



Wings



Our Mission: 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.

National Foster Care Month

Each May, National Foster Care Month provides an opportunity to focus our attention on the constant needs of American children and youth in foster care. This month, we want to raise awareness about foster care and encourage others to get involved in the lives of these youth.

Consider doing something special:

- Foster parents becoming licensed providers: They've put in a lot of work to reach this milestone. Send them a congratulations card or give them a bottle of something to "cheers."
- Mother's Day and Father's Day:
 - For foster parents: Send them a card with a special note recognizing what good parents they are.
 - For foster kids: Consider that holidays may bring up difficult or conflicted feelings. If you are close, be a listening ear.
- Foster kid's birthday: Get to know their favorite things (foods, hobbies, characters, shows, etc.), and give a gift that shows you know and care about them. If you live nearby, offer to help plan a birthday party.
- Adoption Day: If a foster placement results in an adoption, send flowers, balloons, or special gifts to commemorate the day.



The reasons people become foster parents are as varied as the people who foster. Some simply want to give a child a home who may not otherwise have one. Some wish to be a temporary support to families who will eventually be reunited. Others are motivated by their personal experience with the foster care system. Still others opt to foster after dealing with infertility.

The foster parents in your life may discuss their reasons with you, or they may not. The important thing is that you are supportive of their choice.

The truth about foster kids:

- They are not irreparably damaged. Many kids just need consistency and a safe environment in which to process their trauma.
- Many have biological parents who love them and whom they love, no matter what their circumstances may be.
- They don't all want to be adopted.

The truth about biological parents with kids in foster care:

- Most are not abusive. Many become involved with the system because of neglect, which can be a result of poverty and other environmental factors.
- They love their kids, even when they can't provide a permanent home for them.

The truth about foster parents:

- Most are not trying to make money off the system. Fostering is not a lucrative endeavor.
- They are not trying to take people's kids away. They are trying to provide a safe, caring home for a child in need.

What does Epworth Family Resources Foster Care Services do?

- Provide support to foster child placement.
- Create healthy, professional relationships with families.
- Recruit foster homes.

If you would like to become a foster parent or would like more information, contact Epworth Family Resources Foster Care Services at 402-362-3353.

Types of fostering:

Relative home is a home where one of the primary caregivers is related to the child or a sibling by blood, marriage, or adoption.

Kinship home is a home where one of the primary caregivers has previously lived with the child or is a trusted adult who has a preexisting, significant relationship with the child or a sibling.

Independent living is for teens nearing adulthood, such as those in a college dorm or apartment.

Trial home visit (THV) by statute is a temporary placement with the parent from which the child was removed with both the Court and DHHS/CFS remaining involved.

Non-custodial parent out-of-home refers to instances where children were removed from one parent and placed with the other but legal issues around custody have yet to be resolved.

Non-relative home refers to a licensed foster home where the primary caretakers have no significant prior relationship with the child.



May 10- Child Care Provider Day

Provider Appreciation Day is celebrated the Friday before Mother's Day every year to recognize child care providers, teachers and other educators of young children everywhere. Join us in thanking our staff at Little Jewels' Childcare today and every day.

THANKYOU

Staff Spotlight

Tracey Sieck

Tracey Sieck is a teacher in the infant room at Little Jewels' Childcare. Tracey started on May 14, 2017. Prior to Little Jewels' Tracey had lots of experience in childcare.

Tracey enjoys working with babies and was very excited to join Little Jewels' when they opened their doors. Her favorite part of the job is watching the infants change while they grow.

Tracey was raised in York and still resides there. Tracey has three boys from her first marriage and when she remarried in 2017 she gained four step-children. Tracey has nine grandchildren who she loves to spend time with and spoil.

Tracey takes care of her 92 year old mother. In her free time she spends time with husband Steven and family at the lake.

National Military Appreciation Month

National Military Appreciation Month falls in May each year. As its title suggests, this observance is meant to raise awareness and encourage celebration and appreciation of those who serve or who have served in the armed forces for their country.

Every role in each military branch is honored this month, from the foot soldier to the Navy chef, from the Air Force navigator to the Army general. This month is also meant to show appreciation for the families of service women and service men, who tirelessly stand by and support their serving relative. Of course, National Military Appreciation Month also honors the memory of military personnel who sacrificed their safety and ultimately their lives for their nation and the war veterans of wars past who have now passed on.



May 2nd -National Day of Prayer

The National Day of Prayer is an annual observance held on the first Thursday of May, bringing together people of all faiths to pray for our nation. It was created in 1952 by a joint resolution of the United States Congress and signed into law by President Harry S. Truman.



Our offices will be closed Monday May 27th to observe Memorial Day



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 William & Kathy Hunter
 Wolbach United Women in Faith
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 York Animal Clinic
 York First UMC
 York General
 York State Bank & Trust Company
 York Sunrise Sertoma Club



Thank
 you!

