

EVERY GIFT
Matters



EVERY GIFT MAKES A
Difference

Your gifts inspire us and support our work. Eagle Village goes above and beyond to make a greater impact on our youth. The Eagle Fund makes possible these unique opportunities that create the need for your thoughtful gifts.

- **“Home”** – keeping our campus up-to-date, ensuring each house is welcoming and they can learn a standard of living.
- **Involving the Family** – we believe involving the whole family is crucial to our kids’ treatment. When appropriate, we bring our kids’ family here for Legacy Weekends.
- **Teaching Skills and Trades** – with our newly-built Elenbaas Career and Trade Center, we give our teens the opportunity to train and be certified in a variety of skills, including culinary arts, welding, information technology, and more.
- **Transporting** - our kids to home visits, court dates, doctor’s appointments, and college tours
- **Offering a spiritual foundation** – a Bible as a welcome gift, and a campus pastor an on-site worship if they so choose.
- **Scholarships** - for our intervention and prevention services.



For 55 years, our mission has not wavered, it continues with great determination, expertise and outcomes. Join our mission to change lives and futures! Please give a gift at eaglevillage.org, or scan the QR code.



WE INVITE
YOU TO
VISIT



Friends Friday is a chance to learn more about Eagle Village and our 55-year history. Join us for an exclusive tour of our 681-acre campus! You will learn about our history, current services and how we help children and families reach their full potential. Bring a friend and join us the third Friday of the month.

Serve Saturdays are the first Saturdays of the month. We have a scheduled project or several projects based on needs, weather and volunteer availability. Whether it be an hour or six, teamwork gets the job accomplished and lasting friendships develop. And lunch is always served.

To RSVP, contact:

Chad Saxton, Director of Outreach & Engagement
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Upcoming Dates:

- Serve Saturday: January 6th
- Friends Friday: January 19th



Cinnamon Shortbread Stars
A recipe from our
Eagle Village kitchen

INGREDIENTS

- 1½ cups powdered sugar
- 1 cup butter, softened
- 1 egg
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 2½ cups all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- ½ teaspoon cream of tartar
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- For topping: Cinnamon & Sugar



INSTRUCTIONS

1. In large bowl, mix powdered sugar & butter together.
2. Mix in egg & vanilla until smooth.
3. Stir in flour, baking soda, cream of tartar & cinnamon until well blended. Cover & refrigerate for 1 hour or until firm.
4. Preheat oven to 375°F (350°F if using dark or nonstick sheet)
5. Divide dough in half. On lightly floured surface, roll half of dough at a time to ¼ inch thick.
6. Cut with 2-inch star-shaped cookie cutter.
7. Place on cookie sheets, 1 inch apart. Sprinkle with a mixture of cinnamon & sugar.
8. Bake 7 to 8 minutes or until light golden.



IT TAKES A VILLAGE
EAGLE VILLAGE NEWSLETTER | WINTER 2023

GIVING THE GIFT OF

Hope & Joy



The work we do isn't easy, but we choose to do it because we believe in the lives of our youth.

Can you imagine being removed from your home as a child? Then going through placements that didn't work because the trauma of life in an abusive home created fear, lack of trust, and not knowing what is going to happen next?

Giving hope above all is what we want for each child. To think forward, to dream of next steps, a loving family, graduating from high school, going to college or starting a career. Having these opportunities is all we want for each child we care for at Eagle Village.

Our team has challenging work, but feel privileged each day to work with every child to change their lives and futures.

Our youth have not experienced Christmas in a traditional way. You will see in this newsletter the ways that we introduce this time of year to them. With your help we are able to give them the opportunity to feel the joy of giving, and the excitement and hope of the season.

We wish you a wonderful holiday season. Thank you for keeping Eagle Village youth in your thoughts and prayers!



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WALKING IN A WINTER WONDERLAND

The snow doesn't stop our kids from enjoying the great outdoors. This month, they focused on preparing for the future and how to navigate through the woods - and real world - during their NEST program.

These wintertime adventures include hiking, team building, and preparing food in challenging situations like the cold. Our bundled up kids tackled the trails well prepared which led to a successful session.

"I love it when I see the students in the outdoors," says experiential specialist, Drue Nelson. "This is where the magic happens. As they go through each session, they build their self-esteem and resiliency".



A youth-led performance dazzled the Eagle Village Chapel during the annual Village Christmas. This year's story took the audience to a wintry ski resort during an epic snowstorm. Where a group of students, teachers, and sleepy Grandma Marjory - the kid's favorite chaperone - find themselves trapped and "Snowed in at Christmas". A conflict arises when the students can't decide on a movie to keep themselves entertained. The discussion ultimately leads to a lesson in faith and the true meaning of Christmas. Just after a few rehearsals, the young actors took the stage with confidence that day. From festive songs to meaningful moments of laughter and praise, the audience hearts were warmed with Christmas spirit.

Each of the shows were followed by house tours led by our youth. For our kids, this gives them a chance to learn how to properly host guests in their homes. Each house was assigned the task of selecting a Christmas movie to use as inspiration when decorating their houses and preparing food. This opportunity allows us to create a positive experience for our kids - while showcasing Eagle Village's past, present, and future to our visitors, and how we give our kids a second chance at a normal childhood.



MANY DAYS OF Christmas

For staff, this is one of the most exciting times of year. They get to play Santa and surprise the kids with special gifts under the tree. During the two weeks leading up to Christmas, while the children are at school, our staff carefully deliver gifts to each house each day.

Many of the gifts are meant to inspire group activities within their Eagle Village homes. This includes ornament making, gingerbread house building, board games and Christmas movie nights. On some days, the children will receive individual, handcrafted gifts made with love. Cozy fleece blankets, socks, stuffed animals and dolls are just a few of the highlights.

The Many Days of Christmas is a favorite for not only the children, but for the staff as well. For those two weeks, the kids smile bright and eagerly head to their houses to see what is waiting for them.



SECRET SANTA SHOP

"I really enjoy seeing my friends smile when I give them their gifts," said an Eagle Village youth. "I never shopped for anyone, That was never an option for me or my family. Being able to do this is nice."

A couple asked if they could support our youth having the opportunity to experience the joy of giving. It was such a thoughtful idea that they have now made it happen for the third year. Many of our youth have not received Christmas presents, so we work hard to make sure they do. They also haven't had a chance to give one away. The Secret Santa Shop gives them the chance to think about a peer, favorite colors and what they might like. Then they select wrapping paper and wrap the gift. This all happens on the same day, because first time experiences create a great deal of excitement. Later that day the gift exchange happens and a new memory of a good feeling has been experienced.

Art Gallery

Every year, our children create fantastic artwork for our holiday greeting cards. Here's what they came up with for 2024's batch.

