

THE VILLAGER

❖ WINTER 2022

INNOVATIVE PARTNERSHIP WITH DENVER HOUSING AUTHORITY WILL ALLOW FOR FUTURE EXPANSION OF SERVICES AT A THIRD LOCATION

As the cost of living in the Denver area continues to grow at an unprecedented rate, thousands of hard-working, single parents are finding themselves unable to secure safe and affordable housing in our city. People of color are especially vulnerable to this trend, which is forcing many to move farther away from employment and education opportunities, dissolving historically diverse communities. Warren Village, in partnership with the Denver Housing Authority (DHA) and the City and County of Denver, is stepping up to offer a solution. With community investment, our signature Two-Generation (2Gen) supportive services and housing program will expand to a third site in Southwest Denver.



In November, Warren Village was awarded land to expand its operations through the DHA Delivers for Denver (D3) Bond initiative. The new campus will feature 74 apartment homes (mainly 2- and 3-bedrooms), an Early Learning Center that can serve more than 100 children at a time, community meeting space, college and workforce training classrooms, private rooms for one-on-one counseling, space for partner programming, and some administrative offices for staff.

The new facilities will include all of the elements for 2Gen success including: trauma-responsive practices, diversity, equity, and inclusivity practices, early learning, asset-based, individualized coaching and life skills, programmatic partnerships, and community integration.

Warren Village is committed to raising \$5 million in the next 18 months to help fund selected construction and supportive services at this new campus through a capital campaign. Additional funding for construction will come from the sale of federal 4% tax credits, equity generated from the sale of Colorado state Affordable Housing Tax Credits, a loan sourced from Private Activity Bonds, funds from the Colorado Division of Housing and the Denver Department of Housing Stability, and deferred developer fees.

Project Timeline



DONOR SPOTLIGHT - MEET THE WHALENS

In 2017, newly married couple, Josh & Katy Whalen, came to Warren Village looking for a community in which they felt they could connect and grow. They were lucky to be raised in loving and supportive families but also understood all too well with the financial struggles that burden so many young families. Early on in Josh's career he took some big risks that paid off and they knew they wanted to share some of their success with those that could use a hand up. Warren Village touched their hearts, and they found a community they connected with and a mission they believed in.



Fast forward to 2020 and the onset of the COVID pandemic. The Whalen's four healthcare clinics didn't survive. They decided they needed to pivot and go virtual. That is when Blokes Modern Men's Health and Joi Women's Wellness were launched. They started their companies with a philanthropic core in mind. They believe that community is important to raise up individuals and families and for responsible businesses, especially in the newer space of the virtual world.

Both Blokes and Joi are hoping to revolutionize the industry from a sick care model to a proactive health care model. They offer comprehensive diagnostic labs to take a deep dive into all essential functions and to determine what can be improved through small everyday changes. They focus on optimizing hormones and offer innovative prescription peptide therapies. Treatments range from weight loss to anti-aging to healing and cognitive function. Check them out at www.blokes.co and www.choosejoi.co.

LANDS' END STEPS UP FOR THE THIRD YEAR TO KEEP OUR RESIDENTS WARM

Over the course of our three-year partnership with Lands' End, the company has donated \$102,500 worth of winter coats, boots, and snow pants to Warren Village residents.

Lands' End is a retailer of casual clothing, accessories, footwear, and home products.

"We look forward to the Lands' End Coat Drive every year! These are much-needed items my family needs to work, play, and attend school in this Colorado weather."
— Kristen, Warren Village Resident



EARTH BREEZE IS KEEPING IT CLEAN AND ECO-FRIENDLY



Earth Breeze has donated \$18,000 worth of their amazing eco-friendly laundry products to Warren Village families! Earth Breeze donates TEN loads of laundry detergent for every package purchased.

"I love this laundry detergent and I no longer have to walk home from the store with those heavy jugs!"
— Julia, Warren Village Resident

WHEN ASPIRATIONS BECOME REALITY

From our President & CEO

Dear Friends and Supporters,

I am honored to serve the Warren Village community and am excited to be sending this newsletter out to our amazing group of donors and volunteers. You know I love any chance to share the good work that is going on in our Warren Village family. I am especially excited about our recent success in acquiring land from the Denver Housing Authority that will ultimately house our 3rd 2Gen campus. We are making great progress on this development project in partnership with Urban Ventures, our guide in this process. Our architect Shears Adkins Rockmore (SAR) continues to refine the initial designs, and we recently selected a wonderful general contractor - Deneuve Construction. We're getting input and ideas from our staff, board, and those we serve – a very inclusive process. There is much work ahead (as the timeline in this edition indicates) but we are optimistic we will be initiating service to 74 families in need in mid-2024. Please continue to follow our progress through updates on our website at WarrenVillage.org/growth.