Epworth
 FAMILY RESOURCES

Greetings from Epworth Family Resources in York, Nebraska! Yes – Epworth Village’s board of directors adopted a tradename – Epworth Family Resources. Epworth Village will remain our legal name but we will be known as Epworth Family Resources. The board of directors’ desire was for our new name to reflect what we are and what we continuously strive to be – a resource for hope, healing and new beginnings for children, youth and families.

Our mission statement was tweaked and now reads: To provide comprehensive family-centered resources that bring hope and healing to children, youth and families across Nebraska in a compassionate and caring manner.

2023 had many more exciting changes for us. After we sold our Campus property in 2022 plans began to renovate and move to the lower level of the York First United Methodist Church (YFUMC). The renovation design plan was finalized in February 2023 with the renovation and move completed by November 2023. The York First United Methodist Church immediately embraced Epworth with open hearts. A heartfelt welcome service was held with brunch, fellowship and tours of the new office space. The members held a Christmas party for the children and families we serve and provided a Christmas meal box for every family.

The opening of our new office was also celebrated with YFUMC members, partners, supporters and UWFaith units during our annual Heart of the Matter fundraiser with special guest Great Plains Conference Bishop Wilson who was in the area for Orders and Fellowship. We were so honored to have Bishop Wilson as our guest speaker. During the celebration, we revealed our new tradename - Epworth Family Resources and new logo.

We are always so proud of our greatest asset, our team of staff, and their accomplishments in working with children, youth and families providing high-quality services. This past year we served 352 people – 176 adults and 176 children through our child care center, Little Jewels Child Care & Enrichment Center, In-home Family Services and Foster Care programs.

Epworth’s board of directors kept busy throughout the year laying the groundwork for Epworth Family Resources’ future. In addition to construction, name, logo, and other decisions, the board conducted an organizational assessment and began developing a new strategic plan for 2024 through 2026. One of the priorities is to deepen our connection and communication with you all.

Our multi-talented and right hand person, Mary Plock, was promoted to Chief Administrative Officer and turned over the public relations reins to Kansan Julie Troy. We were fortunate and blessed to find Julie who has expertise in the full realm of public relations and development. We immediately knew we had a keeper shortly after she began in August last year. Julie has begun working on deepening our connection and communication with you – in January Julie helped implement our connection and communication piece of our strategic plan and began producing a monthly newsletter which is in addition to our quarterly Wings to keep you updated on Epworth Family Resources happenings. Look for new things and enhanced publications and communications over the next several years as progress in enhancing our communications capabilities.

This year, 2024, is our 135th anniversary of our founding as a National Mission Institute of the United Women in Faith and providing services to families, mothers, children and youth. How does a ministry remain strong for so many years? It is not only because of Epworth’s willingness and ability to adapt to change but largely because of you a long line of people like you going back for 135 years. People, churches and women’s groups who believe in and support Epworth’s mission and ministry We look forward to a long future of providing services and tools (resources) that move families from surviving to thriving.

We know we can’t do this work without you and are so grateful for your support. Thank you all for being a resource to the children, youth and families, many who are struggling to find their way. Your generous prayer, monetary and in-kind support help provide the resources necessary for children and families to thrive.

P.S. We will be celebrating our 135th anniversary October 20, 2024 during our annual Heart of the Matter fundraiser. We hope you can join us in our celebration. Look for further details in the future and ways you can participate in our anniversary celebration and fundraiser.

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES 2023

Revenue

Program Fees	\$115,756
Grants	\$1,258,337
Contributions	\$58,751
Events and Fundraising	\$65,565
In-kind Contributions	\$30,268
Investment income, net	\$85,005
Change in Value: Trusts and Investments	\$656,841
Change in interest in net assets of Epworth Village Foundation	\$55,755
Miscellaneous	\$5,498
Total	\$2,331,776

Expenses

Program Services	\$1,266,733
Management and General	\$432,453
Fundraising	\$73,706
Total	\$1,772,892

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION 2023

Assets

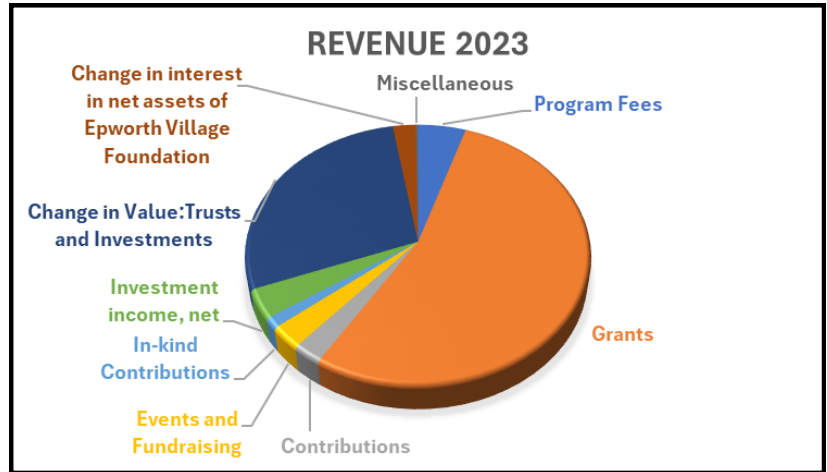
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$327,586
Accounts Receivable	\$117,730
Prepaid Expenses	\$49,008
Property and Equipment	\$1,165,047
Held in Trust	\$5,894,679
Investments	\$1,606,393
Operating Leases	\$78,221
Total Assets	\$9,238,664

