

**ROGER D. BREED, Ed. D.
COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION**

10923 Nina Street
Omaha, NE 68130

January 21, 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 personally request you 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.

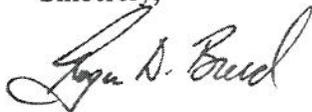
My understanding is that Mr. Tom McBride, President and CEO of Epworth Village, and Monroe Golliday, President of the Epworth Village Board of Directors, will be meeting with your office in February to discuss these projects in more detail.

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 served in York from 1979 to 1983 and have first-hand knowledge of the quality services provided by Epworth Village. I urge you to support Epworth Village's requests and appreciate your assistance in making Epworth Village a priority.

Thank you for your past and future support of important social service organizations, such as Epworth Village, that deliver vital services for Nebraska youth.

Sincerely,



Roger D. Breed, Ed. D.
Commissioner of Education