

THE VILLAGER

A Quarterly Newsletter for Friends of Warren Village

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

APRIL'S STORY

A Chance to Meet and Exceed Expectations

For seven and a half years, April experienced domestic violence at the hands of her partner. When her son was six months old, she made the difficult but necessary decision to leave the situation. After sleeping on the floor of her parents' home, she was determined to find a place where she could excel as a student and as a mother.

"I would not be here today if Warren Village had not given me a place to stay and a chance to know myself."

April was referred to Warren Village while receiving services from Family Tree. After moving into Warren Village, April felt safe and comforted being around other single parents facing similar challenges that she was experiencing.

Like April, many single parents arrive at Warren Village lacking the educational accreditation to obtain jobs that provide a livable wage. Warren Village provides the opportunity for this educational experience and the pursuit of a stable career.

April and her son Kamron.
Photo by Eli Akerstein.

During her time at Warren Village, April participated in Life Skills classes, including L.E.A.D., and volunteered at Family Tree and ARC. Her son attended the Learning Center's Evening Childcare program where he blossomed into a happy, creative, intelligent toddler.

Since completing the two-year program at Warren Village in 2011, April has graduated from Colorado State University with a BA degree in Economics and a BS degree in Business Administration with an accounting concentration. She is pursuing a career as a Certified Fraud Examiner, and would like to become directly involved with the economic development of her Native American tribe.

April is grateful for her time at Warren Village. "I wouldn't be here today if they hadn't given me a place to stay and a chance to know myself and, most importantly, to push myself to meet and exceed expectations."



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 for Warren Village parents and children.



Close to Home | Page 3

Warren Village is proud to be part of a public will-building campaign called Close to Home. Learn more about this exciting grassroots initiative that aims to raise awareness, increase understanding, and move Coloradans to speak up and take action; and to make a meaningful difference in addressing homelessness.



Social Nation | Page 4

Discover the exciting developments of social media efforts at Warren Village. Join in on a thoughtful and engaging conversation through our social media platforms: Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, & Instagram.



Colorado Gives Day | Page 8

Why is remembering Warren Village on Colorado Gives Day so important? Learn more about this state-wide day of giving and how you can have a huge impact in the lives of our single-parents and their children on or before Colorado Gives Day - Tuesday, Dec., 8.



AMAZON SMILE THIS HOLIDAY!



Please consider naming
Warren Village as your
Amazon Smile recipient.

It's simple to set up. Just
click on the Amazon Smile
tab when you're shopping
on the Amazon.com website
and type in "Warren Village"
as the nonprofit you choose
to receive .05% of your
Amazon purchase. That's it!

Thank you for supporting
Warren Village through
Amazon Smile!

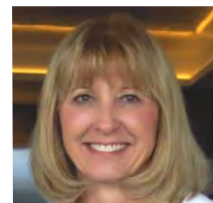
Need more information?
Visit our Webpage:

www.warrenvillage.org/amazon-smile



WE ALL NEED A SAFE PLACE TO CALL HOME

Last Friday, I had an unexpected visit from a woman from the community in dire need. She was desperate for a place to live and a way to support herself as she and her six year old son were going to be evicted from their temporary shelter on Sunday. She looked very professional, had a Master's Degree and was eager to find a job that would sustain the family. How did she get in this position?



Sharon A. Knight
President & CEO

Although she had been a professional with a good job, several months back she was a victim of an auto accident in which someone plowed into her car. She was seriously injured, with complications lasting many months. She couldn't continue to fulfill the duties of her job and the medical bills slowly eroded all the funds she had. A new job was difficult to find and when she came to me, she just had enough money to stay in the hotel for a couple more days, and then would be sleeping in her car. I was able to find a short-term fix for the immediate issue, but the solution has yet to be accomplished.

That scenario, unfortunately, is becoming more frequent. It points to the fact that bad things are happening to very good, hard working people all around us – and that these factors are leading to families experiencing homelessness by no fault of their own. It is a tragedy unfolding around us more and more every day.

