Counsel for the Nebraska Legislature Health and Human Services Committee.

Human Services committee; Banking, Commerce and Insurance committees; as well as the Committee on Committees and Building Maintenance Committee.

"Senator Jensen is a reformer and forward-thinker. He is a man of great character, compassionate, caring and genuinely concerned about the lives of others," McBride said. "This is a gentleman who demonstrates his humanity every day."

From the bottom of our hearts, thank you to everyone who made this night a success.

Honors & Memorials

In Memory of...

Bert & Carrie Callahan
Nadine Liljestrand
Bessie Johnson
Mr. & Mrs. Julian Canaday
LaVerne Johnson
Betty Rood
Warren Rood
Bob Partridge
Mrs. Robert Partridge
Byron Scarborough
Mrs. Virginia Scarborough
Cecile Green
Mrs. Cecile Green
Charles and Lloyd Phelps
Ronald Wadsack
Chris Hawks
Tom & HuLaine Hawks
Colby Bjerrum
Dean & Donna Snyder
Cy Cooley
Winifred Cooley
Dale Pohl
Epworth Village, Inc.

Damon Wilson
Epworth Village, Inc.
Dean Samuelson
Fred & Kristi Scheele
Don Pinneo
Phil Towle
Dorothy Larson
Mr. & Mrs. Clifford Huffman
Dr. Vincent Colon
Mr. & Mrs. Merrill Cook
Emil, Julie, Keith & John Bartos
Leaneore Bartos
Fern Nansil
Okay Ladies Aide
Gail Otten
Mr. & Mrs. Clifford Huffman
Arnie Otten
Howard Anderson
Dorothy Anderson
Howard Johnson
Hastings First UMC
Jack A. King
Mr. & Mrs. Don Gerdes
Jeanne Marie Widgren
Mr. & Mrs. Gary Kubicek
Jodi Schmaderer
Mr. & Mrs. Melvin Schmaderer
John R. Luethje
Loren & Justine Wiemer
Dennis & Granada Dooley

John Upton
Mr. & Mrs. Allen Chrisman
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Marvin and Darlene Navratil
Larry Shark
Carol Buckles
Lee Nell Phillips
Ericil Phillips
Lela Cook
Deloris Thompson
Lois Beach
Patricia Kier
Margaret Stock
Sue Prichard
Marguerite Marshall
Louise Boyd
Mary Layton
Nadine Liljestrand
Nellie B. Nielsen
Epworth Village, Inc.
Norman Harris
Kristi & Fred Scheele
Mort & Jane Hough
Mr. & Mrs. Tom McBride
Pat Stone
Averil Savery
Phlete Warden
Ona Warden
Robert & Ida Bissell
Fred & Kristi Scheele

Sharon Saiano
Fred & Kristi Scheele
Steve Gay
Christine Tonniges
Thomas Starr
Jerry & Francis Chapman
Mr. & Mrs. Dwain Bryner
Thomas Dooley
Epworth Village, Inc.
Warren Dickey
Epworth Village, Inc.
Mr. & Mrs. Tom McBride
Wayman & Sara May
Fred & Kristi Scheele

In Honor of...

Abbi Kleinschmidt
Karen Harrington
Kurt Kleinschmidt
Terri Harrington
Bern Tuttle
David Wilson
Bobby Hoffman
Kay Goehring
Christopher & Lydia Phillippe
Pam Phillippe
Colton Kleinschmidt
Karen Harrington
Don & Joyce Maxted
Sue Maxted

Dr. David Mickey
Mr. & Mrs. Merrill Cook
Jenny Gibbs
Kerry Hoffschneider
Jane Bentley
Carol Buckles
Karen Harrington
Abbi Kleinschmidt
Loraine Eurek
Mr. & Mrs. Earl Reed
Lynn Abney
Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Abney
Megan Linnell
Abbi Kleinschmidt
Memphil Ilif UMC
Nebraska Conference UMC
Mr. & Mrs. Jack Garner
Gilbert & Shirley Naber
Mr. & Mrs. Larry Jambor
Jim & Marilyn Girardin
Ona Warden
The Boston Family
Rev. & Mrs. Clifford Reynolds
Violet Jackson
Rev. Dr. Arthur Backus
Rev. & Mrs. Harold Backus
St. Elizabeth 568 Hall
Family of Norman Harris
Tiffany White
Kay Goehring

Cultivating Relationships - Kansas City Youth Build Lives at Epworth Village

Eleven of them came, but they were more like “twelve disciples” really. Led by Marian Rader, Kenny Peterson, Doug Hayes and Michele Hayes, a group of seven youth from Red Bridge United Methodist Church in Kansas City, MO and Ainsworth, Neb. traveled to Epworth Village, Inc. to share both hard work and lots of heart with the children in the family-centered treatment facility’s care. The mission-minded youth were; Sam Logan, Aaron Funk, Tyler Agnew, Danielle Jones, Alison Funk along with Ashley and Hayley Murphy (of Ainsworth, NE).

