

Epworth



# Epworth

Empower. Every Day.

**ANNUAL REPORT**  
**2024**

# Table of Contents

- 3 → Message from the President  
Our Mission and Who We Are
- 4 → Making a Difference – Epworth by the Numbers
- 6 → Chante’s Journey – Transitional Living Program Success
- 7 → Handle With Care Initiative Supports Youth With Dignity
- 8 → Residential Program Provides a Lifeline
- 9 → The Heart of Giving
- 10 → A Map of Hope & Service
- 11 → Meet New Team Members  
Board of Directors
- 12 → Funding Partners
- 13 → Financial Summary
- 14 → Donor Thank You

## Message from the President

Dear Friends of Epworth:

At Epworth, every day is an opportunity to transform lives. The stories of resilience and growth we witness through our programs inspire my colleagues and I to continue our important work. As we reflect on 2024 and look toward the future, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude for your continued support. Your generosity as donors and volunteers empowers us to provide the essential services and resources that make a lasting difference for the youth we serve.

This year, we proudly assisted over 4700 clients, addressing an increasing demand for our services. Among our many achievements, we have expanded our reach to include Rapid Re-Housing, which has allowed young people experiencing homelessness to receive immediate permanent housing and targeted supportive services. These milestones are a testament to our community's resilience and our team's unwavering dedication to meet challenges head-on.

Looking ahead to 2025, our vision remains focused on a future where every youth has the opportunity to thrive. Our priorities include adding new programming, and expanding our core programs, to enhancing sustainability through diverse revenue streams, deepening our connections within the St. Louis community. Together, we can ensure that every young person we serve has the tools and support they need to build a brighter future.

Your support makes all this possible, and we are deeply grateful. Whether you are a partner, supporter, volunteer, or beneficiary, your role in our story is invaluable. Thank you for being an essential part of our journey.

Together, we will continue to empower youth to overcome challenges, embrace their potential, and reach new heights. Let’s keep moving forward—together.

With deepest appreciation, excitement and gratitude for what lies ahead,

*April Elston*

President and CEO



## Our Mission

Empowering youth to realize their unique potential by meeting essential needs, cultivating resiliency, and building community.

## Who We Are

Founded in 1864, Epworth is a multiservice agency that seeks to empower youth who have experienced trauma to realize their unique potential by meeting essential needs, cultivating resiliency, and building community. Thousands of youth and families turn to Epworth each year for a full range of services including: therapeutic foster care and case management; residential and intensive treatment; individual/family therapy and comprehensive psychological testing; emergency shelter and longer-term housing services; life skills and vocational training; as well as crisis care and outreach through the Drop-In Center, food pantry, and 24-hour crisis help-line.

# Making a Difference

## Epworth by the Numbers



### Mental Health

We provide a range of services from psychological assessments and clinical diagnoses to home-based and virtual therapeutic care from qualified and devoted mental health professionals.

### Foster Care Case Management

Our programs help foster youth find permanent, loving homes, through reunification or adoption, and provide essential services to meet immediate needs and support a successful transition to adulthood.

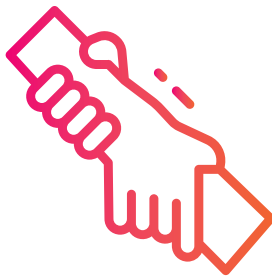


### Housing Services

Our programs, from short-term shelter services to long-term transitional living programs, provide safe, stable housing to teenagers and young adults on their path to independence and self-sufficiency.

### Crisis and Outreach

Our programs, including a 24/7 Helpline, street outreach, primary care clinic, and food pantry, provide at-risk youth and families with the help they need when they need it most.

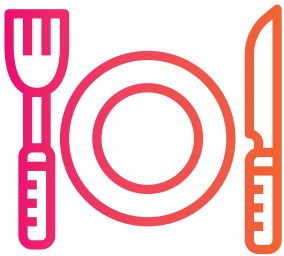


### Virtual Care

Our programs have adapted to the changing circumstances allowing us to connect and provide care to youth and families in need through secure, free technology platforms regardless of their location.

### Home and Community-Based

Our programs are designed to extend beyond our walls, reach people where they need us most, and provide support in helping them move forward.



