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January 11, 2009

The Honorable Ben Nelson
United States Senate
720 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Nelson:

As a supporter of Epworth Village I am writing to strongly support Epworth's funding requests in the FY 2011 appropriations bills. A federal investment will have a considerable impact on Epworth Village's ability to treat Nebraska's emotionally disturbed children and families, thereby helping to relieve a significant financial burden on the local, state, and federal governments.

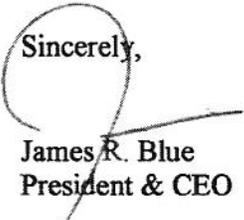
My understanding is that Mr. Tom McBride, President and CEO of Epworth Village, and Monroe Golliday, President of the Epworth Village Board of Directors, will be meeting with your office in February to discuss these projects in more detail.

As you may know, Epworth Village is a 501(c)3, non-profit organization that provides a continuum of care that utilizes an intensive, highly structured program of therapeutic services to respond to the needs of at-risk families and children. These services are family-centered, culturally competent, and community based, focusing on the return of the child to their home community as quickly as possible.

For more than 120 years, Epworth Village has brought wholeness to youth and families in a compassionate and caring manner. I urge you to support Epworth Village's requests and appreciate your assistance in making Epworth Village a priority on your appropriations requests list.

Thank you for your good support of important social service organizations that deliver vital services, such as those Epworth Village provides throughout Nebraska.

Sincerely,


James R. Blue
President & CEO

CEDARS mission is to help children who have been abused, neglected and homeless achieve safety, stability and enduring family relationships.