While we are putting a lot of energy into our future campus, our amazing staff are 110% devoted to our current families and programs. Each day, with your investments and support, we are able to provide life-changing supportive services, coaching, guidance, and education to hard working single parents and their children. At the heart of the Warren Village model is the power of opportunity. With you, we can provide opportunity for change and growth. It is the hard work of those we serve that drives their lives forward to new horizons and increased self-sufficiency.

I hope you can spend a few minutes with this newsletter. You will find updates on our ongoing Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) work, our recent holiday celebration with our amazing partners at United Airlines and BNP Paribas, our newest Board member, and the accomplishment of a very special teacher in our four-star Early Learning Center. You will also get a chance to know fellow donors in our donor spotlight section. Regardless of what grabs your attention, it is my fervent hope that you will find yourself in these pages. For without you, none of this would be possible.

In partnership,

Ethan Hemming, President & CEO



Feb. 24, 2022: MILE HIGH UNITED WAY INVESTS \$1 MILLION TO SUPPORT THE CONSTRUCTION OF AN EARLY LEARNING CENTER AT THIRD WARREN VILLAGE CAMPUS.
Read More: WarrenVillage.org/newsroom

GET READY FOR OUR 2022 SPRING GALA!

Mark your calendar for our "Listen to My Story" Spring Gala on Saturday, April 30, 2022, at the Hyatt Regency, Denver Tech Center. This year's theme is a celebration of the rich diversity in the journeys that each of our single parents experience in the process of transforming their own lives and the intersection to finding Warren Village.

The evening's distinguished honoree is Erin Brown (pictured right), Vice President of Community Investment and Impact of the Colorado Health Foundation. Warren Village will recognize Ms. Brown for her more than 25 years working on behalf of Colorado families, particularly around early education and social equity and inclusion. Ms. Brown served as Denver's first Chief Equity Officer under Mayor Michael B. Hancock.



The event will include a lively cocktail reception, heartwarming testimonials from families, a delicious seated dinner, a coffee and dessert bar, a live auction hosted by Gary Corbett, and dancing to live music by Hazel Miller & the Collective.

Tickets on sale NOW at WarrenVillage.org/gala. If you are interested in donating an item for our live auction, please contact Austin Locke at 303.320.5056 or alocke@warrenvillage.org.

INCLUSIVITY IS A JOURNEY NOT A DESTINATION

By Alexandria Wilson, MSW
Bill Emerson National Hunger Fellow

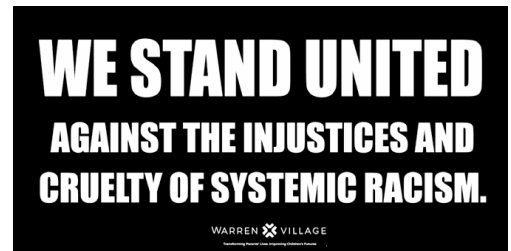
Upon beginning my role as an Emerson Fellow at Warren Village I had some concerns. I was coming into this new environment as an outsider from Chicago and not knowing much about Denver. As a Black woman I was also skeptical of doing Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) work in a seemingly predominately White space. Now that my time is coming to a close those fears are far from my experience. I learned that Warren Village serves a racially and culturally diverse population. Chicago and Denver are two different cities but taking time to learn about Denver and its historical context was helpful to producing successful work. With any journey there might be apprehensions but with careful investment in planning and preparation any journey can be fruitful. That is how I've viewed my work at Warren Village – an investment in planning and preparation for a more inclusive environment.



I was tasked with leading a DEI evaluation that answered how Warren Village could better include alumni and resident voices in decision making and programming. The evaluation took course over 5 months and involved multiple focus groups with alumni and residents and individual interviews with alumni, residents, and staff. These interviews helped to inform the second phase of the project which was a detailed implementation guide that could assist Warren Village in creating a sustainable participatory mechanism to engage alumni and residents. I also met with local organizations who had existing models for engaging participants. These organizations included Growing Home, The Delores Project, Mile High Early Learning Center and the Emergency Family Assistance Association. The lessons and insights provided by these organizations were included in the final report to Warren Village.