## Other Statistics

To learn more about the services we offer  
visit: [epworth.org/services](https://epworth.org/services)

### Demographic Breakdown:

African American  
Caucasian  
Hispanic/Latino  
BI/Multi-Racial  
Unknown Race/Ethnicity  
Asian

### Age

0-4  
5-18  
19-22  
23-65  
66+

### Gender

Male  
Female  
Other

### Individuals Served by Programs

Foster Care Case Management:  
Chafee Program:  
Epworth Psychological  
Services:  
Family Support Network:  
Residential Program:

Transitional Living Program:  
Intrada Program:  
Street Outreach Program:  
Youth Emergency Shelter:  
Food Pantry:

### Food

720 Boxes of Food  
Delivered in 2024:

### Volunteers

447 Volunteers:  
1574 Volunteer  
Hours:

Epworth -- can you provide stats for these? Not that we don't have to use them all.



# Chante's Journey

## From Shy Beginnings to Independence

Chante's story highlights her resilience and the life-changing impact of Epworth's Transitional Living Program (TLP), which provide young adults with the support they need to build stable, hopeful futures.

When Chante arrived at Epworth's Transitional Living Program, she was reserved and struggling with confidence. Today, thanks to her determination and the support of Epworth's team, she has grown into a young woman who navigates her life with independence and creativity.

Epworth's Transitional Living Program helps young adults facing housing insecurity by providing stable living arrangements, case management, and resources for personal growth. Participants commit to pursuing education or vocational training, maintaining employment, and developing life skills essential for independence.

"When I first met Chante, she was shy, but I quickly saw how smart, creative, and funny she is," says Lauren Lyons, career services coordinator. "Her smile is contagious, and she brings joy to every environment she's in."

### Building Confidence and Independence

Chante's journey began with small steps, like learning to complete everyday tasks independently. With Lauren's support, she built confidence and joined the Individual Development Account (IDA) program, which helped her purchase her first car.



"Driving off the lot was nerve-racking—it was my first big purchase—but it felt amazing," Chante says. "Having a car gives me the freedom to go where I want, when I want, and it's been a big change for me."

Beyond practical skills, Chante's passion for art became a meaningful outlet. "When I do my art, I feel calm and relaxed," Chante says. Lauren encouraged her creativity, even suggesting she design a mural for Epworth. "She's incredibly talented, and it's amazing to see her use art to express herself and find peace," Lauren says.



*"Chante is like a symphony—reserved at first, but when you really get to know her, you see how smart, creative, and funny she is."*

Lauren Lyons, Career Services Coordinator

Recently, Chante turned her artistic passion into a professional opportunity. Through Epworth's partnership with the "In the Door" program, she secured a job with a photography studio. "It's exciting to work with images and do something I love," Chante says.

### A Brighter Tomorrow

Today, Chante balances two jobs—her new photography role and her position at Domino's—and has become an active part of her community. She has built friendships with her peers and enjoys exploring her interests, often during spontaneous outings with Lauren for food and boba.

"If I hadn't come to Epworth, I'd probably still be at my parents' house, doing the same old things—playing games, working, and not socializing. Working with Lauren has been amazing," she says. "Now, I'm living on my own, making friends, and moving forward with my life."

Lauren envisions a bright future for Chante. "She's smart, hardworking, and not afraid of challenges," Lauren says. "She deserves all the good things coming her way."

## NEW INITIATIVE

### Handle With Care Initiative Supports Youth with Dignity

When youth arrive at Epworth, their belongings often come packed in plastic bags—a common reality for those experiencing trauma and instability. Recognizing the importance of these items with care, Epworth launched the Handle With Care Initiative to ensure personal belongings are handled with respect.

This trauma-informed program provides each youth with a 50-gallon storage bin for larger items and a waterproof duffel bag for clothes and other essentials. These resources not only protect their possessions but also offer reassurance and a sense of stability during a critical time in their lives.

"Providing secure storage has made a difference," said Brittany Hamilton, Clinical Supervisor for Residential Services. "Youth feel safe knowing their things are protected, and they can focus on themselves instead of worrying about losing what little they have."

The Handle With Care Initiative goes beyond protecting belongings. It demonstrates to youth that they are valued and deserve dignity and respect.



