

THE VILLAGER

A Seasonal Newsletter for Warren Village Friends

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

KAILA'S STORY

Commitment to a Better Future

At 19 years old, Kaila was struggling to secure stable housing with her two children after committing to her sobriety. She was looking for a place where she could be surrounded by supportive people in an environment that offered structure to her life. Kaila found that Warren Village would offer her the guidance of a Family Advocate and a safe home where her son could be returned to her care from his foster placement.

"I'm so grateful for the supportive Warren Village community."

Within two months of her moving in, Kaila's three-year-old son, Claiton, was permanently reunited with her and her daughter, Delaini. At Warren Village she found in-home services to help with the transition of being a family unit again. Recently, Kaila celebrated her two-year sobriety, has completed food services training at the Work Options for Women program, and is currently employed at a four-star restaurant on the 16th Street Mall.

Kaila's journey is inspiring as she reaches her sobriety milestones and achieves her dream of becoming an LPN in an assisted living community. She is motivated by taking one day at a time and appreciates the support from Warren Village staff and community. Claiton and Delaini are enrolled in our nationally-accredited Learning Center, and are meeting developmental and early learning goals.

"I'm inspired by what I see here every day. I honestly don't know where I would be without the help and guidance of such an amazing community..."

For Kaila, the last three years have been full of hurdles, but she believes that she can truly live for today, knowing that her family is together and that she can keep moving forward. Kaila reflects on her Warren Village journey, "I'm so grateful for the supportive Warren Village community. I'm inspired by what I see here every day. I honestly don't know where I would be without the help and guidance of such an amazing community and committed staff of Family Advocates."

Like Kaila, many single parents arrive needing support and encouragement. She found that Warren Village would offer her the guidance of a Family Advocate and a safe place to call home.



Inside this Issue:

Holiday Shop | Page 3

Since 1987 Warren Village has been making holiday gift wishes come true. Join us in making this year's Holiday Shop a wonderful success by volunteering or donating gifts to our families.



Financial Success | Page 6

Discover the success of our partnership with *mpowered* and how they are helping transform the lives of our residents through financial coaching and goal setting.



Kids Club Fun | Page 7

Warren Village Kids Club continues to grow by offering fun after school activities to school-aged youth. Learn more about this exciting Family Services program.

WARREN  VILLAGE



Colorado Gives Day | Page 8

Learn more about this state wide day of giving and how you can have an impact in the lives of our single-parents and their children on or before Colorado Gives Day - Tuesday, December 6.



EMPOWERING FAMILIES TO ACHIEVE THEIR DREAMS

Dear Friends,

In recent months, our Board and staff have been deeply assessing Warren Village's role in the community, and our work to address the complexities of family poverty. It's been a time to evaluate our past, present and future, especially as our city's economic and housing markets are rapidly shifting. It's also been a chance to celebrate the distinctive two-generational approach that Warren Village has always taken in supporting families.



DID YOU KNOW?

Since 1974, Warren Village has served **4,507** families through providing safe affordable housing, a nationally recognized early Learning Center, and Family Services that equip our residents with life and career-building skills.

Of the 49 families who exited the program during the last year:

- **86%** found permanent housing
- **78%** increased their personal competencies in life skills
- **76%** maintained a full-time schedule of education and/or employment
- **94%** participated in career exploration, financial literacy and next-step housing guidance
- **78%** had a positive income change

To learn more about our work please visit:

warrenvillage.org

It's an honor to be at the helm of such a well-respected and impactful organization. I have quickly arrived at a much clearer understanding of how it literally takes a community to transform lives and to loosen the vice-grip of generational poverty. In that spirit, I thank you for supporting our efforts to create opportunities for parents to change their life trajectory.