The group spent four days at Epworth, doing everything from pulling weeds and mulching to cleaning the Epworth Village Learning Center. However, their most poignant impact was seen and felt upon the spirits of the young men and boys in Epworth’s care who are struggling with an array of behavioral health issues. The Red Bridge group held spiritual life sessions with all the residential centers Epworth operates in York. During these sessions, there was one consistent verse shared from Galatians 5: 13-15, “You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love. The entire law is summed up in a single command: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ If you keep on biting and devouring each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other.”

The group also brought many needed items for Epworth, including a brand new American flag for the flag pole that was a very timely gift with the recent Fourth of July celebration. Most important, however, were the intangibles,



Pictured is one of the youth making banners to be hung in Dinsdale Residential Treatment Center. The youth came up with the banner designs and messages themselves.



Pictured is the Red Bridge United Methodist Church youth group from Kansas City, MO (with two youth from Ainsworth, NE too). The youth and their leaders spent four days at Epworth Village doing a variety of mission projects. To find out more about mission opportunities at Epworth contact, Kerry Hoffschneider, Public Relations Director at (402) 362-3353 or email kerry@epworthvillage.org.

the things not seen but felt. The compassion and care they put into their conversations with the boys and the smiles they shared.

“There is an opportunity at Epworth Village for each and every heart that is moved to serve others. We work with more than 1,000 people each month, the need is there and volunteers help fill the void,” said Kerry Hoffschneider, Public Relations Director. “It’s about making human connections with precious children, applauding them for their bravery as they make their way through treatment and reminding them that they have friends and supporters not only across York and Nebraska, but the nation as well.”

On Thursday, the “disciples” went on their way after a fried chicken picnic at Stevens Treatment Group Home. As they left, they were reminded to stay in touch and to keep their now extended family at Epworth, forever in their prayers. Hoffschneider said if anyone is interested in sharing themselves with the mission at Epworth, please let her know and she’ll set your heart in motion to help children and families who so desperately need love and support.

**Check out our website:
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

“8 to Great” touches lives via the Eunice Harrington Project for Empowering Families

By Kerry Hoffschneider

This is how the gift giving started. It began a long time ago, in the heart of the late Eunice Harrington. Then, years after their grandmother’s legacy had been sewn, her granddaughters, Abbi Kleinschmidt, Terri Harrington, Heidi Hammond and Jenni Harrington, came together and said, “let’s create an opportunity to grow the lives of others.” They call it: “The Eunice Harrington Project for Empowering Families.”

“Our grandmother believed that all children deserve to be loved. My sisters and I share her belief that nothing is more important than the wellbeing of our children,” Teri Harrington said to a group of more than 100 people assembled together at Chances R for the life-changing training. “Our grandmother traveled the world fighting hunger and poverty as the National President of the Global Board of Ministries. But nothing was as important to her as her family and Epworth Village.”



Jason Hatton, Shift Leader at Epworth, looks on intently as Mueller demonstrates the ease of putting a straw through a potato if you just believe it! The potato “moment” was one of the lighthearted “props” Mueller used during her in-depth presentation.

Cover Story continued

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

“Sometimes the children will announce; ‘I don’t have any spiritual life!’ Or they say, ‘I don’t want any spiritual life.’ So, I say, ‘Okay, I am not going to argue with you or try to persuade you otherwise.’ For example, there was the young man, who, on his first day at Epworth, when it came his turn in prayer circle, rather grumpily declared; ‘Well, God, I do not believe in you! But, I’ve got to talk to someone because I’ve got problems!’ Or, the nine-year-old client who recently declared; ‘You are wasting your goddamned breath and my goddamned time, because I don’t believe in any goddamned God!’ To which another nine-year-old client quietly responded, ‘That’s okay. Sometimes you feel like that but Thomas is here because he believes in you and we believe in you and that is how God believes in you.’”

“However badly any one of the children we serve may have been treated, abandoned, abused, beaten, whatever,” Reppart said. “I tell them, at the very least, we can ‘honor’ our parents because without them we would not be here. If we carry the baggage of hate and wanting revenge with us all of our lives, who suffers? God does not want us to be consumed and destroyed by desires for revenge. ‘Vengeance is mine; I will repay,’ says the Lord. God wants us to enjoy life in the experience God is giving us now.”