WE CARE



TAKE ACTION



SHOW COMPASSION



# Epworth Residential Services

## Stability and Support for Youth in Crisis

Epworth's Residential Services program has been a lifeline for youth in crisis, providing a safe and supportive environment to help them heal and thrive.

Located on a scenic 7-acre campus in Webster Groves, Epworth's Residential Services program has been helping youth ages 11 to 18 for more than 150 years.

The program provides a structured, trauma-informed environment for those facing emotional and behavioral challenges. A dedicated team—including youth advisors, licensed therapists, case managers, and nurses—works 24/7 to support each youth's social, emotional, and intellectual growth.

### Individualized Care for Complex Needs

"Epworth's Residential Services program is unique because it addresses a wide range of mental health challenges," says Becky Applebaum, Director of Shelter and Residential Services. "Every client receives individualized treatment because no single approach fits everyone."

Youth in the live-in program participate in weekly individual, group, and family therapy, along with case management and life skills training. Academic support is provided through enrollment in their current schools or the Webster Groves School District, ensuring educational continuity.



### A Lifeline for Youth in Crisis

While referrals come primarily from the State of Missouri, Epworth also serves youth from other foster care systems and accepts private insurance and self-pay for at-risk youth in need. Youth typically stay an average of eight months; currently, the program is nearing capacity.

"Youth make great strides in our program and leave feeling supported," says Becky. "We actively seek their feedback and involve them in their treatment plans."

### The Need for More Support

Despite its significant impact, the Residential Services program is underfunded. Greater financial support is essential to maintain current offerings and expand critical services. Every donation ensures that youth in crisis receive the care, stability, and resources they need to heal and build hopeful futures.

Your contributions provide everything from basic necessities to life-enriching opportunities, helping transform the lives of young people in need.

## Together, We Can Change Their Future

- ➔ **Wellness Through Recreation:** Provides access to gym equipment, team sports, bikes, arts and crafts, and other activities that promote physical and emotional well-being while building life skills.
- ➔ **Therapeutic Group Support:** Funds essential supplies for group therapy sessions, creating opportunities for healing and connection.
- ➔ **Celebrating Milestones:** Helps make birthdays, holidays, graduations, and other special occasions memorable for youth in care.
- ➔ **Creative Outlets:** Supplies materials for arts and crafts, fostering creativity and stress relief.
- ➔ **Educational Success:** Covers school supplies, yearbooks, field trips, and school pictures to ensure youth feel included and prepared.
- ➔ **Warm Winters:** Provides winter coats and other essentials to keep youth warm and comfortable.
- ➔ **Clothing Basics:** Supports kids who arrive with only the clothes they're wearing, ensuring access to everyday essentials like socks and underwear through a managed donation room.
- ➔ **Uninsured Medical Needs:** Covers critical expenses like replacing broken glasses when Medicaid falls short.
- ➔ **Calming Trauma-Informed Spaces:** Funds safe, therapeutic environments in dorms through sensory items, calming colors, and thoughtful design.
- ➔ **Durable Furniture:** Replaces worn furniture in common areas, ensuring youth have comfortable and welcoming spaces to relax and connect.



**SCAN TO DONATE**  
Help us turn challenges into opportunities.



## VOLUNTEERS

## The Heart of Giving How One Volunteer Makes A Difference

Our team of volunteers help to make a difference in the lives of literally thousands of St. Louis youth and families every year. Their unconditional commitment and service to our kids, teens, and families are amazing – and you can join them! There's something for everyone to do as a volunteer at Epworth! From mentoring our foster and residential youth through their healing journey to assisting with cooking classes and other life skills education at the Drop-In Center, we've got it all waiting for you. Visit our website at <https://www.epworth.org/volunteer/> to sign up today!



# A Map of Hope & Service

## Highlighting Our Agency's Points of Care

Epworth's network of services spans the St. Louis area, offering vital support to youth and families where it's needed most.

From our apartments in South City to the Residential Services campus in Webster Groves, each location provides a unique set of resources tailored to help those in need.