Evaluation Outcomes

The final recommendations made to Warren Village were based on qualitative data collected from alumni and residents that provided insight for future changes at Warren Village. I was happy to highlight alumni and resident ideas in a way that could truly impact and inform Warren Village. I'd like to showcase a few of the recommendations offered by alumni and residents.



Recommendation #3: Warren Village should be more intentional about diversifying its staff especially in Family Services and the Learning Center as a more diverse staff could contribute to a more inclusive environment

Recommendation #4: Collaborate with residents and alumni to identify ways to be more inclusive of racial and cultural diversity within Warren Village

Recommendation #7: Establish a participant led channel for engaging with alumni and resident

The full report is on the Warren Village website: WarrenVillage.org/diversity-equity-and-inclusion/

WARREN VILLAGE SELECTED AS ZÓCALO NON-PROFIT PARTNER

We are excited to announce that Warren Village was selected as Zócalo's 2022/2023 non-profit partner! Zócalo prides itself as a new breed of real estate developer, joining social purpose with profitability to create communities where people connect. Together, with our shared values, hard work and passion, there is no doubt of the transformational impact we will have in the community and especially for the hard-working, single parents and their children who are living at Warren Village through both volunteer service and financial contributions.

Learn more about their approach to development, construction, property management, and sustainability at: ZocaloDevelopment.com.



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. One of our key strategic goals is to build the capacity, breadth, and diversity of our Board. We are thrilled to welcome Stefannie Emerson, System Vice President-Planning and Strategic Development at SCL Health.



Stefannie Emerson

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

Warren Village has a very active and engaged Development Committee who meet monthly to provide tactical guidance for staff-identified initiatives that increase support from donors, volunteers, in-kind supporters, community partnerships, and increase awareness efforts. The committee and our Board as a whole, were instrumental in helping staff reach year-end fundraising goals and are actively engaged in helping to plan our Spring Gala. Members of the Development Committee include current and former trustees, as well as community volunteers. Tremendous thanks to the following members: Jeannie Bennington, Ken Bolser, William Browning, Angela Coleman, Peter Dellgren, Stefannie Emerson, Katie Goodwin, Tracy Graf, Kevin Hobbs, Angie Howes, Tasha Jones, Deanna Locke, Denise McClard, Gloria Neal, Joel Rosenstein, Tim Swales, Lou Trebino, and Tracy McKenna.

MARSHA BROWN, WV ALUMNA, BOARD MEMBER, AND AMBASSADOR

Marsha, a Warren Village alumna, board member and ambassador, is no stranger to struggle and adversity. Just a few short years ago, prior to her time at Warren Village, she found herself homeless and living in her car. Her son was involved in a serious, life-threatening car accident. As a single parent, the mountains of medical expenses consumed her, and she lost everything. While her son ultimately recovered from his injuries, she found herself leaning on every community resource she could find. Through a referral, Marsha landed at Warren Village. She became absorbed in all the resources and transformational support she received and completed all the courses she was required to take as a Warren Village resident; and just a few years later, found herself as a new homeowner. Through her life's journey she has served her community, while bringing her sharpened skills and experience to help inspire and empower others.



Marsha is now a Program Administrator for the City and County of Denver, Department of Denver Human Services. She also serves on the Warren Village Board of Trustees, and is actively involved in our Alumni Engagement Network. Marsha is a recipient of the 2021 Martin Luther King Jr. Business Award (pictured right) and the 2021 MLK Humanitarian Award.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND PROGRAMMATIC PARTNERS

A hallmark of the Warren Village program is community. Residents, of all ages, actively participate and engage in a wide array of activities provided by like-minded organizations. Similarly, a wide range of individuals give their time, talent, and treasure to elevate and enhance the services we provide.



In November, WV girls and coaches participated in the Girls on the Run Rockies 5K. GOTRR is one of our programmatic partners that provides a physical activity-based positive youth development program for girls participating in Kids' Club.



The children in our Learning Center volunteered to decorate meal delivery bags for clients at Project Angel Heart. Young volunteers!



The Colorado Ballet provides weekly classes to Warren Village children of all ages through their education and community engagement program.



Tracy Graf, long-time Warren Village volunteer, helped wrap holiday shop gifts AND through her company Fuse, she provides communications training workshops for our residents, staff, and WV Young Leaders.

