



THE VILLAGER



Pictured: Jacari is his mom Kiandrea's inspiration for change.

TAKING ACTION, MAKING CHANGE

A RESIDENT'S JOURNEY

Kiandrea Dobbins came to Warren Village in 2014 with her then one-year-old son, Jacari. She and her three siblings grew up watching their single mother struggle through difficult relationships and as many as four jobs at a time. Kiandrea knew early on that she wanted independence and to thrive, and she chose education as her pathway. Unfortunately, her mother lost her job after Kiandrea's first year of college and could no longer assist with expenses, so Kiandrea returned home to figure out next steps.

Kiandrea eventually had to leave her mother's house and live with friends and relatives, but was never able to stay in one place for long.

When she met Jacari's father, Kiandrea was looking for stability after so many challenges. However, the relationship became toxic and eventually led to domestic violence. After involving the police and Child Protective Services, she decided to make a real change for herself and Jacari.

During the application process at Warren Village, Kiandrea's car with all of her belongings inside was stolen. Her car had become her home, her mode of transportation, the center of everything. Coincidentally, on the same day her car was located—completely totaled—Warren Village let her know that her apartment was ready. Hope was in reach! (cont.)

In this issue we're celebrating individuals taking action to improve their own lives, the lives of their children, and the lives of people in their community.

Warren Village exists so low income single parent families can achieve sustainable personal and economic self-sufficiency.

WARREN  VILLAGE

Transforming Parents' Lives. Improving Children's Futures.



TAKING ACTION, MAKING CHANGE (continued)

Kiandrea shared that there was a serious adjustment period for both her and Jacari at Warren Village, but she knew she had to see it through if she wanted her life to change. She credits our Family Advocates for their compassion, empathy, and dedication during her time at Warren Village. She said,

**“Even in times of fear and struggle,
I knew they weren’t giving up on me,
and I had the support to be
successful in the program, excel in school,
and be a good mother to my son.”**

Kiandrea and Jacari moved out of Warren Village in May 2017 with strong goals moving forward. Kiandrea graduates this August with her Associates Degree in Criminal Justice and will be matriculating in the fall to Metro State to pursue a Bachelor’s in Criminal and Juvenile Justice. Someday she hopes to work as a probation officer helping kids like those who stole her car, and help them find more positive paths in life.

Pictured Above:
Kiandrea Dobbins (center) at the Honoring Evening Ceremony receiving a generous scholarship from Delta Sigma Theta to help advance her educational goals.

DID YOU KNOW...
A minimum wage worker would need to work
102*
hours a week
to afford a 2-bedroom rental unit in Colorado.

Pictured Above:
Resident Jasmine White (left) with dear friend and program alumna Whitney Whitson

*National Low Income Housing Coalition: Low Wages & High Rents Lock Renters Out; 2016

HONORING ACCOMPLISHMENTS



On May 9, 2017, Warren Village families, staff, trustees, supporters, and volunteers gathered for our annual Honoring Evening Ceremony. Over 200 awards were presented to resident and alumni parents for a wide variety of accomplishments including: academic scholarships, exceptional commitment to school or career, significant progress towards financial goals, exemplary leadership, as well as those graduating from the Warren Village program, and many more.

“Warren Village’s program is rigorous and our demands can feel relentless, so it’s really important to take time to celebrate the success, dedication, and commitment that our residents demonstrate...

It’s a chance for me to say to residents, I see you, and you inspire me.”

✧ Chelsie Lawson, Family Advocate

TAKING ACTION TOGETHER

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK



Dear Friends,

Warren Village is always a center of activity. That constant sense of movement and growth is what keeps me motivated and on my toes. Parents going to school and working hard, children learning and playing, staff providing services and maintaining quality, and volunteers busily contributing their time to enhance the experience and outcomes for our families.

Summer in particular is a season filled with action. This issue of The Villager highlights some of the many activities that our families, kids, volunteers and supporters have been up to during these warmer months. **I'd like to take this "action" theme a bit further. At the very heart of our mission is empowerment. But to be truly empowered, it's important to take responsibility for ones actions, and be proactive about making real change.** I think we can all relate to the notion that it's easier said than done to overcome barriers, push ourselves out of our comfort zones, and find the confidence within to alter lifelong patterns. That's what our families are doing every day. They're taking action to affect real change.