Warren Village has joined forces with many other organizations to launch the CLOSE TO HOME campaign to help our community understand the underlying issues around homelessness. We are particularly concerned with families experiencing homelessness and believe that every family needs a safe place to call home. More than half the people experiencing homelessness in the larger Metro region are families with children. There has been a 307% increase in the number of school-aged children known to be homeless in the past 10 years. It is a growing epidemic that we need to address as soon as humanly possible.

We know that the parents we work with have had to make very difficult decisions along the way, such as: to pay the light bill or feed the kids; to go to work or stay home with the kids since no child care is available; to buy medicine for a debilitating illness or pay for another night in a hotel to keep their children warm and safe. These are heart-wrenching decisions. Wouldn't it be great if, together, we could come up with solutions to extinguish these harsh realities?

We are confident that the comprehensive two-generation program we offer is a remedy, but there are too many families in need and not enough room or capacity at Warren Village to help them all. We are exploring opportunities to increase the number of families we serve and hope that you will support us in those efforts. Thank you for caring about the issue and doing what you can to help families in our community to thrive.

With our warmest wishes for the season,

WARREN VILLAGE "CLOSE TO HOME" Former Warren Village Residents Share Their Stories for Campaign

Many Stories of Impact for
the CLOSE TO HOME
campaign were shared by
former Warren Village
residents.

We are so proud of their
courage & willingness to
share their stories of
perseverance and resiliency,
and how the hand up from
Warren Village was life
transforming.

In the coming days be on the
lookout for their stories and
how you can continue
helping to transform lives at
Warren Village.

Photos by Eli Akerstein



Marsha



Jan



Whitney



April & Kamron



Dee & Elektra

CLOSE TO HOME: MAKING HOMELESSNESS HISTORY

Warren Village Helps Lead "Hand Up" Collaborative

CLOSE TO HOME is a 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.



Warren Village is proud to be part of the CLOSE TO HOME campaign and is leading the "Hand Up" Collaborative which is one of three community Collaboratives. Members of the "Hand Up" Collaborative (HUC) include:

- > **Warren Village** (Sharon Knight, Mike Robbins, Chance LeBeau)
- > **CBS/Channel 4** (Elaine Torres)
- > **Community College of Denver** (Ismael Garcia, Meloni Crawford)
- > **Bank of the West** (Jody McNerney)
- > **Women With a Cause Foundation** (Susan Kiely)
- > **Susan Delaney Rodger** (Community Philanthropist)
- > **Annette Davis** (former Warren Village resident)
- > **Whitney Whitson** (former Warren Village resident)



Warren Village/Hand Up Collaborative



The idea for the CLOSE TO HOME campaign began in a listening tour conducted by The Denver Foundation in communities across the seven-county Metro Denver area (Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Broomfield, Denver, Douglas, and Jefferson counties). Residents said far too many people cannot meet their basic needs, especially housing, hunger, and a lack of safety or access to basic medical care. They said we need to increase understanding, compassion, and get more people engaged to solve these challenges.

Through research and community input, including people who have experienced homelessness, the CLOSE TO HOME strategy was developed. The campaign goals are to:

- Mobilize Metro Denver residents to address the underlying causes of homelessness.**
- Increase understanding so that Metro Denver residents experiencing homelessness are viewed by others, and regard themselves, as valuable members of our communities.**
- Make homelessness a priority issue in Metro Denver.**

Through the work of the CLOSE TO HOME campaign, and the efforts of many other committed individuals, groups, and organizations, we want to drastically reduce the number of people who experience homelessness in Metro Denver, even fewer who are chronically homeless, and for all people to be able to live with dignity and hope.

CLOSE TO HOME is committed to a campaign that is collaborative, respectful, action-oriented, and solutions-focused.

www.CloseToHomeCO.org



5 Ways You Can Make a Difference

PLEDGE

Take the Close to Home Pledge.

