

THE VILLAGER

✕ SUMMER 2019



Tammy Abramovitz, WV Trustee; with Mindy and Marzyeh, Warren Village residents who were granted scholarships from the Warren Village Board of Trustees.

RISING STRONG

Warren Village Honoring Evening

Single-parent residents and their children are the heart and purpose of our work. Celebrating their successes and achievements is one of our great joys. On May 14th, more than 200 awards were given out at our annual Honoring Evening. The awards range from "Rising Star" to "Mountain Mover" and "Community Member of the Year." Interspersed throughout the evening this year were musical performances and an extraordinary poetry reading.

In addition, \$11,000 in scholarships that were generously provided by the Women's Forum of Colorado, the Delta Sigma Theta Geri Brown Memorial, and the Warren Village Board of Trustees, were awarded to residents and alumna. It would be hard to overemphasize how emotional and powerful the evening was. The descriptions of the accomplishments, the challenges, and the Herculean efforts put forth by our residents during the past year reminded us of the motivational impact of hope. Our residents and alumni leverage each and every day the opportunity that Warren Village affords them. And they are driven by the hope which is unrelenting in their hearts. As our resident Reba told us that night, "Warren Village is where I was given the skills, tools, and the resources to write my own story." The evening was a joyful acknowledgment of the achievements, growth, and determination that is Warren Village.



Warren Village alumna Katie Beckman and her son Therin who performed a song called "Have it All." Katie will complete her degree in Computer Information Systems in the Fall of 2019.



Carli Cisna, mpowered coach; Annette, Warren Village resident receiving the "Keys to Success" award; and Lynn Halfmann, Family Advocate.

COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS SHARE THEIR PROFESSIONAL PURSUITS WITH RESIDENTS

As part of our holistic approach, residents of Warren Village attend three evening Life Skills Classes per month. They can choose from a variety of subjects including health, relationships, career services, nutrition, wellness, organizational skills, parenting, leadership, and communication skills. It may surprise you to learn 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.

Please meet two of our incredible volunteer facilitators, Christine Thai and Megan Alwine, who teach Life Skills Classes as part of our EmploymentU Initiative. The two, in addition to one other facilitator, Holly Hall, lead a three-part series focused on resume/cover letter writing, job search/networking, and interviewing skills.

Christine, who originally began volunteering at Warren Village when she was in high school, credits the effectiveness of her teaching with spending a lot of one-on-one time with each of her students, and focuses on creating time and space for her students to think about their future aspirations, develop their personal "brand," and learn more about using tools like LinkedIn to help them achieve their goals.

Megan, whose day job as a marketer, recruiter, and executive coach focuses largely on teaching behavioral interviewing skills and identifying networking tactics, admits networking can feel awkward and forced. She teaches her students that acknowledgment is the first step to fixing the mindset towards effective networking.

Both Christine and Megan are incredibly inspired and motivated by their students, noting how attentive, eager, and receptive each one is to achieving their short-and long-term goals. If you are interested in learning more about becoming a volunteer facilitator, please contact Molly Barfuss at mbarfuss@warrenvillage.org or call 303.320.5032.

"I attended EmploymentU when I first came to Warren Village. It was a great experience for me. We shared a few life experiences along with creating a resume that fits us and our previous jobs. I was also taught how to create a cover letter for the first time. Great experience and nice learning environment."

- T'ommy, Warren Village Resident



Christine Thai Way, Value Realization Lead, Digital Performance at Kaiser Permanente



Megan Alwine, MBA, PCC, certified executive coach, formerly Assistant Director, Graduate Career Management University of Colorado, Boulder Leeds School of Business



Caden Brester is one of the most inspiring young men we have met! He has devoted countless hours over the past 8 months, including standing in front of storefronts for donations, to complete his Boy Scouts of America Eagle Scout Service Project. His goal was to provide each Warren Village child with a drawstring backpack filled with activities, games, and toys. In his words, "things that the kids can call their own and use while they're getting back on their feet. Things that will hopefully help them feel more at home." Thank you Caden!



NON-PERISHABLE FOOD DONATIONS NEEDED FOR THE **FOOD PANTRY**

Food donations must be unexpired, unopened, and shelf-stable. Examples include canned goods, dry pasta, rice, snacks, and baby formula. Food donations will go directly to our residents.