In turn, each time a community member contributes financially, gives the gift of time and expertise, or advocates on behalf of families living in poverty—they too are taking action. They are inspiring change at Warren Village and beyond.

It's wonderful to be part of an action-oriented community that works to make a positive difference on so many levels. This two-generation program model is thoughtfully designed to influence lasting change for single parents and children, now and into the future.

Thank you for being an active part of the Warren Village journey!

With warmest regards,


Ethan Hemming
President and CEO

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VOLUNTEERS IN ACTION

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Warren Village's Volunteer Department has been enjoying a summer season of giving back with some awesome volunteer projects.

On May 20, 2017, AMP the Cause sent 10 volunteers (top) ready to help with maintenance support. Painting, gardening, and deep-cleaning—nothing was off limits for them! Thank you, AMP the Cause and this year's volunteers, for your enthusiasm and hard work.

Every summer, Warren Village anticipates the opportunity to provide new back-to-school supplies for all of the children we serve. With the generosity of Altria Group Distribution Company (bottom), on June 21, 2017 we collected over 250 backpacks filled with supplies to prepare our kids for a successful school year ahead. Thank you to the Altria team for making this project a reality!



KIDS KEEPING BUSY

Learning Center children and Trustee and volunteer Julie Clark on a hike. During the summer months our school-aged class take a number of hiking trips, which serve as opportunities to build teamwork and problem solving skills while enjoying the great outdoors.



Preschoolers showcase their newfound balance, locomotion, and rhythm skills at their Spring dance recital. Each year, the Colorado Ballet partners with Warren Village to bring weekly creative movement classes to our students ages 3 to 5.





WELLNESS IN ACTION

VITALU CLASS SERIES LAUNCHES WITH GREAT SUCCESS

In April 2017, Warren Village launched its first VitalU class series, a key component of our new Wellness Initiative. This seven-week series of required life skills classes for new residents covers numerous wellness-related topics, including: values, relationships, stress management, financial wellness, mental health, conflict resolution, and more – all with the goal of empowering residents to decompress, recharge, and be uplifted.

Former Family Services intern and MSW, Leslie Bailey, is delighted to be facilitating and co-creating the curriculum for such an important project. She said, “the most fulfilling aspect of this process so far has been learning from the residents themselves—the enthusiasm and insightfulness that this group imparts on myself and fellow group members is astounding.”

Several group members from this first cohort of students recently coordinated resident hiking trips! The hiking group is an opportunity for the group and their fellow residents to continue to support and connect with one another while engaging in a healthy activity—an outcome which truly serves to reinforce the important objectives of VitalU.



SHARING STORIES, RAISING AWARENESS

For the past two years, Warren Village has been a partner in The Close to Home Colorado campaign—a grassroots effort launched by The Denver Foundation designed to end homelessness in Colorado by raising public awareness around the issue. One of the most rewarding aspects of this work has been the creation of the Close to Home Storyteller’s Network, co-chaired by Warren Village’s Chance LeBeau.

Warren Village collaborated with The Storytellers Network to host a booth at The People’s Fair in early June. Six storytellers joined us over the course of the weekend, as well as campaign partners from The Colorado Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Family Tree and Mile High United Way. Overall, we were able to engage about 100 community members about homelessness, and more than half of them took the Close to Home Pledge – a simple act to show their interest in ending homelessness, and learn more about ways to get involved.



KICKING OFF SUMMER FOR A CAUSE

Warren Village held a Summer Kick-Off Party on June 8, 2017 at the beautiful home of Dr. Jody Mathie and the Honorable John Hoffman. The evening began with cocktails and delicious light bites in the backyard garden, while 100 guests bid on silent auction items and enjoyed the musical talents of members of the Denver School of the Arts Jazz Band.

We appreciate everyone who came out to enjoy the party and helped us raise important support for the Warren Village kids' enrichment programs!



Pictured: Trustee Katie Goodwin (top left) with Jenny Willits and our incredible host Dr. Jody Mathie, President and CEO Ethan Hemming (right) with his daughter Sadie and Julie Clark, Warren Village Trustee and Founder of Baby Einstein and WeeSchool.

CELEBRATING OUR VOLUNTEERS

More than 75 members of the Warren Village community participated in the Annual Volunteer Appreciation Barbecue on May 31, 2017 at the City Park Pavilion. It was a beautiful (and windy!) evening celebrating our incredible volunteer network. In the past year alone, nearly 750 volunteers contributed over 15,000 hours of service across all programs at Warren Village. We are deeply grateful for the gift of time, expertise, and passion that we receive from dedicated volunteers year-round!



