







<u>Our Mission:</u> To provide comprehensive family-centered resources that bring hope and healing to children, youth and families across Nebraska in a compassionate and caring manner.

Our Vision: A world where families have a clear pathway to the resources they truly need to lead healthier, more hopeful lives.

## VOLUNTEER R

Epworth Family Resources is a non-profit who opens its arms to all kinds of volunteers daily. April is National Volunteer Month, which started in Canada. Volunteer month started out as a week long celebration and in 1943 they celebrated the women volunteers of WWII. By 1974, the United States joined the celebration and celebrated all volunteers. By 1990, the week celebration turned into a month celebration. Since 1990, each April, National Volunteer Month is celebrated.

Epworth is blessed with many volunteers each year. Many groups and individuals volunteer their time to raise funds, gather items for our client wish/needs list, and their time assisting with activities for our services. At Christmas time, the children and families we provide services to are showered with gifts of holiday dinners, toys and clothing. We are blessed by Heinisch & Lovegrove Law Office who donates gifts every Christmas for all the children at Epworth.

Pastor Trudy from York First United Methodist Church volunteers as a board member, assists and partners during holiday events put on by Epworth and in 2023 assisted with Epworth and the Methodist Youth group to put together food boxes for the holidays.

Ellie is a volunteer with Beatrice Centenary United Women in Faith and she works hard to provide for our children and families in the In-Home Family Services program that Epworth offers to families. We can't forget about our staff families who donate their time to make our jobs easier. Jim Decker and Trevor Decker, who are our In-Home Family Service Manager's husband and son, volunteered their time to set up the Beatrice office and make it a family friendly space for the children and family visits.

This is just a small portion of the people who give of their time and talents at Epworth Family Resources. We want to send a special thank you to all who find ways to serve Epworth Family Resources.



Heinisch & Lovegrove Law Office



Leah Lane



Pastor Trudy



Ellie Quiring



Jim Decker



Trevor Decker

### Dr. Seuss Birthday Celebration

Dr. Seuss's (also known as Theodor Seuss Geisel) birthday was on March 2nd. Dr. Seuss's birthday has been adopted as the annual date for National Read Across



America Day. Saturday, March 2, 2024, marked what would have been his 120th birthday. He is known for his work writing and illustrating more than 60 books under



the pen name Dr. Seuss. Little Jewels Child Care Center cook, Nicole, cooked up green eggs and ham to celebrate the day! The center had lots of other fun Dr. Seuss activities throughout the day!

### Staff Spotlight

Savanna Binnick

Savanna Binnick is a Family Life Specialist at Epworth Family Resources. She graduated from Colby Community College with her associate of Arts and is currently attending the University of Nebraska working towards her bachelors in psychology.



Savanna started at Epworth in April, 2022 and works in In-Home Family Services.

Savanna grew up with many addicts in her family in addition to having siblings in foster care, and juvenile detention centers. These experiences led her to Epworth. Savanna enjoys making a difference for the families and being a trusted person for the children she serves.

### **April 22 Earth Day**

It may be hard to imagine that before 1970, a factory could spew black clouds of toxic smoke into the air or dump tons of toxic waste into a nearby stream, and that was

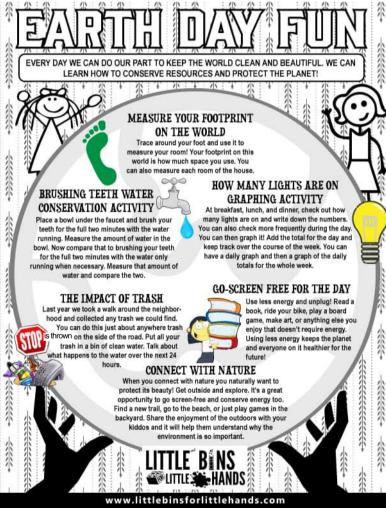
perfectly legal. They could not be taken to court to stop it.

How was that possible? Because there was no EPA, no Clean Air Act, no Clean Water Act. There were no legal or regulatory mechanisms to protect our environment.

In spring 1970, Senator Gaylord Nelson created Earth Day as a way to force this issue onto the national agenda. Twentu million Americans demonstrated in different U.S. cities, and it worked! In December 1970, Congress authorized the creation of a new federal agency to tackle environmental issues. the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. www.epa.gov

If you are looking for ways to celebrate this year, gather your family and friends and measure your footprint on the world!









# Spring has sprung!

### **BEST SPRING ACTIVITIES**

natural beach living com

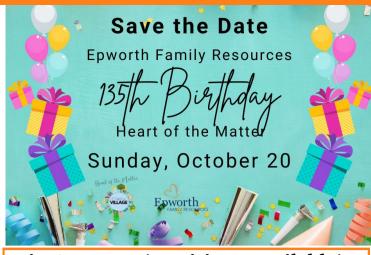
- 1. Go on a walk
- 2. Plant flowers
  - 3. Jump rope
    - 4. Go hiking
- 5. Go to the farmer's market
  - 6. Play hopscotch
  - 7. Take a nature walk
    - 8. Fly a kite
  - 9. Play at a playground
    - 10. Go stargazing
    - 11. Go on a picnic
- 12. Backyard obstacle course
  - 13. Look for baby birds
  - 14. Watch a new movie
  - 15. Take pictures of nature
    - 16. Visit a farm
    - 17. Make a bird feeder
- 18. Cook something with fresh veggies
  - 19. Visit downtown
  - 20. Watch butterflies
    - 21. Go on a bike ride
- 22. Do a random act of kindness
  - 23. Dance in the rain
  - 24. Make a smoothie bowl
  - 25. Go on a scavenger hunt
    - 26. Blow bubbles
    - 27. DIY a Pinterest craft
      - 28. Feed ducks
      - 29. Enjoy the sunshine
        - 30. Read outside

- 31. Do an art project
- 32. Play hide and seek
- 33. Donate old winter clothes
  - 34. Play a board game
    - 35. Wash a car
    - 36. DIY silk scarves
    - 37. Make play dough
      - 38. Try crochet
  - 39. Look for daffodils
- 40. Make homemade bread
  - 41. Listen to spring music
    - 42. Make a sensory bin
    - 43. Go on a nature hunt
      - 44. Play a sport
  - 45. Go horseback riding
    - 46. Pick up litter
  - 47. Go to a baseball game
    - 48. Hunt for books
      - 49. Play tag
- 50. Start a planter garden
  - 51. Make ice cream
  - 52. Draw flowers
- 53. Help out an animal shelter
  - 54. Start a journal
  - 55. Pick berries
  - 56. Learn how plants grow
    - 57. Get family photos
      - 58. Volunteer
      - 59. Climb a tree
    - 60. Visit some place new

### **National Care Workers Month**



April is National Care Workers Recognition Month. We would like to brag on some of the best care givers in the community! Little Jewels care workers help raise children, giving peace of mind and making it possible for parents to earn a paycheck while their children are safe and secure. Our Little Jewels unsung heroes strengthen our community. This month, we honor their extraordinary contributions and commitment by supporting them with the recognition they deserve.



### Join Our Team! Positions Available!

- Little Jewels Teacher & Teacher Assistant
- In-Home Family Life Specialist
  For more information contact Rochelle at 402-362-3353























One of our very own who has been a part time employee at Little Jewels since 2023, Leah Lane. Leah is currently doing her internship with Epworth Family Resources Foster Care. She recently created an art event for children who are in foster care currently. Leah has invited youth to submit their artwork to be displayed at Kilgore Memorial Library. An Art Workshop to be held April 6 at the Kilgore Memorial Library has been planned by Leah!