LEARNING CENTER TEACHERS STRIVING FOR EXCELLENCE

The Warren Village United Airlines Early Learning Center provides high-quality, on-site developmental care and licensed early childhood education for more than 100 children ages 6 weeks to 10 years. The Learning Center maintains low teacher-to-student ratios that foster more one-on-one interaction and individualized instruction. In FY21, the Learning Center had 23 teachers, 100% of whom completed the organization's goal of 15 hours of professional development per year.

Our early childhood education teachers are truly dedicated to their profession, and some of them have completed master's degree programs. We would like to celebrate the accomplishments of teachers like Joy Carter, who recently completed her master's degree in Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Education from Regis University. This is a truly remarkable accomplishment, considering Joy is a single mom of three children and also maintains a full-time teaching schedule. Joy has an incredible 23-year teaching career, mostly in the public-school sector. We are lucky that she has chosen to devote her talents to Warren Village for the past seven years.



"This educational journey while being here at Warren Village would not have been possible had it not been for such a helpful, encouraging, and supportive administration and staff. All along the way they provided me with resources, information, concern, and thoughtfulness." - Joy Carter

NEW FIRST STEP PROGRAM LAUNCHES IN PARTNERSHIP WITH FLORENCE CRITTENTON

Affordable housing in Denver is an ongoing crisis, and for young mothers it is even more challenging. Economic and social factors related to housing insecurity and insufficient income negatively impact individuals' physical health, mental health, and community health as a whole.



In January, we launched a new pilot program, First Step, in partnership with Florence Crittenton Services, that will provide safe housing and on-site wraparound services to 11 pregnant and parenting young women, who are enrolled at Denver Public Schools' Florence Crittenton High School.

On-site supportive services provide the tools and resources that will empower these young women to increase both economic and personal self-sufficiency. The First Step community thrives by integrating the Circle of Courage® principles – belonging, mastery, independence, and generosity – into programming.

The Colorado Health Foundation provided a 36-month grant in the amount of \$875,000 to support the program.

Thanks to our partners at IKEA, the newly renovated First Step campus was designed and furnished with all-new home furnishings valued at \$20,000.



"IKEA Centennial selected Warren Village First Step because it connected our vision to a reality of their need. We knew we could offer a total solution for the young families who needed a place to have a balance to recharge, grow, and succeed in life," said Meagan Chiron, IKEA Loyalty Manager

WARREN  VILLAGE
FIRSTSTEP

GRANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

We continue to be humbled by the generosity of foundations, corporations, and individuals with their continued critical investment in our families. These partnerships allow us to extend our programs beyond Denver, attract other funding sources, and ultimately, increase program services to impact more families. Thank you to the following foundations for their renewed commitment last fall:

Buell Foundation, Caring for Colorado, Daniels Fund, The Anschutz Foundation, and William G. McGowan Charitable Fund

A huge shout out to the Walmart Foundation for their first-time grant to support our adult self-sufficiency program with a focus on workforce training and post-secondary education.

UNITED AIRLINES CONTINUES THEIR SUPPORT

Volunteers from our long-time partners at United Airlines' Denver Hub created a winter wonderland of fun for more than 200 Warren Village children and parents.



Photo by FocusTree/Bernard Wooten

In 2017, United Airlines selected Warren Village as their Denver partner for a four-year (\$250K per year) philanthropic investment designed to create profound and sustainable advancements in our work for single-parent families through capacity building, quality assurance, and programmatic expansion. Since our partnership began, United has not only provided a significant amount of programmatic funding, but their cadre of volunteers hosted Carnivals in the United Airlines Early Learning Center, Holiday parades and celebrations, and Family Nights. We look forward to our ongoing partnership with United!



Thanks to the tremendous support of volunteers, individual donors, and corporate partners, this time-honored tradition continued for the 34th year. Residents and alumni enjoyed a week-long celebration replete with multiple visits from Santa, gifts, and a wonderful holiday brunch. Through generous contributions, more than 150 Warren Village residents, alumni, and families living at Ivy Crossing received all of the gifts on their holiday wish lists.

HOLIDAY SHOP BRUNCH



Photos by FocusTree/Bernard Wooten

Long-time supporters from BNP Paribas came out for the third year to host a special holiday meal, crafts, and caroling for Warren Village families. Pictured above: Ashlie Nanino, Sven Martinet, his children Chloe & Axel, and Nico Baker. Pictured below: Long-time volunteer and Warren Village Young Leader, Phoebe Chidley from Wands and Wishes Occasions.



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