Pictured (left): Volunteer Coordinator Angie Ruddell with Lifetime Achievement Award Recipient Art Prostkoff, who has been a volunteer with us for 9 years. Pictured: Trustee Award Winner Angela Coleman.



HITTING THE LINKS

On July 14, members of the Warren Village Development Team and Board of Trustees hit the links at Lone Tree Golf Club as part of the annual All Copy Charity Golf Tournament. We are very grateful to have been selected as this year's charitable partner and are proud to do business with a company that is so committed to giving back to their community.

Pictured (top): Corporate Relations Manager Whitney Larson representing Warren Village at the tournament.

Pictured (bottom left): Board Chair Brian Sandy (left) with Trustee Mike Benedict out on the course.

Pictured (bottom right): Ethan Hemming (left) with All Copy Products President Brad Knepper.



BUILDING A FAMILY LEGACY

A CONVERSATION WITH THERESA KOLLATH

When and how did you learn about Warren Village?

My Mom, Melody Kollath, became involved with Warren Village in the mid-1980s. I honestly don't recall how she got involved, but she was always on the watch for community outreach opportunities, and ways that she could use her financial knowledge and skills for the benefit of others.

I remember how excited my Mom was to be such an active participant, and how proud she was to be selected as the Board President in the early 1990s. She always came home from meetings with/about Warren Village so energized and delighted in sharing stories about people she had learned about.

Mom's focus was always on helping people, specifically women, and on helping families achieve financial stability and independence. Her company's motto was "build the foundation for a better financial future." This tied in beautifully with her work at Warren Village.

She involved all three of her children (and her lovely daughter-in-law) with various events during the years. This included the 40th anniversary celebration in September 2014, in which her granddaughter, Ashley, also participated.

Three generations of Kollath family members have now been involved with Warren Village activities!

Why have you chosen to include Warren Village in your estate plans?

Not only is this an excellent way to further my Mom's legacy (and to remember her by), but it's a meaningful and measurable way for me to help my local community become a better place. I contribute to national and international charities as well, but we should all remember that we also need to focus on organizations close to home.



Theresa Kollath

What does it mean to you and your family to support our mission?

By example, our Mom taught us to be very community focused, and all of us continue this in various ways. All three of her children are involved in a variety of activities—from working with local 4-H clubs and 4-H foundations, to providing blood donations to Bonfils Blood Center, to contributing to Food Bank of the Rockies, to the Komen Race for the Cure, to shaving his head for St. Baldrick's Day (Tony is the brave one there) – we all do our best to help our communities in various ways.

Support for Warren Village is another facet of this, and one so deserving of support. Stability, safety, and the right amount of help and knowledge at the right time can have an enormous positive impact – and that's what Warren Village helps to provide.



Pictured: Trustee and Legacy Society member Mark Waddell, Melody Kollath, June Twinam, and Mary Anne Harvey, Trustee Tammy Abramovitz, and Legacy Society Member Trish Young at Warren Village's 40th Anniversary Founders Reception.

To learn more about how you and your family can create a lasting legacy by becoming members of our Warren Legacy Society, please call 303-320-5052 or visit www.warrenvillage.org/warrenlegacysociety.



WARREN VILLAGE

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Weighing in on the Federal Budget



Many of us in the human services field are intently watching the development of the federal budget and considering the impact it may have on the families we serve.

While the numbers and perspectives may vary, it is clear that the current drafts of the budget will include substantial reductions to programs that many of our residents and alumni leverage on their path towards greater self-sufficiency.

Proposed reductions in food aid, Medicaid, workforce training programs, etc. would have a negative impact on our resident's journeys toward stability.

In our next newsletter, we will have updates and discussion from a variety of perspectives on the effects of the federal budget.

SAVE THE DATE

Step out in your coolest shoes for Warren Village's Stepping Up Fall Celebration
Friday, October 20, 2017!



This memorable evening will feature stories of impact and surprise entertainment that will keep you on your toes.

Tickets include a lively cocktail hour with open bar, an exciting live auction and a seated dinner with beautiful city views at the Grand Hyatt Denver's Pinnacle Club.

For more information visit
www.warrenvillage.org/stepping-up-2017.