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Epworth's Monthly CARE Story –July 2013

“Giving Back...”

Mary and Brailyn are very smart, disciplined young ladies who just graduated from Dreher High School. They are both headed off to college in the fall, and both chose to remain in Epworth's care after their 18th birthdays. They want more from life and at Epworth they feel safe and loved.

Each summer, Epworth works with Urban League and local businesses to secure part-time employment for residents 14 and older. Many of them enjoy the extra income and experience and ask to work two jobs each summer. Both Mary and Brailyn had summer jobs last year, and looked forward to the bonus income again this summer. They were given permission to work two part-time jobs, but they had different plans.

“Ms. Gee, we want to open the Rec Center for the younger kids. May we work one job and work with the younger children the rest of the time?” they asked. Ms. Gee is the Case Manager for Anderson Cottage where the girls live. Ms. Gee thought it was a great idea and encouraged the girls to present their plan to Rev. John Holler, President of Epworth Children's Home. Rev. Holler was very pleased and agreed to grant the girls permission.

Every week this summer, Mary and Brailyn have opened the gym and planned and led games for the younger cottages. The children are having a wonderful time. They are staying active and they are witness to the great potential they themselves have inside.

“Why did you decide to give up some extra income to open the Rec Center,” Rev. Holler asked the girls.

“Epworth has given us so much and we just want to give back,” they responded. It is wonderful to see the cycle of abuse, neglect and shame being broken for Epworth's children. It is even more wonderful to see how as the community of Epworth, everyone feels connected and responsible for the whole.