

THE VILLAGER

❖ WINTER 2020

CONNECTING WITH THE SPIRIT OF THE HOLIDAY SEASON

December 14th marked the 32nd annual Warren Village Holiday Shop as hundreds of volunteers, donors, staff, and resident families celebrated at Park Hill United Methodist Church.

This event is made possible by the incredible support of hundreds of community members and creates lasting memories for our families.

We continued a new tradition of offering community meals, provided by some amazingly generous local companies and their staff, who all had a great time serving our families. Thank you **Haselden Construction, BNP Paribas, and Brothers BBQ!**

Musical performances by Katherine Oaks, Brandon Jay, and David Ochoa, and a special appearance from several princesses from Wands and Wishes Occasions, made this already heart-warming day even more special.

To top it all off, our Director of Family Services, Elyse Montgomery, ensured each family could have a formal family portrait, capturing these holiday memories for years to come.



First time Holiday Shop volunteer, Andrea Price Herbert, explores the many treasures laid out to help Warren Village resident, Amanda Vigil, with gift selections for her three daughters.



Resident family Tashala Coley and her sons' holiday portrait.

HOLIDAY SHOP BY THE NUMBERS



Warren Village Families Served: 178

Volunteers: 250

Adult Gifts Donated: 300+

Kid Gifts Donated: 2,500+

Monetary Donations: \$3,365

Gift Card Donations: \$3,859

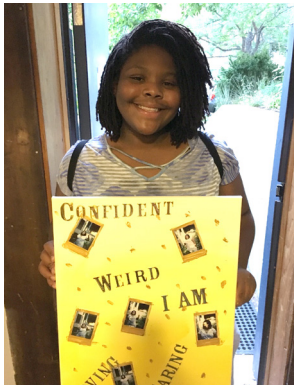


Dedicated volunteers, Lise Crowell and Floyd Fishleigh, return to Holiday Shop for the 6th time as Gift Wrappers. It looks like they have perfected their craft – just look at those clean lines!

WARREN ❖ VILLAGE

HIGHLY DEDICATED VOLUNTEERS PROVIDING ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR OUR SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN

Kids' Club provides school-age children (ages 7-18) residing at Warren Village with academic support and recreational, cultural, and socio-emotional activities after school and during the summer. Through partnerships with organizations like Girls on the Run, Skate Pass, and Yoga for the People, we are able to maximize available resources to help these kids thrive. Kids' Club also organizes fun monthly events such as pizza and movie night, talent shows, and dance competitions.



Two of our longtime volunteers, Kathleen Bohland and Lynn Bronikowski, facilitate a monthly Girls' Art Club. "What began as a book club seven years ago, evolved into an art club," said Kathleen. "The book club just wasn't practical given that we have such a wide range of age groups." Together Lynn and Kathleen choose craft projects that can be done in a little over an hour and provide dinner and dessert. Turns out the girls like socializing just as much as the art. "It's fun for me to volunteer and be around girls of many cultures. I love hearing their stories, watching them interact with each other, and observing first-hand their creative talents through the art projects we do each month," said Lynn. "They are so inspiring."



Lynn and Kathleen are always excited to see new faces and hear new stories. "I particularly enjoy working with girls because I have a daughter myself, who is now 23 and in graduate school out of state," said Kathleen. "Working with these girls reminds me of the fun times I've had with my own daughter. I also think it's very important to give girls kindness and attention at an early age so they grow up believing in themselves. And I believe Lynn and I learn a lot from the girls too!"

CORPORATE PARTNERS GIVING BACK

As we grow, it's important for us to understand our overall level of awareness in the Denver community, as well as what motivates our many supporters to give to Warren Village. To answer these questions and more, we recently engaged with Denver-based Monigle, one of the nation's leading independent brand consultancies.