At the core of everything we do is **empowerment**, which is more than a great word or an ideal. It's an intricate process of meeting people where they are in life and working with them to realize their own potential and power. This quote by Wilma Rudolph, an inspirational track and field champion who overcame numerous odds, captures this very principle: *"Never underestimate the power of dreams and the influence of the human spirit. We are all the same in this notion: The potential for greatness lives within each of us."*

To that end, Warren Village's strategic goals call for improvements in quality of outcomes for our residents, increasing achievement in our Learning Center, and maximizing our operational efficiency. There is palpable energy and commitment to the pursuit of quality as we at Warren Village live up to our collective potential for greatness.

We are excited to share with you some of our recent accomplishments in this issue of *The Villager*. Let me thank you again for your continued support of Warren Village families as they work so hard to improve their lives and become **empowered**.

With our warmest wishes for the season,


Ethan Hemming
President and CEO

GROWING TO LEARN

Children in the Greta Horwitz Learning Center continue to learn and grow this Fall. Fun and engaging activities happen daily, from trips to the park to the excitement of a festive Halloween costume parade. We invite you to visit our Learning Center and see first-hand how our dedicated staff uses Teaching Standard Gold benchmarks.



HONORING OUR COMMUNITY

Residents Recognized for their Accomplishments

Celebrating the successes and achievements of our residents is at the heart of our work. Close to 200 awards were given out at Honoring Evening. Residents made the night even more special by participating in the program. One resident shared words of wisdom, encouragement and hope. One talented resident sang an inspiring song, "If I Ain't Got You," and another played the piano. The evening was a joyful acknowledgment of the achievements, growth, and determination that is Warren Village.



Left to right: **Sydney Atencio**, **Enas Saleh**, **Carli Cisna** (mpowered coach), **Jasmine Allen**, and **Sitti Riga** receive "Keys to Success" awards.



Patricia Rivera receives the "Community Member of the Year" award. Pictured with Family Advocate, **Allison Miller**.



Kadiatou Kouyate and her daughter **Atou** are all smiles at the Honoring Evening reception.



Family Advocate, **Lynn Halfmann** presents "Key to Success" award to **Hewan Berhe**, and her children **Yokabed** and **Kibret**.



From left: Resident **Essie Watkins**, receives a scholarship from Delta Sigma Theta Sorority representative.



From right: President & CEO, **Ethan Hemming**, and Trustee **Mary A. Wells**, applaud the hard work of our residents.



From right: Warren Village Trustees, **Tom McClary** and **Kyle Craig** talk with resident **Patricia Rivera**.



Warren Village resident **Brittni Johnson**, and family members smile for the camera as they celebrate with the community.



HOLIDAY SHOP '16

Warren Village invites you to participate in the 29th Annual Holiday Shop on Saturday, December 10 to make our families' holiday experience as special as possible. We hope we can count on your support for this long-standing holiday tradition!

There are several ways you can support this year:

Gifts-In-Kind: We are seeking new, unwrapped gifts for both adults and children. Gift deliveries will be accepted at 1300 Gilpin St. on Nov. 28 (1pm - 7pm); Nov. 30 (1pm - 7pm); Dec. 2 (8am - 4pm).

Shop Online: If you purchase gifts from our Amazon wish lists, they can be delivered directly to Warren Village! Find the links at: warrenvillage.org/2016-Holiday-Shop.

Volunteering: Holiday Shop volunteering is suitable for groups, families, and individuals. Volunteers must be 14 years or older. Please complete an interest form on the Holiday Shop page on our website.

Monetary Donations: We also welcome cash donations and gift cards which help make the event a success. Please visit warrenvillage.org/donate and select "Holiday Shop" in the designation drop down menu.

Please contact Angie Ruddell, Volunteer Services Coordinator, at 303.320.5032 or aruddell@warrenvillage.org for more information.



CELEBRATING THE SENSES SOIRÉE

Fall Event Raises \$140,000 for the Greta Horwitz Learning Center

On September 16, 2016, Warren Village welcomed 180 guests to its *Celebrating the Senses Soirée* at The Pinnacle Club high atop the Grand Hyatt Denver.

