

THE VILLAGER

❖ WINTER 2019

HOLIDAY SHOP BRIGHTENS THE SEASON FOR EVERYONE INVOLVED

On December 15th, we celebrated our 31st annual Holiday Shop with hundreds of volunteers, donors, staff, and resident families at the Park Hill United Methodist Church. This event is only possible with the incredible support of community members, who create lasting memories for our Warren Village families. Just how much support? Take a look at these numbers:

Gifts Donated for Children: 3,022

Gifts Donated for Adults: 757

Volunteers: 220+

This year we implemented some exciting changes, like the shared community meals, provided by some amazingly generous local companies and their staff who had a great time serving everyone. Thank you to the following meal sponsors: **Haselden Construction, Denver Zoo, BNP Paribas, and The Goods Restaurant.**

In addition, we restructured the parents' gift program to accommodate pre-selected gifts including vacuum cleaners, blenders, bed sheet sets, and more. The response from our Warren Village parents was incredibly positive given that we tried to ensure that everyone received what they truly needed.

If you happened to stop by, you may have also heard the sweet sounds of holiday music in the Kid's Corner provided by the **Hoffer family, Littleton School of Music, and Swallow Hill Music!**

Thank you to everyone who played a part in making Holiday Shop 2018 a huge success!



"Tow for Toys" has been delivering gifts donated by AAA Colorado's members and employees for 15 years. We are so grateful for their ongoing generosity.



From left: Alyssa Lovejoy, Imane Ghandi, and Tony Salvino from the Denver Zoological Foundation, one of the Holiday Shop Meal Sponsors.



From left: Emily Pham who has volunteered at every Holiday Shop since 2014, and Cindy, Warren Village Alumni.

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WARREN ❖ VILLAGE

Transforming Parents' Lives. Improving Children's Futures.

MUSIC MOTIVATES THE SOUL

Did you know that children who study music tend to have larger vocabularies and more advanced reading skills than their peers who do not participate in music lessons?¹

Fortunately we have an amazing programmatic partner in Swallow Hill Music, who is providing musical opportunities for children in the Learning Center and Kids' Club. It's been a year since we partnered with them and a busy one at that!

Our partnership began with the Little Swallows program that introduces three- and four-year-old students to the joy of music with weekly on-site classes by Katie Oaks (*featured right*), using songs, creative movement, rhymes, percussion instruments, and other fun activities. In 2018, Katie taught 188 classes at Warren Village, and the students absolutely love her!

Swallow Hill works with local funders to ensure that the program is provided at no cost to students and families. Warren Village helps cover costs by funding 10% of the program; the remainder comes from generous individuals and community foundations.

"We were excited Warren Village approached us to expand our music education offerings beyond our Little Swallows early childhood education program to include older students," said Paul Lhevine, CEO of Swallow Hill Music. "We know as students progress through elementary and middle school, music education expands their vocabularies, improves math skills, drives positive behavioral outcomes, and improves critical thinking."



Photo by AK Photo, courtesy of Swallow Hill Music.



Following the success of the Little Swallows program for the Learning Center children, we asked Swallow Hill to develop a class for Kids' Club, which would ensure that older students living at Warren Village could also participate in music lessons.

Stef Kull (*featured left*), enthusiastically agreed to teach after-school keyboard lessons once a week for older children. Warren Village provides the keyboards and Stef develops curriculum and weekly lesson plans in order to meet the needs and growing skills of each participating student.

1. Arete Music Academy. (2014, January 15). Statistical benefits of music in education. Retrieved January 28, 2019, from <https://www.areteacademy.org>



From left: Ethan Hemming, Warren Village President & CEO; Brad Knepper, All Copy Products CEO; and Kyle Craig, Warren Village Board Chair.

Last summer, All Copy Products hosted its annual charity golf tournament to benefit Warren Village. We are so grateful to receive a check for \$25,966 that will empower Warren Village families.

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COLORADO FOR
HELPING US
EXCEED OUR
GOAL
\$108,482
#COGivesDay

CREATING LASTING CHANGE THROUGH QUALITY ENHANCEMENTS

From our President & CEO

As you all know well, our single-parent residents and their children are the heart and purpose of our work. You help us create opportunity and supports to allow them to effect needed change in their lives. Our team is constantly thinking about quality and how to serve our residents better.

