

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.

MARIAN'S STORY

When Dreams & Aspirations Become Reality

After serving in Iraq, Marian moved from Missouri to Georgia and finally to Colorado in 2011. For a few years, Marian and her young son Chandler lived with a friend, but Marian knew she needed her own space in order to achieve her goals and be the best mother she could be. After hearing about Warren Village from a friend at church, Marian applied and moved in November 2014.

"My experience at Warren Village has been inspiring and one I will never forget. The connections and relationships I have built have helped me achieve my goals and realize my aspirations."

Although Marian was initially fearful of living in transitional housing, as soon as she moved in, she realized Warren Village was a "very welcoming atmosphere and a blessing." She became friends with the other single parents in the community and now even mentors some of the younger mothers. Marian participates in Life Skills classes, and her son is enrolled in the Learning Center's Evening Child Care program. Marian says four-year-old Chandler loves the environment as it has allowed him to be social with other children and make new friends.

In April 2015, Marian received her Medical Assistant Certificate and obtained a job in her field at a pain management company. With stable employment and housing, Marian and her son were even able to take their first camping trip together.

After graduation from Warren Village, Marian intends on renting an apartment and eventually owning a home. She also plans on pursuing more medical certifications that will allow her to increase her income so she can provide more for her family. Marian says, "My experience at Warren Village has been inspiring and one I will never forget. The connections and relationships I have built helped me achieve my goals and realize my aspirations."

For single parents like Marian, a welcoming, safe community like Warren Village can foster life-long support networks and relationships.



Inside this Issue:

Volunteers | Page 2

April is "Volunteer Appreciation Month" and we are celebrating our amazing Warren Village volunteers with fun events and recognition. Discover how you can join the fun of volunteering.



Close to Home | Page 6

Warren Village is proud to support the Close to Home campaign to create public awareness about the issue of homelessness. Learn how you can make a difference.



New Trustees | Page 7

Warren Village is proud to announce the addition of two new members to the Board of Trustees: Julie Clark and Jennifer McPeck.



A Chance to Win | Page 8

You could win a new Ford Escape by purchasing a \$10 raffle ticket for Million for What Matters. 100% of the proceeds support our Warren Village families.



A PERSONAL STORY OF IMPACT



Marsha Brown's life was going great until one fateful night when she received a phone call with news that her teenage son had been hit by a drunk driver and was severely injured.

Marsha, a Warren Village alumna, is passionate about sharing the story of how this unexpected event ultimately led her family to experience homelessness.

Invite Marsha, and many other Warren Village alumni and current residents, to share their story. You'll quickly discover that "Warren Village is family" and the "two-generation" model of serving both single parents and their children is changing lives and improving futures.

Learn more at:
www.warrenvillage.org

CELEBRATING OUR PAST AND EXCITED FOR OUR FUTURE

Dear Friends,

It's my pleasure to introduce myself as the new Board Chair of Warren Village, and express my appreciation for your commitment to the work we do for families every day.

First, I am pleased to share that we have just concluded a very successful fiscal year with a balanced budget on March 31. This is in large part due to the support of our many donors and partners, for which we are extremely grateful. We are quickly looking ahead to another year of programmatic and fiscal success, and hope we can count on your ongoing participation. Just some of the highlights for the "new year" include continued growth of our College-to-Career program, enhanced programming for our youth, and increased training for our Learning Center teachers so they can provide the best possible care and development for our children.

I also wanted to provide an update on our search for a new President and CEO for Warren Village. Sharon Knight recently resigned from her role as CEO after five years of leadership. During her tenure, Warren Village improved our services for families, strengthened our finances and fundraising, introduced new best practices in the operations of the organization, and much more. We are deeply grateful to Sharon and thoroughly committed to building upon these successes.

We have retained Carolyn McCormick, of Peak HR Consulting, to conduct a comprehensive local and national search for our new President and CEO. With Carolyn's guidance, our search committee is in the process of conducting interviews with several excellent candidates. We hope to conclude our search by May, and will certainly share any news when that time comes.

In the meantime, the Board and executive management team at Warren Village are well positioned and committed to maintaining and advancing the programmatic and operational excellence that we have all worked so hard to achieve.

