Please find below Epworth's Monthly Care story for the purposes of printing in your bulletins and/or newsletters. You are welcome to copy and paste as is. Thank you!

Epworth Care Story: Home for the Holidays

Mike joined the Epworth Children's Home family about five years ago as a young teenager. He grew up in an unstable family, raised by an overwhelmed single mother. He did okay in school, but had a difficult time without stability and support when the school day ended. Eventually taking care of Mike became too much for his mother and she moved out of state and he came to Epworth.

Mike's life transformed when he came to Epworth. The stability of caring and loving adults gave him the structure he needed to thrive. As he started high school, the struggles of his childhood began to fade away. He now had a place to call home and he began to focus on the future. Last May he graduated and earned a full scholarship, including housing, to college.

His first semester went by quickly and soon it was holiday break. Epworth arranged for Mike and four other Epworth students at the same college to come back home. To the staff's pleasant surprise, when they pulled up to the dormitory there was Mike and his Epworth friends standing at the curb with bags packed!

As the van started the return trip, a voice from the back seat yelled, "Thank you, for coming to get us!" It was Mike. The staff responded, "No, thank you—all of you—for going to college and making a better life for yourself." Mike quickly replied, "No, no, no. Thank you. Thank you for believing that we were good enough to even go to college."

By mid-afternoon they pulled into the Epworth parking lot and a blur of students sprinted from the door. "I'm home!" exclaimed Mike has he bolted across the parking lot. The staff tried to catch him to remind him to get his luggage, but it was too late, he was already halfway across campus. From building to building he ran, knocking on doors and hugging anyone who answered. Mike was indeed home for the holidays!