"We're excited to donate our time and expertise to a local organization that is a true problem solver, one that takes a holistic approach to making a lasting change in families' lives." – Dave Middendorf, Director, Strategy and Insights

Insights from this study have provided a powerful foundation for generating increased awareness strategies and promoting the vital services we provide to our community. We are grateful to Monigle for providing this work pro bono, and look forward to continued partnership as we put our brand and mission to work improving lives in the Denver Community.

monigle



For the second year in a row, Lands' End, a retailer of casual clothing, accessories, footwear, and home products, donated 116 winterproof jackets to families at Warren Village. Each family had the opportunity to browse and select one Lands' End coat for each family member, along with one pair of snow pants.

"Because of Land's End, we will have the necessary items to work, play, and attend school in this Colorado weather."
– Lisa, Warren Village Resident

BIG THINGS ON THE HORIZON

From our President & CEO

Dear Supporters, Friends and Community members,

Warren Village, like many organizations, continually balances the desire to serve more families while also providing the highest quality Two-Generation (2Gen) programming to our current resident families. Our staff and board work daily to optimize the quality of our programs, expand the visibility of our organization, and identify ways in which we can increase the impact of our 2Gen approach. To that end, we are fortunate to have corporate and foundation partners who provide strategic vision, guidance, and recommendations in all of these areas.



A year ago, we concluded an in-depth “program quality review” with the pro bono help of North Highland Worldwide Consulting, and have been working since then to prioritize and implement their recommendations as they relate to increased efficiency and improved resident outcomes. In the fall, we conducted a brand awareness survey with the pro bono help of Denver-based Monigle, one of the nation's leading independent brand consultancies. And we recently partnered with Urban Ventures, and our Growth Task Force, to help us explore the feasibility of expanding our services with a third location. Granted, there is a long road ahead on expansion, but increasing the number of families we serve has always been at the forefront of our vision. You can read more about all of these exciting initiatives in this issue.

With your support, we are committed to serving our community in a strategic and results-oriented way. Thank you for being a part of this important work building brighter, more stable lives for our resident families. Please enjoy the Winter issue of The Villager!

With warmest regards,



Ethan Hemming, President and CEO

GEARING UP FOR GROWTH

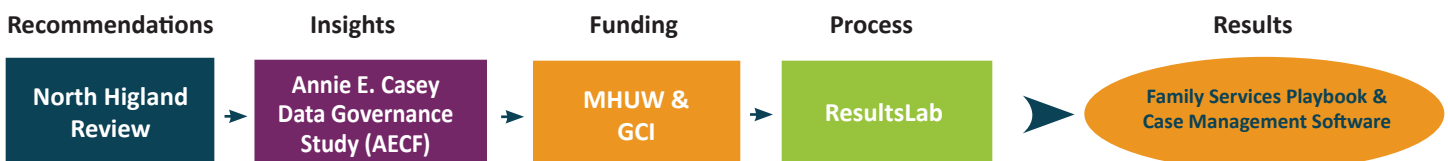
The “long road ahead” on expansion of the Warren Village program has always been driven by two strong desires: to improve the quality of our services and broaden the impact of our work. Through a collaboration of corporate, foundation, and nonprofit partners in 2019, we embarked on a multi-phase journey to prepare for future growth, with a focus on maintaining fidelity to our program model.

North Highland Worldwide Consulting completed a detailed Family Services analysis and provided us with recommendations and a roadmap to address operational improvements including data management, staff organization structure, knowledge sharing, and process definition to support large-scale replication. After participating in a 6-month study on data governance and with funding from Mile High United Way (MHUW) and Gary Community Investments (GCI), Warren Village engaged ResultsLab to help create the data mind set, learning agenda, process documentation, and tool set needed for programmatic growth and success.



Each resident who comes to Warren Village is paired with a Family Advocate who provides support, coaching, and goal planning on a monthly basis.

The result? We selected an innovative custom case management software solution in tandem with the creation of a Family Services “Playbook” to provide, and eventually expand, consistent, high-quality program delivery – a program that will ultimately yield positive, long-term, measurable outcomes for our residents. There is still so much work to be done, but we’ve taken some of our first steps. And we’re excited for you to join us on the journey!