Our latest effort along these lines is our recent “program quality review” conducted by **North Highland Worldwide Consulting**. Over the past few months they interviewed staff, observed processes, and reviewed materials all with the shared aim of affirming quality and identifying ways for our team to increase efficiency, improve communication, and improve resident outcomes. I am proud of our team for taking this on and grateful to North Highland for providing this review at no cost to our organization.



Quality improvement is an ongoing goal for our organization and so is expanding our reach in the community. Our recently formed Growth Task Force will bring our Board deeper into this effort, and add critical bandwidth and leadership to our efforts to serve more low-income, single-parent families in Denver. Our strategic vision graphic below highlights our aspirations and plans along this front. We welcome your ideas and questions as we move into our shared future together.

With warmest regards,



Ethan Hemming
President and CEO



WARREN VILLAGE ALUMNI AND LONG-TERM OUTCOMES

Oftentimes, we are asked what the long-term benefits are for residents of the Warren Village program. While single-parent families are living at Warren Village for 1-3 years, we work together closely to help them fortify themselves for what lies ahead — and to have the tools and skills to overcome obstacles, and thrive in their educational and career pursuits.

Their needs don't disappear just because they move out of our program. Warren Village has wanted to provide longer-term support to residents once they leave, in addition to voluntary participation in our alumni association.

As a way of understanding and evaluating the impact of the program on our alumni, we implemented a routine longitudinal data collection process to look at self-sufficiency and housing stability outcomes of alumni up to five years after leaving the program. The inaugural annual survey is currently underway, sampling more than 300 alumni, who left the program between 2013 and 2018. Of the 52 responses we've received thus far:

- **96% of respondents are in a stable housing situation.**
- **83% are currently employed and/or in school.**
- **Of those who are employed, 1/3 of them are also in school.**
- **80% describe their personal support system as strong.**
- **When asked how much Warren Village helped them on the path to self-sufficiency on a scale of 1-10, the average survey response was 8.**



These results are preliminary and we expect to gain further insights as the survey continues but the initial positive trends are encouraging. Warren Village's commitment to our residents also includes ongoing support for alumni by our newly hired Alumni Navigator, Elise Matatall. She will be the organization's main point of contact and a continuing resource for alumni relative to providing direct services, referrals to community programs, volunteer engagement, and ongoing communication. She will also assist our newly hired Data and Research Analyst, Alice Murphy, with the routine longitudinal data collection mentioned above. Tracking longitudinal data will inform our current programmatic delivery and enhance the services we provide to current resident families. It will also provide insights to our new Alumni Navigator and the support she provides to our past residents.

YOUNG LEADERS: NEW BEGINNINGS

Warren Village has been making strides with our goal to engage younger generations with our mission through a very special group. Formerly known as the Young Professionals, our newly branded Young Leaders voted at one of their monthly Tuesday meetings to adopt a new name and mission! This new mission was crafted by the members themselves to represent their goals and values.

Mission: The Young Leaders is a diverse group of individuals dedicated to giving back to the children and families of Warren Village through energetically building community awareness, providing superior volunteer support, and creatively raising funds.

WARREN VILLAGE YOUNGLEADERS

The Young Leaders have a lot of exciting events and initiatives on the calendar for 2019! They will be establishing committees, hosting a Family Night at the end of March, leading a series of summer yoga fundraisers, hosting another summer recruitment event, promoting giving opportunities, and finally hosting their annual fundraising event in Fall 2019. It is certainly a busy year ahead of them, but we are confident that we have the perfect group of incredible individuals to get the job done!

If you are interested in joining the Young Leaders, please contact Molly Barfuss at mbarfuss@warrenvillage.org or 303.320.5032.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES NEW MEMBERS

Warren Village is incredibly grateful to our Board of Trustees for their tireless work to advance the mission of Warren Village. Under Kyle Craig's leadership, our members play a vital role in guiding our work, providing resources and connections to improve our outcomes, offering professional expertise, and playing a critical part in our fundraising success.