With best wishes and gratitude,

Brian Sandy

Chair, Warren Village Board of Trustees

President, Signature Select LLC - an IMA Company



CELEBRATING OUR VOLUNTEERS

Thank you for supporting our families with your time and talent!

Warren Village is celebrating our incredible network of volunteers in honor of Volunteer Appreciation Month (officially April). In the last 12 months, 812 volunteers have dedicated over 16,000 hours of service to Warren Village, which totals over \$260,000 in budgetary relief for the organization. What an amazing gift! We are grateful for your time and energy, and we hope you are enjoying your various volunteer activities.

Know friends who want to get involved in our volunteer network? Have them contact our Volunteer Department to sign-up for our next orientation: volunteers@warrenvillage.org. We appreciate you. Keep up the amazing work!

Learn more at www.warrenvillage.org/volunteers



LEARNING CENTER GENERATES EXCITEMENT & BUZZ THIS SPRING

Childcare Exchange Magazine Features Learning Center

It's been an exciting Spring for The Greta Horwitz Learning Center at Warren Village! During a recent tour by *Nature Explore*, an organization that promotes active learning and imaginative play in a unique outdoor classroom, and *Childcare Exchange*, a regionally-recognized childcare periodical, both groups loved what they saw. In fact, the Learning Center is featured on the cover of the May/June edition of *Childcare Exchange*.



Here's an excerpt from the *Childcare Exchange* article. *The children in the Learning Center are in the outdoor classroom playing a made-up game they call 'owies.' They are role-playing and practicing nurturing. They gather around the caring adult, and with dot painters make 'owies' on her and each other. Then they pretend to put band-aids on. Sometimes kisses make the 'owies' better, but sometimes children role-play crying for a few minutes as they accept comforting. While the cries are pretend, the great care and concern expressed by the children and for the children is real and deep. One child gives the nurturing adult an 'owie' then says, "You scared?" "No," she replies, "because you are with me."*

This scene happened recently at the Greta Horwitz Learning Center at Warren Village, a program in Denver, Colorado supporting families leaving homelessness. While the children in this program are coping with one type of stressful situation, families everywhere deal with many challenges on a regular basis. Often center directors and teachers are unaware of the details of children's lives, so may not realize the need for intentional support as children practice strengthening their innate resiliency. For example, families living in shelters may not feel comfortable sharing that information, so children's behavior may often be misunderstood. Statistics tell us that one in every thirty children will experience homelessness at some point in their early years, but this alarming reality is often a surprise to directors or college professors preparing pre-service teachers.



Spring has Sprung? Yes! The children in the Learning Center didn't let the March blizzard stop them from going on a Bug Hunt! Equipped with state-of-the-art Bug Hunt gadgets, the kids discovered all kinds of creepy crawly things!

Learn more about our nationally-accredited Greta Horwitz Learning Center by visiting www.warrenvillage.org/LearningCenter.



EASTER BASKETS

Sunday, March 20, 2016, marked the second annual delivery of personalized Easter baskets created by Trinity United Methodist Church for each and every child living at Warren Village. More than 150 families from Trinity participated in creating baskets, which include gender and age-specific toys, trinkets, and of course, candy! This year, the baskets were adorned with rainbow gift tags made by the United Methodist Woman's group.



TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Warren Village would like to give special thanks to the team of Trinity members that coordinated this generous donation: Lindy Navin, Dana Crandall, Mary Beth Nagle, Alex Lynn (Warren Village alumna), Genevieve Rohet-Navin, Kathleen Ryan, Judee Filip, Lois Cochran, and Ben Rohret.

Our children and their parents are so grateful for the time, energy, and resources of Trinity United Methodist Church!



FAMILY SERVICES COMMUNITY ROOM GETS MAKE-OVER

New Computers, Chairs, Paint and Flooring!

The Family Services Community Room, located adjacent to the Family Services office on the 2nd floor of the resident building, recently received a make-over featuring new equipment for the computer lab, task chairs, lounge chairs, fresh paint and flooring. The Family Services Community Room is used by residents as a "resource center" to complete homework and initiate workforce/employment efforts. Other resources available include a food pantry, parenting books, books for children, and information about local community resources.



"Snazzy" Place: Warren Village residents have a newly renovated Family Services Community Room to enjoy as they do homework and explore various community resources using the computer lab.