So, the “spiritual life” at Epworth Village cannot be confined nor defined in the context of a simple story. Rather, it is best displayed, in an ongoing fashion, in the way we forgive one another and forget and most importantly bear with one another in love as best as we can each and every day.

After talking to Epworth leadership, it was decided that training more employees in the “8 to Great” program would be a perfect fit for the agency that serves more than 1,000 people each month, trying desperately to find hope in their lives. On August 11-12, 23 selected employees from Epworth along with around 30 other staff and a host of participants from the greater community representing business, social services and a variety of sectors, came together to discover how to apply the “8 Highways” to their personal lives and careers. The results of MK Mueller’s presentation, based on years of research, were lives changed forever and new insights gained.

“As a right-brained person, I appreciated a lot of my traits being validated during this training,” said Hillary Mundt, Epworth’s Training Coordinator with that renewed gleam in her eyes. “As a dreamer, I appreciated hearing that I don’t have to get my head out of the clouds. . . . Every bit of the training made complete sense to me and not just because I’m a right-brained person, but because it is exactly the truth and can’t be argued with. I saw co-workers’ attitudes change in a matter of hours and it was very encouraging to hear each other open up about things and come together the way we did.”

For the Harrington sisters, this year’s training was just a launching pad for future opportunities of growth and development for the community at Epworth and beyond. Kleinschmidt said, “By the end of the day, I was feeling pretty emotional. I cannot imagine what it would have been like to be one of the 23. It was, overall, an opportunity for employees to share about themselves and who they are. I thought the day was totally inspiring and I am totally amazed with MK Mueller.”

And, Kleinschmidt said with a smile, “This is just the beginning.”



Donations July through September, 2010

UMW, Church and Church Related Groups

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Alma UMW
Arapahoe UMW
Archer Zion UMW
Arnold UMW
Auburn UMW
Aurora UMW
Beatrice Centenary UMC
Beatrice Centenary UMW
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Big Springs UMW
Central City Fairview UMW
Central City UMW
Columbus First UMW
Cozad First UMW
Crawford Valley UMW
Culbertson UMW
Davenport UMW
David City United Methodist Ladies Jo Taylor
Dorchester UMW
Exeter UMW
Falls City Bethel UMW
Farnam UMW
Franklin UMW
Fremont First UMC
Geneva UMW
Gretna UMW
Haigler UMW
Hastings Grace UMW
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Hemingford UMW
Humboldt UMW
Huntley UMW
Johnstown UMW
Lexington UMW
Lincoln Grace UMW
Looking Glass UMW
Loup City UMW
Mitchell UMW
Mullen UMW
Nebraska Annual Conference UMC
Nebraska City UMW
Neligh UMW
North Bend UMW
North Platte UMW
O'Neill UMW
Ogallala UMW
Omaha Grace UMW
Omaha Maplewood UMW
Omaha St. Paul UMW
Osceola UMW
Plattsmouth First UMW
Ponca UMW
Ragan UMW
Ravenna UMW
Rushville UMW
Women's Society of Christian Service
Smith Center UMW
South Sioux City UMW
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Stromsburg UMW
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Sutton Federated UMW
Syracuse UMW
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Pamida Foundation
Plains Power & Equipment Inc.
Rosenau Family Dentistry
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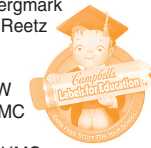
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WHAT'S COOKIN' AT KRUSE?

Epworth Village Group Home benefits from Kitchen Shower

Staff and clients of Epworth Village's Kruse Group Home will be cooking up a storm thanks to industrious members of the North Platte First United Methodist Church Middle School Youth Group.

Six Methodist youth, along with two sponsors visited the Grand Island group home recently to deliver the goods.

After carrying in several cardboard boxes bursting at the seams with much needed kitchen supplies the visitors from North Platte were treated to a breakfast of French toast, bacon, eggs, fruit, juice and milk at the Group Home.

Staff and clients were thrilled with the assortment of cookie sheets, baking pans, measuring cups, utensils and bowls. They were grateful for the stand mixer, new set of pots and pans, and large assortment of cake, muffin and bread mixes they received.

North Platte youth held various fundraisers in support of the Kruse Group Home project including a soup supper.

Following breakfast and fellowship the staff and clients of the Epworth Village Group Home wasted no time replacing worn kitchen items with new.



Epworth Village's Kruse Group Home in Grand Island benefited from a Kitchen Shower held in their honor. Pictured are several Kruse clients and staff with members of the North Platte First United Methodist Middle School Youth Group who raised money and shopped for the much needed kitchen supplies.



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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