Please schedule your delivery by calling Molly Barfuss at mbarfuss@warrenvillage.org or call 303.320.5032.

IN UNITY, THERE IS STRENGTH

From our President & CEO

Dear Supporters, Friends and Community members,

If one word can encapsulate this edition of our Villager newsletter, I think it must be “partnership.” It would be hard not to be struck by the sheer volume and clear diversity of partnerships that are on display in this edition. Page after page of people and organizations working within the Warren Village model to create opportunity for the residents and alumni of our 45 year “strong” presence in Denver. Each partnership is truly unique and meets a different aspect of need. Yet, all of these amazing people are unified in their devotion to our residents and their belief that, together, we can create lasting change in our community.



Denver, as you and I know, is a vibrant city that continues to grow in popularity and in many measures of civic success. We also know the demand for supportive services and affordable housing has not diminished, making our work even more vital. My commitment to our community is to steadfastly pursue quality in services to those we serve and concurrently seek ways we can serve more people in Denver.

We are honored that you and so many have joined us in this pursuit. We can clearly state that it is only with your support and partnership that so much has been, and can be, accomplished in our community.

With warmest regards,

Ethan Hemming
President and CEO



Mark Your Calendar!

Colorado Gives Day unites all Coloradans in a common goal to strengthen the state's nonprofits by giving to their favorite charities online. The state's largest community giving movement has raised a total of \$217 million since its inception in 2010.

ALL COPY PRODUCTS HOSTS TOURNAMENT TO BENEFIT WARREN VILLAGE

On Friday, June 7th, ACP hosted their 6th Annual Charity Golf Tournament with title sponsor, Konica Minolta. More than 130 people enjoyed a silent auction and 18 holes of golf at Lone Tree Golf Course to help raise funds for Warren Village.

“This is our 3rd year supporting Warren Village, one of my favorite organizations with whom to partner. Being our 6th year putting on this event, I am always grateful for our volunteers who work tirelessly for weeks to ensure that this event is a success. Of course, this event would not be possible without the support of our donors and sponsors, and on behalf of everyone at ACP, I would like to thank all of them for helping us raise funds for such an important cause.” said Brad Knepper, ACP President & CEO

The tournament raised \$37,518 for Warren Village families.

Thank you to the following sponsors who made this event possible:

Title Sponsor: Konica Minolta; Platinum Sponsor: Richie May; Gold Sponsors: Great America, Bryan Construction + MOA, Pear Workplaces, and DLL; Silver Sponsors: Denver Broncos, Kansas City Chiefs, Colorado Rockies, ACDI – PaperCut, Enterprise, Printer Logic, PBR, RSI, Mitel, Mutual of Omaha, IMA, North Highland Consulting, Warren Village Board of Directors, Officescapes, and Lockton; Hole Sponsors: Demand Telemarketing, Muratec, Cushman Wakefield, Mike Ward Infinity, and SDR Ventures



Ethan Hemming, WV President & CEO; Sandy Harvath, WV Trustee; Kyle Craig, WV Board Chair; and Jo Ann Marsh, WV Manager of Administration.

Q&A WITH LONG-TIME WARREN VILLAGE SUPPORTER, SUSAN A. WILLIAMS, ORGANIZER OF THE ANNUAL CENTURYLINK SHOE DRIVE

Last May, for the 13th consecutive year, CenturyLink's Women Empowered group collected new shoes for the children of Warren Village. The campaign was a huge success as 260 pairs of shoes were collected. CenturyLink's Susan A. Williams, Senior Lead Analyst in Littleton, answers our questions.

How did you learn about Warren Village and the need for such a drive? When I first became involved with the shoe drive in 2006, Bridget O'Toole sat on the Board of Trustees for Warren Village. Bridget ran the shoe drive for three years before leaving CenturyLink (formerly known as US WEST-QWEST). At that time, I was asked to run the shoe drive by our Women's Employee Resource Group and have been the lead on this annual project for the past ten years.

I have had the opportunity to work with many employees here at CenturyLink. Within five of our Denver locations, we have teams of employees who collect the shoes. Some band together and use the shoe drive as a team building event. We even have employees who will take up to 25 children and contribute to the drive with their families.



Susan fitting a child in the Learning Center with her new shoes.