CELEBRATING SUBSTANTIAL LAND DONATION TO WARREN VILLAGE FIRST STEP

In October, Urban Ventures, LLC and Perry Rose, LLC, donated the 9,000-sq-ft building and land on the Aria Denver campus in northwest Denver which currently houses the Warren Village First Step Program. The donation, valued at just over \$1.6 million, allows us to continue to operate at this location for many years to come.



The First Step program has been on the Aria Denver campus since 2007 when the property was owned by the Sisters of St. Francis and operated as the Marycrest Convent. First Step is a one-year community living program for women with children, serving 11 families at a time. First Step offers many of the same program components as living on-site at Warren Village, minus an on-site learning center. The program is funded in partnership with the City and County of Denver's Department of Housing Stability.

"The First Step program is an integral part of the Aria Denver community and our commitment to create and preserve a mixed income neighborhood. We value our relationship with Warren Village and believe that by donating the property to them, they will be in the best position to continue the First Step program at Aria," said Susan Powers, president of Urban Ventures.



PROGRAMMATIC FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Adult Self-Sufficiency – College to Career Initiative

The College to Career Initiative at Warren Village is the backbone of our adult self-sufficiency program. The singular focus is helping our low-income, at-risk single parents achieve post-secondary success. Every resident at Warren Village must pursue college coursework (or workforce certification) full time, work full time, or a combination of both. For those pursuing college, initial courses are offered on site through our partnership with the Community College of Denver.

Each year, approximately 70% of residents are actively engaged in college coursework on our campus or on the downtown Auraria campus. In our last fiscal year, nearly 60% of the residents leaving our program had either completed a degree or made reasonable progress towards a degree at the time of exit. Based on longitudinal surveys, over 30% of residents who had left Warren Village in the last five years reported completing a degree or workforce certificate.

Aspiring "Lead Teacher" Initiative

Warren Village faces many of the same challenges that learning centers throughout metro Denver face. Central among them is the quest for attracting and retaining quality teachers. The essential elements of this initiative are: competitive salary and benefits package (including 403b match), continuing education scholarship, monthly professional development, and ongoing coaching support. By offering a more competitive salary, coupled with ongoing professional development and continuing education scholarships, we hope to improve our outcomes and retention of quality staff.

If you are interested in funding these initiatives or learning more about other programmatic opportunities, please contact Sydney Futrell at 303.320.5057 or sfutrell@warrenvillage.org.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES NEWS

Warren Village is tremendously grateful to our Board of Trustees for their tireless work to advance the mission of the organization. Under Board Chair Kyle Craig's leadership, our trustees 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.



Mike Burnell



Kevin Hobbs

We welcomed two new members this fall: Mike Burnell, Senior Vice President, Wells Fargo Bank, and Kevin Hobbs, Vice President, Membership, Marketing, Travel & Communications, AAA Colorado.

A big thank you to outgoing member, Linda Cavanagh from AAA Colorado, who played an integral role over the past two years.

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

MANY VOICES, MANY PASSIONS: INSPIRATION FROM OUR SUPPORTERS

"After being introduced to Warren Village six years ago, my wife Kelly and I immediately recognized what a huge impact the organization has on our community. It is truly a hand up, not a hand out, organization. It is an honor for us to invest in the residents' and their children's academic and personal successes. Philanthropy is important to us, and we know that through education, the sky is the limit. We look forward to giving to Warren Village for many years to come." – Gabriel Schwartz, Partner at Justice for Colorado, and long-time supporter



"Warren Village was a safe place for me and my two small children. As a young single mom, I was able to focus on my goals and make a better life for me and my kids. If you want to offer a hand up to families, join me in giving what you can. Your gift has a powerful and lasting impact." – Annette Davis, Nurse Educator, Nurse-Family Partnership, National Service Office, former WV resident, current WV trustee, and long-time supporter

EXCITED FOR THEIR BRIGHTER TOMORROW

After two years at Warren Village, Hiba and her daughter Zimaya (pictured top right) were fortunate to receive a Housing Choice Voucher allowing them to find a safe and affordable rental apartment in Lowry. Hiba is dedicated to continue her position transporting non-emergency patients to various treatment and diagnostic appointments throughout the Denver metro area.