We are excited to welcome three new members: Karen Quast, COO of ModernIR who will serve as board Treasurer; Sarah Jackson, CPA and Managing Director of CBIZ Seff; and Joel Rosenstein, Principal of Bridge Jumper LLC.

A big thank you to outgoing members Angela Coleman and Julie Clark who played an integral role over the past several years. For a complete listing of our board members, please visit WarrenVillage.org/board-of-trustees.



Sarah Jackson



Karen Quast



Joel Rosenstein

CELEBRATING THE FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF COLLEGE TO CAREER INITIATIVE

Launched five years ago with a \$200,000 grant from Bank of America, the College to Career program has seen tremendous growth, success, and interest among Warren Village residents. College to Career (C2C) is an initiative to empower families to achieve financial self-sufficiency. The program started in response to the growing cost of living in Denver mixed with the average wages of residents remaining steady at \$20,000/year, creating a financial crisis for our families. C2C offers robust wrap-around services and supports through three dedicated Warren Village Family Advocates.

Family Advocate services include, but are not limited to the following:

- Career assessments • College Enrollment services • Financial aid education
- FAFSA applications assistance • Textbooks and school supply assistance • Scholarships
- Tutoring • Evening study hall hours with childcare • Extended access to the computer lab
- Potential for a third-year extension to complete education program
- Partnership with Educational Opportunity Center (EOC)

Since the launch, 74 residents have attained certificates or degrees and many more are well on their way, with 65% of all residents aligning with the C2C initiative.

Another component of the C2C program is our partnership with the Community College of Denver (CCD) that provides funding for two on-site classes per semester. These statewide guaranteed transfer classes provide Warren Village residents with an opportunity to experience post-secondary success in a supportive environment, close to home.

Ninety-eight residents have participated in on-site CCD classes during the past 5 years, with an 81% passing rate, despite coming from difficult backgrounds similar to a resident named Jasmine.

Jasmine endured a life of homelessness, all beginning with her mother's drug addiction. Despite her challenges, she never gave up, but Jasmine could not escape the clutches of poverty. At 26, she was solely supporting two young girls by working two jobs and enrolling in online classes. However, with no access to child care, Jasmine slowly fell behind on rent, and things began to fall apart. Upon her arrival at Warren Village, her confidence was at an all-time low but she was determined to return to school. Her first semester was tough, learning to balance all of the new responsibilities of the program, parenting, and the demands of school, so it was not her most successful semester. Despite her grades Jasmine reflects back to that semester as the beginning of her success.

"Taking classes on site made the transition easier because I knew the rest of the students in the class were going through the same things and that helped a lot." says Jasmine. "I would not have stayed in school if I hadn't started at Warren Village."

She leaned into the supports offered through C2C, including the advice of her on-site CCD History instructor and committed to continuing school. She recalled her history teacher's lasting impact stating that "he gave us the space to feel comfortable."



Jasmine and her daughters in 2018.

This coming May, Jasmine will graduate from CCD with an Associate's Degree in Pre-Social Work. She will continue her education at Metropolitan State University in the fall. During the past 2 years, she earned a 3.185 GPA and a KEYS scholarship; she participated in the college's work-study program; became a member of TRIO, the college's student support services group; and became a member of the Political Science Club. Jasmine has been asked to speak at the CCD Foundation's Breakfast of Champions event on March 7, 2019.

FAMILY NIGHTS - A WARREN VILLAGE TRADITION

Family and Community Nights are excellent opportunities for volunteers to engage with our resident communities. Ideal for corporate groups, community groups, and families. Hosts provide dinner and an activity for 30-45 families at Warren Village or at our First Step location for 13 families. Family Nights are the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of every month from 6:30-8:00 PM; and Community Nights at First Step are held on the 3rd Thursday of every month from 6:00-7:30 PM.

The 2019 schedule is filling up fast! If you are interested in hosting a Family or Community Night, please email Molly Barfuss at mbarfuss@warrenvillage.org or call 303.320.5032.



Landmark Ministries hosting Family Night November 2018.

COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS SHARING THEIR PROFESSIONAL PURSUITS WITH RESIDENTS

Residents of Warren Village are required to attend three Life Skills Classes per month. They can choose from a variety of subjects including women's health, relationships, career services, nutrition, wellness, organizational skills, parenting, leadership, and communication skills. What you may not know is that community members VOLUNTEER their time to facilitate and share what they are most passionate about. These facilitators come from an array of professional backgrounds that teach both practical skills and overall wellness which is a key component of Warren Village's holistic approach.



Yoga for the People has been providing yoga classes to Warren Village residents for the past 13 years. One of their certified instructors, Amanda Flott Kinsey, who also holds a Master of Social Work, has spent the past two decades working within nonprofit and social services agencies advocating for the rights of women, so for her this is a natural fit! "I am incredibly motivated by the residents, they are the absolute highlight each month, she says. "The relationships created are priceless. The smiles and the relaxed faces I see as the residents walk out of our yoga space are invaluable."

"I apply yoga to my everyday life. All you have to do is breathe and bring yourself back to this very moment...yoga has truly brought peace to my life." - Deidra, Warren Village Resident



From left: Deidra, Warren Village Resident; Amanda Flott Kinsey, Instructor; Jessica, Warren Village Resident; Erica deDufour, Warren Village Program & Evaluation Specialist; and Habab, Warren Village Resident.

In this issue, we wanted to introduce you to one of our community partners who is donating her time to facilitating these valuable classes.

Each month Amanda introduces different techniques to cultivate a deep meditative focus through breath, movement, and music. Residents have the opportunity to explore different types of yoga including nidra, yin, and restorative, alongside traditional vinyasa flow sequences, and each class is structured around themes related to self-love and acceptance, individual strength/power, conscious awareness, surrendering, stillness, positive thinking, and embodiment. "Since I'm a trained social worker, and a community organizer, my goal is to create a safe space for residents to be held and nurtured by a supportive community of women," says Amanda.



DONOR SPOTLIGHT: CHUCK AND CAROL JANSCH

By Sarah James

I sat down to lunch with Chuck and Carol Jansch on an unusually sunny winter afternoon in Denver. Between conversations around their four grandchildren and reminiscing over their travels to Africa, I wanted to learn why they support Warren Village.

Chuck and Carol were introduced to Warren Village about twenty years ago through their church – University Park United Methodist. They co-chaired the missions committee and discovered a nonprofit that stood out among the rest. Once Chuck and Carol volunteered at their first Warren Village event – the Annual Holiday Shop – they were hooked. Soon enough, they became loyal supporters and Chuck even served on the Finance Committee along with an eight-year term on the Board of Trustees.

When I asked what inspires them to continue to support Warren Village, it was an easy answer: to provide opportunity for families. Furthermore, Carol believes that the stability and safety of a home is critical, and without a safe place to call home, children cannot learn or thrive.

Chuck and Carol have generously included Warren Village in their estate planning, becoming Warren Legacy Society members. They believe in Warren Village, and kindly stated that the organization should share in what they have been lucky to accumulate in their lives.

To learn more about Warren Legacy Society, please visit: warrenvillage.org/legacy-society or contact Sarah James, Manager of Individual Giving and Events at 303.320.5056.



UNITED AIRLINES FANTASY FLIGHT

In December, several Warren Village children and their parents enjoyed a flight to the North Pole. Well, almost. For decades, United Airlines has been flying children afflicted by illness, poverty, and special needs on its annual Fantasy Flights.

Occurring in several United hubs, the Fantasy Flights transport kids to an entirely new world, complete with singing and dancing, toys, crafts and Santa Claus himself. The children and their families have the opportunity to board an actual aircraft, take a short flight, then land at a hangar that has been magically transformed into the North Pole.

“United Airlines has enjoyed finding fun and exciting ways of supporting the residents of Warren Village and we were thrilled to include some in our annual Fantasy Flight event this year,” said Amy Shaughnessy, Manager of Corporate & Community Affairs at United Airlines. “Our employees have embraced this organization wholeheartedly and it was such a treat for us to host families for a day of fun at the North Pole! United is proud of our relationship with Warren Village and their work to end the cycle of homelessness.”



WARREN  VILLAGE

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*Save
the Date*

WARREN VILLAGE FALL GALA



Saturday, September 28, 2019
The Ritz Carlton, Downtown Denver

Transformational Sponsor