LEARN

Toss the Stereotypes.

SPEAK UP

Your Words Matter.

SHARE

Make It Viral.

ACT

Your Actions Matter.



HOLIDAY SHOP 2015

Warren Village is enthusiastically preparing for our 28th Annual Holiday Shop on Saturday, December 12 to make our families' holiday experience as special as possible. We hope we can count on your support and participation on this favorite Warren Village holiday tradition!



There are several ways you can support this year's Holiday Shop, including:

Gifts-In-Kind: We are seeking new, unwrapped gifts for both adults and children.

Shop Online: Purchase gifts from Target & Bed, Bath & Beyond to be delivered to us.

Volunteering: Holiday Shop volunteering is suitable for groups, families and individuals. Volunteers must be 14 years or older.

Monetary Donations: We also welcome cash donations and gift cards which help make the event a success.

Thank you in advance for your support. Contact Riana Mitchell, Volunteer Services Manager, at 303.320.5032 or rmitchell@warrenvillage.org for more information about Holiday Shop.

Visit the Holiday Shop Webpage:
www.warrenvillage.org/holiday-shop



SOCIAL MEDIA ENGAGES NEW EMERGING AUDIENCES

Electronic Media Helps Drive New Touch Points

Electronic media platforms, and specifically social media platforms, have quickly become the “go to” means by which people communicate and connect with the world. In fact, the majority of people use cell phones or tablets to send or receive social media messages. Warren Village has fully embraced the opportunity to engage with current stakeholders and emerging audiences by utilizing four social media platforms: Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, and most recently, Instagram.

Our approach to each social media channel is meant to connect the community to the important issues of homelessness, poverty, affordable housing, workforce training, education and public policy.



Beyond issue-based information and engagement, our social media platforms provide a wonderful means by which to celebrate stories of impact, volunteer groups/individuals, and organizational events.

If you haven't already done so, please like us on Facebook/WarrenVillage or follow us on Twitter/Warren_Village and Instagram/Warren_Village. And the Warren Village website is a terrific place to get full information about our programs and events. Should you have questions about our social media efforts please contact Mike Robbins, Manager of Communications at mrobbins@warrenvillage.org or Chance LeBeau, Community Engagement Coordinator at clebeau@warrenvillage.org.

www.warrenvillage.org



WARREN VILLAGE: TRANSFORMING LIVES

Two-Generation Transformation

You may have noticed on the Warren Village Facebook and Twitter cover photo is a banner (pictured below) proclaiming “Transforming Lives.” Without a doubt, since our humble beginnings in 1974, we have set out to transform the lives of those we serve. Our approach is nationally recognized and focuses on a “two-generation” model which addresses the needs of both the single-parents and their children.

Those familiar with the families we serve at Warren Village understand that homelessness and poverty have far-reaching impacts – even into future generations. A “two-generation” approach of breaking the cycle of poverty and homelessness is most effective because it focuses on creating opportunities for and addressing the needs of both vulnerable parents and children simultaneously. Thanks to you Warren Village is truly transforming lives.



WARREN VILLAGE FIRST STEP

A Transitional Living Program for Women & Women with Children Since 2007

Warren Village First Step is a one-year transitional living program for women and women with children. First Step offers communal housing, case management, on-site life skills classes, volunteer opportunities and on-site staff to assist residents in achieving their goals towards self-sufficiency. The program serves 13 resident households; 7 units for families and 6 units for single unaccompanied women.

First Step is a Warren Village program that has been funded by Denver's Road Home & Denver Human Services since 2007. In 2015, 85% of First Step graduates moved into permanent or long-term transitional housing; and 78% of exiting residents were able to increase their wages or mainstream benefits.

Interested in learning more about First Step? Contact Tori Ambrosio, First Step Program Manager, at 303.477.3843. Also, please visit the First Step webpage for volunteer and in-kind donation information: www.warrenvillage.org/first-step.