Whether it's emergency shelter, therapeutic services, educational support, or independent living assistance, Epworth's points of care are strategically positioned to ensure accessibility and impact.



| Main Campus                        | Food pantry                            | Intrada                               | Transitional Living Program | Drop-in Center                         | Street Outreach |
|------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|-----------------|
| 110 North Elm Ave.<br>314-961-5718 | 7500 Natural Bridge Rd<br>314-961-5718 | 6336 South Grand Blvd<br>314-961-5718 | tlp@epworth.org             | 7520 Natural Bridge Rd<br>314-961-5768 | 314-918-3470    |



## Board of Directors

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Rev. Sandra Nenadal  
Shari Scott

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Billy Busch  
Barbara Busch  
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# Expanding Reach & Building Connections

We are grateful for the support of  
our funding partners.

- Bank of America

Blues for Kids

Children's Trust Fund of Missouri

Community Children's Resource Board

Community Impact Network

Dana Brown Charitable Trust

Deaconess Foundation

Developmental Disabilities Resource Board of St. Charles County

East Missouri Foundation

Employees Community Fund of Boeing St. Louis

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St. Louis County Children's Service Fund

St. Louis County Department of Human Services

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St. Louis Unitarian Foundation for Children
- The Norman J. Stupp Foundation - Commerce Bank, Trustee

United Way of Greater St. Louis

US Department of Agriculture

US Department of Housing & Urban Development

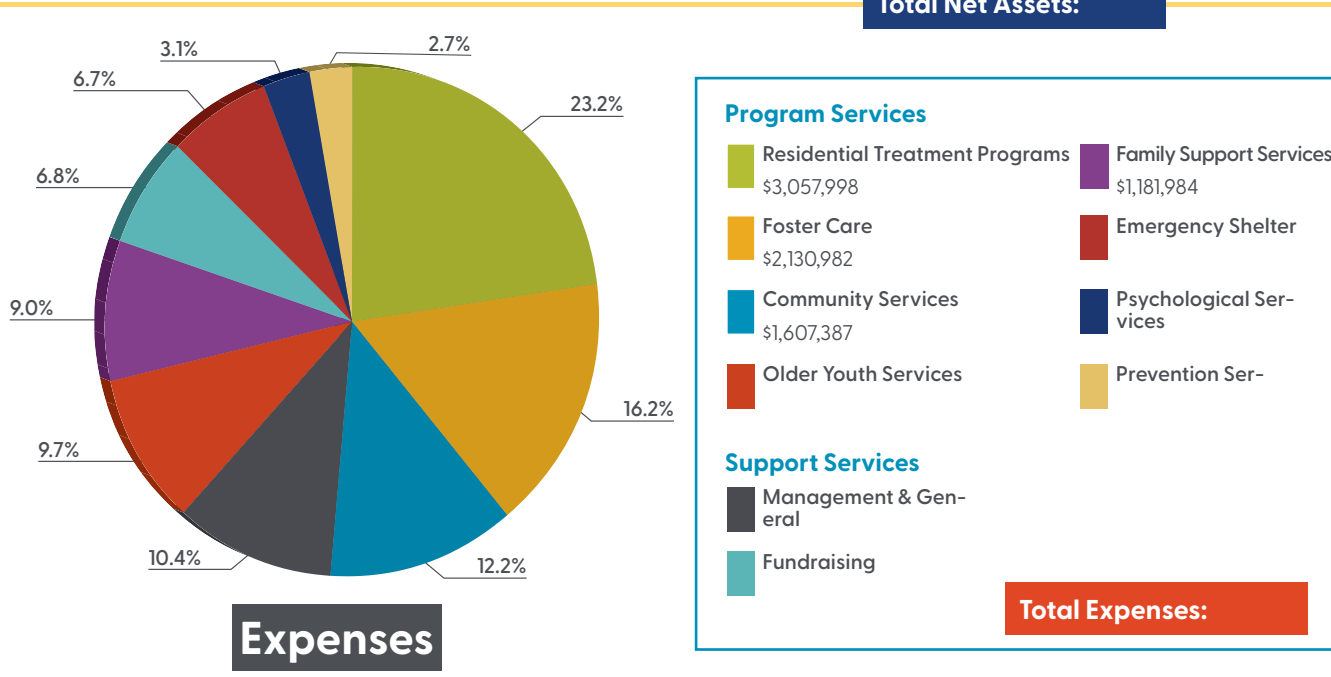
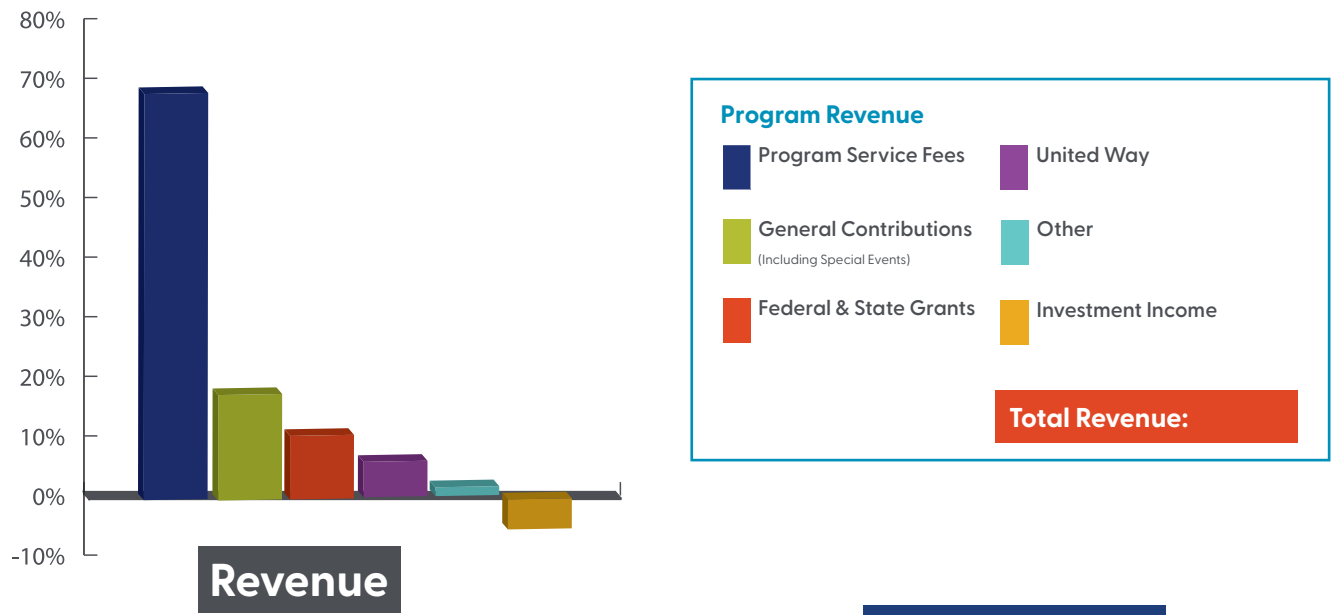
Union Pacific

