

# IT TAKES A VILLAGE

#### **BUILDING OPPORTUNITIES**

Donors responded to our request to move forward with the renovation and addition to our Activity Therapy Center. This building was built in 1973 and was in need of an update to continue using it to impact all of our youth. Our wish is to have multiple spaces for therapists to use trauma informed therapy in an expressive therapy environment.



This renovation includes spaces for dance, drama, music, and art. Therapy taking place in a creative and active environment encourages communication in a way that talk therapy in an office isn't able to. This building will also have a library, and a game room, weight room, and sensory room. The gym had been divided and will be a full gym again. We will also have a welcome center on the front to greet visitors as they navigate our 681 acre campus. We are excited to watch this building come to life! We are always mindful of our donors who support our Eagle Fund and projects like this that benefit our work with youth who deserve our help and care. You help us change their lives and futures and we are grateful.

Learn more at eaglevillage.org /donate



## SHARING CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES

A group of determined friends, decided to make Valentine's Day memorable for the youth at Eagle Village by donating gifts.

This thoughtful initiative originated from the mind of 14-year-old Ava, and her sister, Calah, who annually organize a Valentine's party. During the event, the girls and their friends contribute different items like socks, gloves, games and candy that are then assembled into gift bags.

Ava expressed their motivation, stating, "We enjoy helping others. We chose to donate to Eagle Village because we are children and wanted to help other kids who may have missed out on their childhood experiences."



#### **HEART STAGE**

Valentine's Day held a special significance for a young individual at Eagle Village, as it marked their achievement of reaching "heart stage".

This milestone signifies a transformation in their thinking and behavior towards themselves and others, as they begin their journey towards positive change and resilience. The process starts with identifying areas for change at the hand stage, followed by the head stage where they develop the ability to make those changes.

The resident that was celebrated came from an unfortunante history of heartbreak and trauma. "I knew that my past was holding me back," they explained, "my peers and support that I have recieved at Eagle Village has helped me become a better person, a happier person."

Reaching the heart stage brings a sense of purpose and responsibility. "I am proud of myself but also nervous about what lies ahead," the youth expressed. "But, I now have the capablity to overcome the bad stuff and do what I need to do to succeed."



#### BAKING WITH LOVE

Just in time for Valentine's Day, Nancy Muhlig and Peggy Bushnell, who have provided longterm support, paid a visit to our Village with the intention of sharing their culinary expertise with our young residents. This time, they decided to whip up a batch of heart-shaped cookies, adding an extra touch of sweetness to the cooking lesson and the time spent together.



One of the Eagle Village youth expressed their excitement, saying, "We love having volunteers come in that are willing to hang out with us. It's even better when we can learn something new."

Nancy and Peggy not only taught the youth how to set up the cooking space properly, but they also emphasized the importance of cleanliness, guided them through the baking process, and even shared their knowledge of cookie decorating techniques.

We are actively seeking churches, organizations, and individuals who are willing to contribute their skills to support Eagle Village and our youth.



Learn more at eaglevillage.org /volunteer

#### **MISSION WORK**

You may have work, family and friends and things you enjoy doing; but have you thought of giving our work some of your time? Eagle Village invites and welcomes individuals and groups to come to our campus to volunteer. It is work that supports a great mission. Think of it as a mini mission trip or an ongoing mission project. You don't have to travel far and the benefit you give to our youth and staff will also translate into a great feeling. It's a double blessing! Our youth enjoy it when someone takes time with them to bake cookies, do an art project, or paint a space that they live in. One volunteer works with our maintenance department three days each week. Having the extra hands and help goes such a long way. Others come for a six-hour timeframe and complete a project in one day. Some may be here during a camp to act as an extra hand filling in to play with youth or help serve a meal.

There are so many ways you can impact our work with youth. We see your time as a gift of great value.

Right now, we are also looking for a Volunteer Engagement Coordinator to recruit volunteers and work with them to enhance the Eagle Village experience for both youth and volunteers.



### **RESTORATIVE PRACTICES**

We prioritize the ongoing training and development of our staff to ensure they remain well-informed about the latest regulations, equipped with effective team-building skills, and proficient in problem-solving techniques.

This month, our dedicated team successfully completed a comprehensive two-day training program focused on asking restorative questions, which plays a crucial role in resolving conflicts and fostering a harmonious environment amoungst our youth.

We believe that investing in our staff's growth and knowledge empowers them to provide exceptional service and support to our children.