WARREN  VILLAGE



ALL-STAR LUNCHEON FEATURES MARLEE MATLIN

Friday, February 19 | 11:30am to 1:30pm
Denver Marriott City Center

Celebrating a long history of service to our community, Warren Village is pleased to invite you to join us for our All-Star Luncheon to support our work to give low income, single-parent families the opportunity to achieve sustainable personal and economic self-sufficiency. This year's All-Star Luncheon theme is "For the Love of Family" and features a keynote address by Oscar-winning actress, Marlee Matlin.

Keynote Speaker

Marlee Matlin Actress & Advocate

Marlee Matlin received worldwide critical acclaim for her motion picture debut in Paramount Pictures' *Children of a Lesser God*, earning her the Academy Award for Best Actress. At age 21, she became the youngest recipient of the Best Actress Oscar, making her one of only four actresses to receive that honor for a film debut. Matlin most recently penned her autobiography entitled *I'll Scream Later*, which takes readers on the frank and touching journey of her life, from the frightening loss of her hearing at 18 months old to the highs and lows of Hollywood, and her battles with addiction and being a victim of domestic violence. Matlin was recently honored by AOL as "Chief Everything Officer," highlighting the important contributions of mothers.



SAVE THE DATE!
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 19



Philanthropic Leader Honoree

Sheila Bugdanowitz President & CEO, Rose Community Foundation

Sheila is an exemplary leader in Denver through both her role at Rose Community Foundation and her active participation on numerous Boards. Rose Community Foundation is a leading partner with Warren Village and countless other nonprofit organizations serving the community.



Corporate Leader Honoree

Jodi Rolland Market President for Denver & Colorado President, Bank of America

Jodi oversees Bank of America's corporate social responsibility activities. Under Jodi's leadership, Warren Village recently received the Bank of America Charitable Foundation's *Neighborhood Builders* award that recognizes strong nonprofit organizations tackling the issue of poverty.

To support and attend this event visit: warrenvillage.org/AllStarLuncheon2016

Megan Alexander, Manager of Special Events & Business Partnerships
303.320.5034 TEL | malexander@warrenvillage.org

KIDS' CLUB PROGRAM BACK IN FULL SWING

Arrrr! It's a Pirate's Life at Warren Village Kids' Club

Kids' Club programming is back in action with the addition of a new part-time Children's Program staff member, Lilian Lara.

Kids' Club features exciting afterschool and evening enrichment programming for Warren Village kids age 7 to 14 years old. Programs include computer time, arts and crafts, yoga classes, and a book club for girls. Kids' Club is continuing partnerships with *Big Brothers*, *Big Sisters* and *Girls on the Run*. Volunteers are needed for tutoring and afterschool homework help.

For more information about Warren Village Kids' Club contact Lilian Lara, Kids' Club Coordinator, at llaura@warrenvillage.org



DID YOU KNOW?

Since 1974, Warren Village has served 4,403 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.

The Bank of America Charitable Foundation named Warren Village a recipient of its first Neighborhood Builders Award® in Colorado in December 2013.



Kids' Club had fun dressing up like pirates at one of their recent Fall get-togethers. Warren Village kids made pirate hats and had their faces painted. Imaginations come alive at Kids' Club!

Learn More About Our Work:
www.warrenvillage.org



LEARNING CENTER FUN

“Play provides an outlet for curiosity, information about the physical world, and a safe way to deal with anxiety and social relationships. In the long run, play serves children's inner needs, hopes, and aspirations.”

– Magda Gerber

On November 12th the Learning Center enjoyed a delicious Thanksgiving lunch!