WARREN VILLAGE FIRST STEP TURNS 9

Happy Birthday First Step! Warren Village First Step transitional living program for women and women with children just turned 9 this year! First Step offers communal housing and case management, on-site life skills classes, volunteer opportunities and on-site staff to assist residents in achieving their goals towards self-sufficiency. To learn more about First Step contact Tori Ambrosio, First Step Program Manager, at 303.477.3843 or check out the First Step webpage: www.warrenvillage.org/first-step.



WARREN VILLAGE KIDS' CLUB BRINGS LEARNING TO LIGHT

Club Creates Opportunities for School-Age Kids to Play, Learn and Grow

Kids' Club continues to provide exciting afterschool and evening enrichment programming for Warren Village kids ages 7 to 14 years old. Recent Kids' Club activities include a lip sync contest, ballet, yoga, and a book club for girls. Kids' Club continues robust partnerships with *Big Brothers*, *Big Sisters* and *Ibotta*. Volunteers are needed for tutoring and afterschool homework help and summer activities. For more information about Warren Village Kids' Club contact Lilian Lara, Kids' Club Coordinator at llara@warrenvillage.org.

www.warrenvillage.org/kids-club

Come Check Out
the Kids' Club at
Warren Village!

It's a Fun Place Where
I Learn, Play, Discover
and Grow!



SHINING BRIGHT AT THE 2016 ALL-STAR LUNCHEON

Supporting Warren Village Family Services and Self-Sufficiency Programs

On February 19, 2016 Warren Village presented its All-Star Luncheon at the Marriot Denver City Center, raising \$200,000 in support of our work for single parent families. The event featured an inspiring keynote presentation by Oscar-winning actress and activist **Marlee Matlin**.

We also honored two of our community's outstanding philanthropic and corporate leaders - **Sheila Bugdanowitz**, President and CEO of the Rose Community Foundation, and **Jodi Rolland**, Colorado State and Denver Market President of Bank of America and Global Commercial Banking Market Executive, Bank of America Merrill Lynch. On the eve of the Luncheon, event patrons attended a Sponsor Appreciation Reception with Marlee Matlin at the beautiful home of **Barbara Grogan**.



Sponsor Appreciation Reception host **Barbara Grogan** (left) with Keynote Presenter **Marlee Matlin**.



Transformational Sponsors, **Tom and Lisa Corley** (left) with **Jeannie Bennington** and **Sheila Bugdanowitz**.



Luncheon Emcee and CBS4 anchor **Alan Gionet** with **Marsha Brown**, **Jodi Rolland**, Trustee **Annette Davis** and **Sheila Bugdanowitz**.



Philanthropic Leader Honoree **Sheila Bugdanowitz** (left) and Corporate Leader Honoree **Jodi Rolland** at the Sponsor Appreciation Reception.



From left: Trustee **Tom McClary**, Alumna Speaker **Marsha Brown**, Trustee **Michael Benedict** and recent past Board Chair **Guy Cornelius**.



Incoming Board Chair **Brian Sandy** with **Annette Davis**.



Keynote presenter **Marlee Matlin** addresses guests.

DID YOU KNOW?

Since 1974, Warren Village has served **4,605** 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.

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

More than half (**51%**) 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



DANCE LIKE EVERYBODY'S WATCHING!

This Spring Warren Village has been dancing up a storm! From ballet at Kids' Club to beatboxing in the Learning Center, our kids are "bustin' moves" and smiling from ear to ear! Come dance with us!



CLOSE TO HOME: MAKING HOMELESSNESS HISTORY

Warren Village Helps Lead "Hand Up" Collaborative

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.



Warren Village is leading the "Hand Up" Collaborative which is one of three community Collaboratives that makes up the Grassroot Network. Members of the "Hand Up" Collaborative (HUC) include:




- > **Warren Village** (Mike Robbins, Chance LeBeau)
- > **CBS/Channel 4** (Elaine Torres)
- > **Community College of Denver** (Ismael Garcia, Meloni Crawford)
- > **Bank of the West** (Jody McNerney)
- > **Bake the World a Better Place** (Shane Sanders)
- > **Women With a Cause Foundation** (Susan Kiely, Monica Kosanovich)
- > **Susan Delaney Rodger** (community philanthropist)
- > **Annette Davis** (former Warren Village resident)
- > **Whitney Whitson** (former Warren Village resident)



Warren Village/Hand Up Collaborative



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 "make homelessness history in Colorado" 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. Learn more at www.close-to-home.org, and consider these 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; and **ACT** - Your actions matter.

www.CloseToHomeCO.org

NEW SOCIAL MEDIA PRESENCE

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. Help us grow our social media presence by encouraging your friends and co-workers to "like" and "follow" us today!