Is there a special memory you would like to share about a child or resident family? It is very exciting each year as I watch children progress through the Warren Village Learning Center and the happiness I feel watching their eyes light up when they get new shoes! I have watched employees advance and grow into positions at Warren Village and that is wonderful to see as well.



2019 Shoe Drive Volunteers

Tell us more the CenturyLink Women Empowered group.

The CenturyLink Women's Employee Resource Group is part of our culture and has survived many company adjustments and growth. CenturyLink Women Empowered gives us a competitive edge with our talented employees to improve lives, strengthen the business, and connect with communities. We do this by supporting our members and leveraging their strengths by providing:

- Exceptional developmental programs
- Leadership experience through community service
- Strong connections through networking and mentoring
- A partnership with the Local Markets and Corporate Social Responsibility teams to support CenturyLink community initiatives and marketing efforts
- Access to executive leadership information sessions

Over the past 13 years, CenturyLink has provided more than 2,500 shoes and roughly \$450,000 in hours donated.

How does this project make you feel? Helping the employees of CenturyLink commit and succeed in the donation and distribution of the shoes to Warren Village is a highlight on my annual achievements. It's rewarding to be able to make a huge impact with these donations and at the same time, bring our employees together for such a great cause. This project has been an important bridge to my leadership as they've helped me spread the word throughout the company.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Warren Village is tremendously grateful to our Board of Trustees for their tireless work to advance the mission of the organization. Under Chair, 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 this spring: Lou Trebino, Principal at KPMG LLC; Mike Walters, Regional Retail Bank Leader at Key Bank; and Shalyn Kettering, Attorney at Davis Graham and Stubbs.



Lou Trebino



Mike Walters



Shalyn Kettering



A big thank you to outgoing members Mary Wells and Tracey Stewart (pictured left) who played an integral role over the past 6 years.

We are deeply saddened by the passing of honorary trustee, Margaret Burnett. We offer our deepest condolences to her family and friends.

For a complete listing of our board members, please visit WarrenVillage.org/board-of-trustees.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS STRENGTHEN OUR COLLECTIVE EFFORTS

Warren Village First Step residents are learning cooking skills and healthy eating tips in our current series of Life Skills Classes. This class series combines an array of community partnerships:

- Cooking Matters, an organization dedicated to teaching low-income families skills for cooking and eating healthy meals, will be teaching cooking skills as well as strategies for making nutritious meals on a budget.
- Frontline Farming, an organic farm located on the property next to First Step, will donate fresh vegetables from the gardens to be incorporated into each cooking class and meal.
- Aria Cohousing, an intentional housing community around the corner from First Step, has offered their community kitchen to host the cooking classes and meals.

First Step Life Skills Classes are typically hosted only for our residents, but we opened this up to our neighbors by inviting people from the mixed-income housing units in Aria Apartments, residents of Aria cohousing, volunteers with Frontline Farming, and people who visit our community No Cost Grocery. We quickly filled up 20 spots in the class with First Step's neighbors in the Chaffee Park community.

During our first night of class, participants learned basic knife skills, the importance of following the USDA's dietary guidelines, and two new recipes for an apple salad and vegetable wraps with avocado crème. Everyone enjoyed the meal while connecting with community neighbors in lively conversation ranging from family recipes to experiences working in the food industry.

At First Step, we believe a part of creating stability and success for our residents involves building strong community support through partnerships with other organizations and businesses, fostering support among residents, and engagement with volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering with First Step residents, please contact Siona Stone at ssone@warrenvillage.org. If you are interested in hosting a Community Night by providing a meal for residents on the last Monday of the month, please contact Molly Barfuss at mbarfuss@warrenvillage.org.

Warren Village First Step is a transitional housing program that functions under the comprehensive program model of Warren Village.



Elizabeth Alden, Cooking Matters instructor, teaches knife skills to a First Step resident.

FAMILY NIGHTS - A WARREN VILLAGE TRADITION

Family and Community Nights are excellent opportunities for volunteers to engage with our resident families. This is an ideal experience for corporate groups, community groups, and families. Hosts provide dinner and an activity for 30-45 families at Warren Village or for 13 families at our First Step location. 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 last Monday of every month from 6:00-7:30 PM. If you are interested in hosting a Family or Community Night, please email Molly Barfuss at mbarfuss@warrenvillage.org or call 303.320.5032. A few of our recent Family Nights were hosted by these amazing companies:



Johns Manville



The Denver Broncos



IQ Wired

IT'S BEEN A BUSY SPRING - PHOTO GALLERY EVENTS



Dr. Everette J. Freeman, President of the Community College of Denver (CCD), and Ethan Hemming, CEO at our June event celebrating the 5 year anniversary of our College to Career program that includes a partnership with CCD to provide on-site classes.