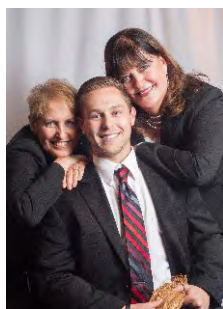
COME OUT & PLAY FALL GALA

Fall Gathering Raised \$140,000 For The Greta Horwitz Learning Center

On a beautiful Fall evening on Friday, October 16th, Warren Village welcomed nearly 160 guests to it's Second Annual Fall Gala. This year's theme, *Come Out and Play*, set the tone for a “perfect” evening at Denver's new and modern ART Hotel. Another huge success, the Fall Gala paddle raiser and auction raised over \$70,000 in support of the Greta Horwitz Learning Center. The evening featured cocktails and hors d'oeuvres with a seated dinner, a fabulous live auction that included trips to exciting destinations including, Spain, Africa, New York and Santa Fe as well as a personalized voicemail recording by the night's emcee, Bret Saunders, morning show host at KBCO 97.3 FM and Denver Post jazz columnist. The grand finale of the event was an exclusive performance of “Sibling Revelry” by Tony nominated sisters Ann Hampton Callaway and Liz Callaway. VIP guests attended an after party hosted in the incredible Museum Residence of Lanny and Sharon Martin, where Ann and Liz performed and entertained well into the night.

The Learning Center is accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children. Our program serves children ages 6 weeks to 10 years who are transitioning out of a life of poverty. The curriculum used is designed to promote healthy physical growth; social, intellectual and emotional development; language skills; self-help skills; creativity; and critical thinking in each child.

Photos courtesy of Scott Raber



WARREN VILLAGE VOLUNTEERS

Thank You Western Union for Your Day of Service at Warren Village!

We welcomed volunteers from Western Union for a Day of Service on Friday, November 6. Thirty-five of their hardest working employees engaged in many volunteer activities that included: painting, yard work, facilities cleaning, and more. They also had an awesome time in our Learning Center playing games, making crafts, and reading with our children. Thank you Western Union for your hard work and diligence!

Interested in volunteering at Warren Village? Contact Riana Mitchell at 303.320.5032 or rmitchell@warrenvillage.org.



LEAVE A LEGACY: INVEST IN WARREN VILLAGE FAMILIES

A Conversation About Vision and Legacy with Dr. James P. Sutton



Caroline Turner, a longtime Warren Village supporter, Trustee and former Board Chair, sat down with Dr. James (Pat) Sutton to learn more about what inspired him to recently include Warren Village in his estate plans.

Caroline: *For most people who support Warren Village, including myself, there is something about our mission that resonates in our own lives. Is there something that especially connects you with our work for single parent families?*

Pat: Yes, I am an emergency room doctor in an area that serves many disadvantaged people. We see a lot of people who use our services as a safety net. A fraction of the patients take our services for granted and

even have a sense of entitlement, and that can be demoralizing. But a large majority of people we serve are trying very hard to be self-sufficient, independent and take care of themselves and their families. I see that striking juxtaposition and it makes my heart go out even more to the ones who are really working hard to get by. A number of years ago I had some extra Rockies tickets that I couldn't use, and somebody suggested that I give them to Warren Village's families and kids to enjoy. When I came down to donate them, I realized that something quite special was going on here.

Caroline: *What has impressed you most about Warren Village since that introduction?*

Pat: When I came on my first tour of Warren Village, I saw that the residents are working incredibly hard to become self-sufficient, to get up off the ground and maintain their self-respect and dignity. They just need a jump start, a helping hand. Also, over the years the staff I've met have been so enthusiastic, caring and determined to effect change. I have been especially impressed by the fact that the residents have such a full program -- they have to be in an educational program, work and meet a lot of criteria while they're here-- it's almost a 24/7 job to take advantage of all of the programs. I feel so compelled to help people who are trying to better themselves.