Facebook: WarrenVillage
Twitter: Warren_Village
Instagram: Warren_Village



WELCOME NEW BOARD OF TRUSTEE MEMBERS

New Board Members Welcomed at the Start of New Fiscal Year



Julie Clark

Founder - Baby Einstein Company & JoyBox Studios

As the founder of Baby Einstein, The Safe Side and JoyBox Studios, former teacher Julie Clark brings a passion for children and education to her new role as Board Member at Warren Village. She is a best-selling author of children's books, and supports cancer research through her web site www.cancerassassin.com. A Denver resident, Julie enjoys hiking, gardening and being the mom of two college-aged daughters.



Jennifer J. McPeck

Chief Financial Officer – Janus Capital Group, Inc.

Jennifer McPeck is Chief Financial Officer of Janus Capital Group, where she serves as a member of their Executive Committee and oversees Janus' finance, corporate accounting and tax departments. Prior to joining Janus in 2009, Jennifer held senior strategy roles at ING Investment Management and McKinsey, and previously worked in the investment banking industry for Bank of Boston and Goldman, Sachs & Company. Jennifer earned a bachelor of arts degree in mathematics from Duke University, a master of science degree in Financial Engineering from the

Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Originally from Maryland, Jennifer and her family moved to Colorado and New Mexico over a decade ago. She spends her free time cheering her two children in their artistic and athletic endeavors and enjoying the beauty of the Rocky Mountains.

THE VILLAGE VOICE OFFERS UNIQUE NARRATIVE & PERSPECTIVE

Join in the Conversation through *The Village Voice*

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. New blog posts will appear every two to three weeks from a variety of contributors. We will discuss important issues, including homelessness, affordable housing, education, jobs that pay a "living wage," poverty, personal & economic self-sufficiency, and much more.

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.



For more information or to inquire about our blog please contact: Mike Robbins, Manager of Communications at 303.320.5051 or mrobbins@warrenvillage.org

Check out these latest blog posts on *The Village Voice*: **Two-Generation Approach; A Safe Place to Call Home; and Changing the Conversation.**



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 The Warren Legacy Society please call 303.320.5052.

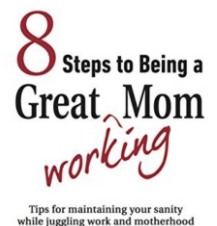
GRETCHEN GAGEL'S BOOK HELPS MOMS

Juggling motherhood and a job is hard work for working moms – but Gretchen Gagel aims to make it just a little bit easier.

Her book, *8 Steps to*

Being a Great Working Mom,

celebrates and recognizes great working moms – including some of our working moms here at Warren Village! Gretchen will donate \$1 to Warren Village from each book sold.



By Gretchen Gagel



Go to [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) to purchase Gretchen's book today!

Return Address Requested



SPRING OUTREACH

Cinco de Mayo & People's Fair

Warren Village will participate in two Spring events to help raise awareness of our work and to celebrate being part of the community.

upcoming **DATES**

Cinco de Mayo Festival
May 7-8

People's Fair
June 4-5

Stop by and say
"hello" at our
Outreach Tent!

Learn More about Warren Village Outreach Events
www.warrenvillage.org/outreach

A MILLION FOR WHAT MATTERS RAFFLE

Enter for the Chance to Win a New Car!

We are participating in AMP The Cause raffle - "Million for What Matters." Purchase a \$10 raffle ticket and you will be entered to win a brand new Ford Escape while also supporting our families. Warren Village will receive 100% of the proceeds. Buy your ticket(s) today! Raffle tickets must be purchased by May 28. The winner will be announced at the Denver Day of Rock.

Simply go to www.amillionmatters.com to purchase your ticket(s) and select Warren Village as the charity you're supporting.

www.amillionmatters.com