Liabilities

Total Current Liabilities	\$762,750
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NET ASSETS

.....	\$8,475,914
Total	\$9,238,664



Meet the Foster Care Services Team



Camery Nielsen
Foster Care Specialist



Mina Cole
Foster Care Specialist



Eunice Warui
Foster Care Specialist



Sheryl Canales, Foster Care
Licensing and Placement
Coordinator

REQUIREMENTS TO BE A FOSTER PARENT

- **Background checks** - Background checks are required for all members of the household that are 18 years old and older. A national criminal history check including fingerprinting will also be conducted.
- **Home Study** - A home study is required and is conducted by either DHHS or a contracted foster care agency. Home studies vary in duration due to factors inside the home.
- **References** - Three positive reference checks are required for each adult household member who will provide care to children.
- **Application** - A completed foster care licensing application and a health information report is required for each adult household member providing care, signed by a health practitioner. These forms will be provided to you by DHHS or a contracted foster care agency.
- **Training** - Adult household members providing care are required to attend foster parent pre-service training. This training will be provided to you by DHHS.



"Engaging Youth. Building Supports. Strengthening Opportunities." National Foster Care Month 2024



**CALL US TODAY FOR MORE
INFORMATION ABOUT BECOMING A
FOSTER PARENT!**

**EPWORTH FAMILY RESOURCES
402-362-3353**

www.epworthfamilyresources.org



May 15- International Day of Families

Step into a world where the heart of our communities—our families—takes center stage, once a year. It offers warmth and laughter that fill living rooms and the vibrant energy of community gatherings worldwide. It is a day that celebrates the indispensable role of families.



The International Day of Families is a special day on May 15th every year. It's a time when we recognize the importance of families in our lives and society.

Here are some suggestions on how to make the most of this day:

- Craft a family playlist for your time spend together.
- Engage in community service and volunteer together.
- Create and decorate a craft for your home.
- Cook a special meal together.
- Dive into the family photo album.
- Plant a family garden.
- Prepare and share family stories.



Mother's Day

B G S T Y A Y U F Q H L S Q D
 U F N R D L O O R I M Z P D X
 F F W I I W R V B E N K E Z O
 L V L M R E J U Z U P X C Y M
 P R A O V A V I P Q I R I R H
 L F F E W B C H J I M B A O A
 P E R Y T E X W T N G O L Z C
 S M Z S S G R S D U H H M A F
 R E H T O M A S K F E D L M U
 Q K M L U F A M A M A W O Y Y
 Z O O V K C H I L D R E N A Y
 B V R A L G U W F K T L Y M C
 E M E Q F K I S S E S F V C Z
 V R O K F J T R T D O H Z Q X
 B A X M U V C B C T B I Y G N

BREAKFAST
FAMILY
HEART
MAMA
MOMMY
UNIQUE

CARING
FLOWERS
KISSES
MAY
MOTHER

CHILDREN
FOREVER
LOVE
MOM
SPECIAL



Epworth Family Resources Scholarship Recipient

The 2024 recipient of the Epworth Family Resources Scholarship (formerly known as the Epworth Village Scholarship) through York Public Schools is Maleigha Scamehorn. Maleigha plans to attend the University of Nebraska Kearney to get her psychology degree and then work towards a masters in Mental Health Counseling.



Maleigha has been active in softball, the fine arts program, choir, One Act, the spring musical, mock trial team and speech. She is active at St. John's Lutheran Church, Waco as a leader in the American Heritage Girls troop. Pastor Matthew states "Her (Maleigha) leadership abilities have grown significantly in the last couple of years since joining the group." Maleigha will receive a \$500 scholarship from Epworth Family Resources. Congratulations, Maleigha!

Join Our Team! Positions Available!

Little Jewels Teacher & Teacher Assistant
In-Home Family Life Specialist

For more information contact Rochelle at 402-362-3353.



P.O. Box 503-309 E. 7th St.
York, NE 68467

www.epworthfamilyresources.org



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It would be our pleasure to send you news and information.

Send an email to jtroy@epworthfamilyresources.org and include "Newsletter Sign Up" in the subject line!
Thank you!

Happy Birthday

HAPPY Anniversary

May Birthday

13th-Sheila Decker
14th-Rochelle Monroe



July Birthday

2nd-Shiloh Lively
26th-Brenda Lemburg

July Anniversary

31st-Julie Troy

August Birthday

19th-Margaret Donovan

August Anniversary

7th-Amanda Handy
12th-Megan Wright

May Anniversary

1st-Nicole Peters
14th-Tracey Sieck
22nd-Becky Deprez

June Birthday

3rd-Amanda Handy

June Anniversary

8th-Leah Lane