This whimsical night featured interactive sensory experiences during cocktails, entertainment by Denver's own Chimney Choir, decadent food, and an exciting live auction. Guests bid on exclusive wine, cultural experiences and unique getaways to New York City, Chicago, Miami, Mexico, Napa Valley and San Francisco, a Namibian Safari, and a week at a gorgeous Tuscan Villa. Emcee, Bret Saunders, morning show host at KBCO 97.3 FM and Denver Post jazz columnist, once again brought his charm and wit to the stage.

Photos courtesy of Rich Vossler



From left: Board Chair **Brian Sandy** and CEO **Ethan Hemming**.



Board member **Angela Coleman** in full Soirée style!

GIVING CIRCLES

By becoming part of Giving Circles, you are joining the Warren Village family. Our ability to offer affordable housing, supportive services, and early care and education is only possible with your support.

As a Giving Circle member, you'll receive regular updates from Warren Village along with a variety of special benefits.

Thank you for your partnership.

[warrenvillage.org/
GivingCircles](http://warrenvillage.org/GivingCircles)



From left: Soirée Co-Chairs **Caroline Turner** and **Heather** and **Tom McClary**.



From right: Board member **Mike Benedict** with Warren Village friends **Jason** and **Jay Longmire**.



Soirée guests enjoy the fun and laughter of an evening benefitting the Greta Horwitz Learning Center. Board member **Julie Clark** enjoying the child-like fun.



From right: Learning Center teachers **Greta Thorpe** and **Heather Anthone** with **Daniel Anthone**, Learning Center Chef **Shane Sanders** and **Tim Woehle**.

DONOR HIGHLIGHT: CARRIE RESPASS



Lady in Red Carrie Respass with hubby Terrel at the Soirée.

Carrie Respass has been a valued friend and supporter of Warren Village since 2009. She was looking for a meaningful volunteer opportunity in the community, and was so inspired by the Warren Village mission that she knew we were the perfect fit. Not only has Carrie been an active volunteer and contributor, she has also motivated her Encana colleagues to get involved and support our work – as well as her husband Terrel Respass!

Why do you give of your time and resources to Warren Village?

Carrie: Warren Village is such an amazing organization, and I love the concept of giving a "Hand Up" not just a "Hand Out". Not everyone is given the same opportunities in life, and some experience difficult set-backs. Warren Village has the tools to give single

parent families the missing pieces in their lives to work their way towards being independent. This is an invaluable gift to our families and to our community, and it's why I believe in them so much.

What does it mean to you to support our mission?

Carrie: Supporting the mission of Warren Village is very rewarding, and I'm proud to be able to be involved with such a great organization. Knowing that the families are being taken care of and given such a strong support system make this place an easy choice to give my support! I love the entire program that is set-up for each family. The affordable housing, early child care/education, family services - they're all in place to help each family succeed and improve the quality of their lives - all while striving to become self-sufficient.

If you could make a wish come true for Warren Village families what would it be?

Carrie: My one wish for the families at Warren Village would be for each one to take what they've learned and achieved while here and truly thrive in their self-sufficiency as alumni long into the future!

VOLUNTEER POWER

Xcel Energy Day of Service Brings People Together

On September 10 volunteers from Xcel Energy came to Warren Village as part of the company's Day of Service. The group of 20 volunteers built garden boxes, cleaned and organized our supplies for residents and helped with landscape maintenance. Thank you Xcel Energy for giving back to the community! Contact Angie Ruddell, Volunteer Services Coordinator, at 303.320.5032 to volunteer at Warren Village.



2016 ANNUAL REPORT CELEBRATES IMPACT

In the newly released 2016 Annual Report, we celebrate the accomplishments of the past year and the many individuals, companies, foundations and partners whose dedication to our mission made them possible. We are grateful for your enduring support and loyalty to our families.

View our 2016 Annual Report:
warrenvillage.org/2016AnnualReport

WHAT IS THE WARREN LEGACY SOCIETY?