Caroline: *What especially motivates or concerns you about this work?*

Pat: Earlier this year when I came for another tour, I learned about the number of families and residents who are here -- I wondered how many more families there are in Denver who could make use of this program, and it turns out it's probably at least a hundred times the number currently served. Maybe a thousand times. It's actually sad that our community doesn't have more resources like this to serve all of the families in need. Warren Village is such a great place -- and it upsets me that there aren't more facilities like this to help families who don't have enough.

Caroline: *So was it your vision, wanting more people to be served, that moved you from donating Rockies tickets to including Warren Village in your will?*



Pat: Absolutely. I have been supporting Warren Village in different ways for about 20 years, but my thought process (on estate planning) didn't come to fruition until years later. The further I got along in my career, I really started to consider what impacts me on a shift-to-shift, day-to-day basis in my own work, and think about what's going on around me, and why I'm reacting to people in certain ways. I realized what really matters to me, and have come to the conclusion that Warren Village is a place where I can make a difference, where my resources can help. So about a year ago I was putting my will together, and I only have one son -- a smart, driven kid getting ready to go to college. He's motivated and hardworking and I strongly believe he is going to be fine. He will succeed in life and probably won't need help from me, though he's still going to get it. My son is the key factor in my estate planning, but when I was sitting down looking over my trust and crunching numbers, I realized it was way out of whack. If I was abducted by aliens tomorrow or live another 20 years, he is not going to need or even want all of this. So it just seemed like a slam dunk for me to include Warren Village, a place of such rich tradition and value, in my estate plans.

Caroline: *It's so wonderful to hear about your thought process and decision to share your resources with Warren Village into the future. When I was asked to do this interview with you, I realized it was a good time to mention to the team that I too included Warren Village in my will a couple of years ago! It hadn't occurred to me to mention it, but they were very happy and thankful to be told.*

Caroline: *What difference do you think your legacy gift will help make possible for Warren Village families in the future?*

Pat: I believe the more educated the populace we have, the more successful a country we'll have, and the brighter the future we'll have. The more we foster people's ability to walk through life independently, their families and friends will get the message. That kind of do-it-yourself attitude will filter through society and hopefully motivate others to walk a similar path. My personal vision for my legacy gift is at the exact time it arrives there might be an acute need and my contribution will make an important difference at just the right moment. But I would be happy to know that my contribution will help sustain the ongoing programs for families as well.

Caroline: *Pat, thank you for your generosity of time and resources. Do you have any gems of wisdom for others who might be thinking about supporting Warren Village?*

Pat: I do. I came across this quote that just got to me, though I am not sure of the source. "He rises highest who lifts as he goes." I think whatever skills we each bring to the table, there must be a spirit of compassion.



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 to create a lasting legacy in our community, while also honoring your philanthropic goals.

To learn more about this distinguished group, please call 303.320.5052.



Return Address Requested



COLLEGE-TO-CAREER TAKES OFF

Warren Village developed a College-to-Career program that helps propel parents into sustainable careers earning a living wage. The Family Services Department has identified concentrated workforce training programs that provide work skills and experience necessary for middle-skill jobs, which are in demand and will provide family-sustaining wages.

The College-to-Career program includes an innovative collaboration with the Community College of Denver. Our partnership allows us to bring college credit classes onsite for Warren Village community members.

Discover More about College-to-Career
www.warrenvillage.org/college-to-career

COLORADO GIVES DAY TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8

Schedule Your Gift Today!

Please remember Warren Village's families on Colorado Gives Day. **You don't even need to wait until December 8 to make your donation. Schedule your Colorado Gives Day donation TODAY by going to www.coloradogives.org/warrenvillage.**

At Warren Village, we understand that homelessness and poverty have far-reaching results. No one is more vulnerable than families with children. That's why we are dedicated to helping low income, single parent families become self-sufficient – and stay that way. Your gift to Warren Village will help provide housing, family services and learning opportunities for over 400 individuals in 2016. Join us in being part of the solution for single-parent families who are struggling with poverty and homelessness. Your Colorado Gives Day donation will have a lasting impact. **Thank you!**

