



an independent voice for
all Nebraska's children

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January 19, 2010

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.

Voices for Children in Nebraska has had a working relationship with Epworth Village since the late 1980's and has a strong regard for the quality of services they provide for Nebraska's children. I was recently honored to receive the Freddie Award from Epworth Village. I believe this award symbolizes the commitment of Epworth Village to make the most of public-private partnerships, which makes them an excellent candidate for the federal dollars they are seeking. 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 the projects for which they are seeking funding 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 long-standing support of important services to children and families such as those Epworth Village provides throughout Nebraska. I would be happy to answer any further questions you might have about their proposal. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Kathy Bigsby Moore
Executive Director