Stephanie Tedy, Senior VP Corporate Social Responsibility, Bank of the West; and Carla Godec, Program Officer of the Anschutz Foundation at our Spring Donor Appreciation event at the ART Hotel in April.



Mark Waddell, WV Trustee; Rod and Phyllis Wicklund; and Joe Bagan, WV Trustee and CEO, STAQ Pharma, at our Spring Donor Appreciation event at the ART Hotel in April.



Ethan Hemming, CEO and Erica deDufour, Program & Evaluation Specialist with Habab (pictured center) who shared her powerful story as a resident and news about her recent graduation with a Master's Degree in System & Information Technology at our Spring Donor event in April.



Kyle Craig, WV Board Chair with Warren Village supporters Katy and Josh Whalen at our annual Summer Garden Party in July.



Shalyn Kettering, WV Trustee and Attorney, Davis Graham and Stubbs, Charlie Kettering and Dr. Jody Mathie, a longtime Warren Village supporter, who graciously hosted our Summer Garden Party in her beautiful home.



Annette, Warren Village resident who shared her journey, challenges, and many accomplishments while at Warren Village, with her daughter, Zaidah, at our Summer Garden Party.



Gayle Greer, retired Trustee with the Daniels Fund, and Caroline Turner, WV Trustee and Principal, DifferenceWORKS, LLC, at our Summer Garden Party in July.

CELEBRATING AMAZING VOLUNTEERS

In May 2019 we thanked and acknowledged our dedicated volunteers at our annual Volunteer Appreciation celebration. More than 90 volunteers, trustees, and staff attended this lively event at the Mercury Café. Each year close to 1,000 volunteers contribute more than 13,000 hours of service that directly supports our mission and the families we serve.

WARREN VILLAGE

Volunteers of the Year

United Airlines Alumna of the Year – Kelly Shanley

Youth Volunteer of the Year – Sarah Hoffer

Kids' Club Volunteer of the Year – Alex Forke

Resident Volunteer of the Year – Raissa Damtse

Legacy Volunteer of the Year – Tracy Graf

First Step Volunteer Group of the Year –

Fatuma Emmad & Frontline Farming

Volunteer Group of the Year - United Airlines

Volunteer of the Year – Linda Marsh



NEWLY AWARDED GRANT WILL INCREASE LONG TERM HOUSING STABILIZATION FOR WARREN VILLAGE FAMILIES

In June, the Colorado Health Foundation awarded us a grant which enables us to launch a new Housing Stabilization Initiative.

This \$275,908 two-year grant will ensure that the low-income single-parent families served by Warren Village exit our transitional housing program into permanent, stable housing. The grant will also ensure alumni remain stably housed for at least five years post-program.

"It is well known that our state's affordable housing crisis is impacting all regions of Colorado. The Foundation is dedicated to improving the health of Coloradans living on low income and increasing access to affordable housing is critical for people to have what they need to be healthy," shared Monica Beltran, Colorado Health Foundation program officer. "A stable, affordable and healthy home should be a right for all Coloradans."



Katie M. Goodwin, WV Trustee, Tracy Graf, Legacy Volunteer of the Year, and Andy Adamsbaum.



Annette Davis, WV Trustee, Angela Coleman, former Warren Village Trustee, and Molly Barfuss, Volunteer Services Coordinator and organizer of the Volunteer Appreciation event.



Amy Shaughnessy, Manager – Global Community Engagement, United Airlines presenting the Alumna Volunteer of the Year award to Kelly Shanley; with Elise Matatall, Alumni Navigator.



Linda Marsh, recipient of the Volunteer of the Year award with Jessie Asimus, Accounting and HR Assistant; and Jo Ann Marsh, Manager of Administration, and Linda's sister.

ALTRIA SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE



The Altria Group hosted its fifth annual Warren Village School Supply Drive on July 16th. More than 60 volunteers stuffed 120 bags with school supplies for each Warren Village student, so they will now have the tools they need to succeed! Thank you Altria!



WARREN  VILLAGE

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