United Methodist Women

Webster Groves School District

Herbert A. & Adrian W. Woods Foundation, Bank of America, N.A., Trustee

## Financial Summary





# Thank You

## Your Generous Support Makes Our Work Possible

We extend our gratitude to each of our donors for their generosity and support. Your contributions have allowed us to meet critical needs and invest in innovative programs that make a difference in the lives of those we serve. On behalf of our clients and our entire team, thank you for making an impact that goes far beyond the Epworth's walls.

### \$50,000+

Tom W Bennett Trust  
TUW Harry England

### \$15,000-\$35,000

Mr. Raymond Van de Riet  
Norman J. Stupp Foundation  
St. Louis Unitarian Foundation for Children  
East Missouri Foundation  
Ballmann Family Foundation c/o Private Client Reserve

### \$5,000-\$14,999

Blues for Kids Foundation  
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Epworth Auxiliary

### \$2,000-\$4,999

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Mr. Kevin McGowan  
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Webster Groves Presbyterian Church  
Phillipsburg UMC (Philipsburg)  
Phillipsburg United Methodist  
Missouri United Methodist Foundation  
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Schwab Charitable Fund  
Church of the Shepherd UMC  
A and O Family Fund of the Greater St. Louis Community Found  
George Von Hoffmann Foundation  
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Tua Fred & Irene Michel Charity

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 First UMC UMW (Festus)  
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 Missouri Annual Conference - The UM Church  
 Cash Donations  
 Northwest District United Women in Faith



**“Every child deserves the chance to heal and thrive.”**

Joe Smith, Donor



Donate today and help  
us impact the lives of  
those we serve.