After three years at Warren Village, Jami and her daughter Jayda (pictured bottom right) have moved into a beautiful apartment, after receiving a Housing Choice Voucher. Jami is currently attending the Community College of Denver (CCD) and is continuing her college courses, working towards an associate's degree in biology. Jami also serves as the CCD representative on the Student Advisory Committee to the Auraria Board. CCD, MSU Denver and UC Denver each have two SACAB representatives every academic year.



Both Jayda and Zimaya will have the opportunity to continue in the Learning Center until they reach pre-school age. And, both families will have continued support from our Alumni Navigator and the opportunity to participate in the Warren Village Alumni Engagement Network, which provides a structured and supportive pathway for alumni to engage with and support Warren Village in meaningful ways.

FAMILY AND COMMUNITY 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. Community Nights at First Step are held on the last Monday of every month from 6:00-7:30 PM. A few of our recent Family Nights were hosted by these amazing companies:



Saunders Construction



United Airlines



Bank of America

If you or your organization are interested in hosting a Family or Community Night, please contact Molly Barfuss at 303.320.5032 or mbarfuss@warrenvillage.org.

TAKING FLIGHT FALL GALA - SEPTEMBER 28, 2019



It was another truly epic Warren Village Taking Flight Fall Gala. More than 375 people came together at the Ritz-Carlton Denver to raise \$367,000 for Warren Village families in need.



Our galas are a family affair! Pictured here are several incredible teachers, residents, alumni, Elyse Montgomery, our director of family services, and front and center is Gloria Neal, our emcee and WV trustee, with Christine Benero, the evening's honoree.



Kacy Grady, learning center teacher and Carmyn White, whose mom, Jasmine, was our alumna speaker.



Jasmine White, alumna speaker, Ethan Hemming, president & CEO, Mayor Michael B. Hancock, and Carmyn and Jordyn White.



Angela Coleman, former WV trustee and gala committee member, enjoying the event with her husband, Ty Colman.



Josh and Katy Whalen, and Ethan Hemming, president & CEO.

YOUNG LEADERS LEAP YEAR LUAU SPRING FUNDRAISER

On February 18th, the Young Leaders group hosted their annual fundraising event at Illegal Pete's on Colfax, raising more than \$2,200 for Warren Village residents. It was a very festive luau-themed event, complete with grass skirts and a limbo contest!

Illegal Pete's generously donated 50% of the proceeds from all food and drink sales during the event.



Molly Barfuss, volunteer services coordinator, Hannah Walcher, and Zach Swaffer, Young Leaders members.



Whitney Whitson and Kelly Shanley, former WV residents who volunteer their time at events, with the Young Leaders group, and mentoring current residents.

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

WELCOMING NEW TEACHER FROM TEACH FOR AMERICA



This fall, through a collaborative partnership with Teach For America (TFA), we welcomed Nora Silva as a teacher in our Head Start classroom.

"Every student, regardless of identity, deserves access to an equitable educational journey, and I am so grateful to TFA for guiding me through this process of learning what that equity looks like in my classroom."

NEWLY AWARDED GRANT

Warren Village was recently awarded a \$75,000 grant from the Hearst Foundations, which supports the work of the Family Services department including the expansion of the Wellness Initiative and Alumni Services. We are grateful to benefit from the Hearst family's extraordinary legacy.

HEARST foundations

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.

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.

In 2017, United Airlines selected Warren Village as their Denver partner for a four-year philanthropic investment designed to create profound and sustainable advancements in our work through capacity building, quality assurance, and programmatic expansion.

WARREN  VILLAGE

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TAKING FLIGHT
GALA 2020

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All Proceeds benefit Warren Village families. Please call 303.320.5034 for more information.