The Warren Legacy Society is comprised of individuals and families who have generously named

Warren Village as a beneficiary of their estate. Members of this group help ensure that Warren

Village can continue its comprehensive work to transform the lives of single-parent families who are on the path to self-sufficiency.

We recognize and appreciate this important group of donors. We invite you to join The Warren Legacy Society and create a lasting legacy in our community, while also honoring your philanthropic goals.



To learn more about
The Warren Legacy Society
please call 303.320.5052 or visit:

warrenvillage.org/WarrenLegacy

FINANCIAL EMPOWERMENT CENTER SUCCESS STORY

Khadijatu Fofanah Found Financial Success Through *mpowered* Partnership

When Khadijatu took the important step to remove herself and her daughter from their former household, they had been evicted two times in the last year, once while she was pregnant and once with a newborn. She knew it was time to move on and find a new path for her daughter.

Khadijatu's situation was complicated by her daughter's asthma diagnosis. She found herself running back and forth, to and from doctors appointments and late to work as well as missing work on several occasions. This resulted in a series of lost jobs for Khadijatu. She ended up homeless and feeling like she had let her parents down. They had made the difficult journey from Sierra Leone and worked hard to make sure that they provided a good foundation for Khadijatu. With this heavy emotional burden, Khadijatu started looking for answers and resources to help get her and her daughter back on their feet.



Warren Village resident, Khadijatu Fofanah, found a financial foothold at *mpowered*.



DID YOU KNOW?

Losing a home can happen to anyone. Job loss, high housing costs, family break-ups, domestic violence, and illnesses are among the most common causes of homelessness.

Over the past 10 years there's been a **322%** increase of school-aged children known to be homeless in Metro Denver.

Almost half (**47%**) of those experiencing homelessness in Metro Denver are families with children.

43% of Metro Denver residents indicate that they know family members or friends who have experienced homelessness.

Discover more at:
www.CloseToHomeCO.org

They found everything they needed at Warren Village. Thanks to the guidance of Family Advocate, Lynn Halfmann, and other Family Services team members, they were able to establish a place to live and rebuild their life being surrounded by other supportive resources. One of these resources was access to an on-site *mpowered* financial coach as part of the Financial Empowerment Center program. Khadijatu had a long road ahead of her to come back from the previous evictions, debts from medical bills, and a past bankruptcy. After her first meeting with her *mpowered* coach Olga, she reports that she "really put everything into perspective" as they discussed the past and developed financial goals for the future.

It's been two years since her first meeting with Olga, and Khadijatu reports that she has "transformed from survival to self-sufficiency" since 2014. Due to the hard work she's done with her financial coach she can "envision a strong future." She has raised her credit score by over 100 points (to over 700!) and is planning to move into permanent housing in 2017.

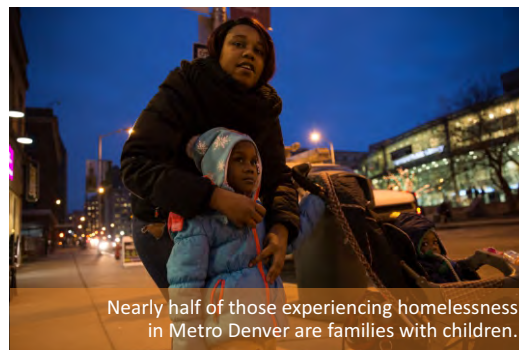
MAKING HOMELESSNESS HISTORY

Warren Village Helps Lead Close to Home Campaign

Warren Village is proud to be part of the CLOSE TO HOME campaign to raise awareness, increase understanding, and move Coloradans to speak up and take actions that make a meaningful difference in addressing homelessness. Increased public engagement paves the road to identify, pilot, implement, and sustain solutions such as affordable housing, supportive services, and employment and education opportunities.



Through the work of the CLOSE TO HOME campaign, and the efforts of many other committed individuals, groups, and organizations, we want to "make homelessness history in Colorado" and for all people to be able to live with dignity and hope.



Nearly half of those experiencing homelessness in Metro Denver are families with children.

