

Advent Focus: Anthony's Story

The holidays are nearly upon us! For some children, this time of year can be filled with magical moments as they spend time with loved ones and practice treasured traditions. For other children, the holiday season can be a painful and difficult time, especially for children like Anthony.

In early childhood, Anthony's basic needs were often neglected. Because of this, his world was unsafe and as a result, his deep hurt and shame were often expressed as anger and aggression. When Anthony expressed this anger, at the young age of seven, he was expelled from school for hitting another child.

Upon his placement in one of our residential treatment cottages, Anthony was weighed down with depression and a profound sense of failure. Day by day, our highly-trained, professional staff taught him to express his feelings safely. At Intermountain, Anthony learned how to make friends, say I'm sorry, and believe he was worthy of love. As a result of our care, earlier this fall Anthony returned to public school!



It is no secret that in the last few years budget cuts have been made that greatly affect the organizations working to bring hope back into the eyes of our Montana children. These cuts widen the funding gap between what it costs to provide the specialized care children like Anthony need, and what we receive from his state-provided health insurance plan to provide that care.

Because congregations like yours share our mission of Healing Through Healthy Relationships, Intermountain is able to bring back safety and ultimately hope for children like Anthony. Thank you for your gifts and prayers this season.

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