CLOSE TO HOME is committed to a campaign that is collaborative, respectful, action-oriented, and solutions-focused. Learn more at www.CloseToHomeCO.org, and consider these 5 ways to make a difference: **PLEDGE** - Take the Close to Home pledge; **LEARN** - Toss the stereotypes; **SPEAK UP** - Your words matter; **SHARE** - Make it viral; and **ACT** - Your actions matter.



Welcome to the Kids Club Corner!

These articles are written by Kids Club youth who are sharing stories about their fun activities and learning opportunities.

GIRLS ON THE RUN HIT THEIR KIDS CLUB STRIDE

Story by Kids' Club member - Kianna Abeyta

Well, Girls on the Run is about girls running, of course. We are getting ready to run a 5K! We have three running coaches, Elizabeth, Sara, and Teresa. They are helping us train to run the 5K in November and they will be running the 5K, too. We have eleven girls on our team. We meet in Cheeseman Park on Mondays and Wednesdays from 5:00-6:30pm. On the first day, we ran for ten minutes and every time we have Girls on the Run we run for five minutes more.

We set goals for how many laps we are going to run each time, then we set our goals for next time. We have a lot of fun running and it's very fun!



STEM SCOUTS OFFERS FUN AND LEARNING

Story by Kids' Club member - Hyab Tekeste

STEM Scouts is an educational opportunity offered through the Boy Scouts of America and stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics.

We learn how to create, build, and work as a team to accomplish our objective. The program is a fun experience that allows us to learn new things or things we've come across before. There are currently seven kids in this program, boys and girls. We meet every Tuesday from 6:30-8:00pm. I joined

STEM Scouts because I am very interested in building stuff, and I thought STEM would be perfect for that. From what I learn in STEM I will use that knowledge in the career I choose in the future.



To learn more about Warren Village Kids' Club please contact Lilian Lara, Kids' Club Coordinator, at 303.320.5066 or llara@warrenvillage.org.

SOCIAL MEDIA FOOTPRINT

Get an Inside Look at Warren Village!

Have you "liked" us on Facebook? "Following" us on Twitter, LinkedIn or Instagram? Warren Village fully embraces the opportunity to engage with current stakeholders and emerging audiences by utilizing social media platforms. Get an inside look at Warren Village through our social media posts as we use pictures and articles to help tell the story of our work. Help us grow our social media presence by encouraging your friends, family and co-workers to "like" and "follow" us today!



Facebook: WarrenVillage
Twitter: Warren_Village
LinkedIn: WarrenVillage
Instagram: Warren_Village



THE VILLAGE VOICE BLOG

A Unique Narrative and Perspective

We invite you to join the conversation about important issues facing our community. *The Village Voice* is a Warren Village blog designed to be thought provoking and informative. We will discuss important issues, including homelessness, affordable housing, education, jobs that pay a living wage, poverty, personal/economic self-sufficiency, and our two-generation service model.



You're invited to join in the conversation! We simply ask that you embrace the following principles: be respectful; be constructive; and be helpful/solution-based in your comments.

warrenvillage.org/VillageVoice

Return Address Requested



HOLIDAY SHOP 2016

Help Wishes Come True!

You can help holiday wishes come true by participating in the 29th Annual Holiday Shop. Join us for this Warren Village holiday tradition.

Interested in volunteering?
Want to donate gifts?
Learn more at our website!

www.warrenvillage.org/2016-Holiday-Shop

COLORADO GIVES DAY IS TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6

Schedule Your Gift Beginning November 1

Please remember Warren Village's families on Colorado Gives Day. **You don't even need to wait until December 6 to make your donation. Schedule your Colorado Gives Day donation TODAY by going to:**

www.coloradogives.org/warrenvillage

Your Colorado Gives Day gift to Warren Village will help provide housing, family services and learning opportunities for over 400 individuals in 2017. Join us in being part of the solution for single-parent families who are struggling with poverty and homelessness. **Thank you!**

