

THE VILLAGER

✖ SUMMER 2022

THE RETURN OF FAMILY NIGHTS PROMOTES COMMUNITY

Monthly Family Nights are a time for residents and volunteers to gather at Cheesman Park for an evening together. Corporate volunteer groups provide a meal and plan and lead activities for children and their parents like kite making, face painting, and wiffle ball. Families spread out blankets in the grass, relax, play, and catch up. These special evenings had been on hold since 2020, and we are thrilled to bring them back this summer.

Family Nights provide residents with the time and space to get to know each other and build relationships. They share experiences, learn about one another, and their children play together. As their connections grow, they share advice about career paths, parenting, and more. This opportunity to build a network and strengthen the sense of community is critical to our families' success as they work towards self-sufficiency.



Volunteers from Insurance Industry Charitable Foundation hosted Family Night in June



Volunteers from Charles Schwab hosted Family Night in May



Volunteers from Bank of America hosted Family Night in July



ONE YEAR OF WARREN VILLAGE AT IVY CROSSING



Lily meets with an Ivy Crossing resident | Photo by Bernard Wooten, FocusTree

In 2021, Warren Village launched programming at Ivy Crossing, an apartment community with over 1,000 units. As part of the partnership with BLDG Property Management, Warren Village has staff on site to provide financial coaching, social service supports, and resource navigation services to some of Ivy Crossing's residents who may be at risk of housing instability and homelessness. The partnership represents confidence in Warren Village as a subject matter expert in delivering services that increase housing stability and personal and financial competency.

Community Resource Coach Lily Kapitan provides resources, an after-school program, and Mobility Mentoring®, a research-based and professional coaching approach. Nadia Crowley, Warren Village at Ivy Crossing's Children's Program Specialist, facilitates the Summer Kids' Club and the After-School

Kids' Club where children of Ivy Crossing residents can get homework help, participate in games, crafts, yoga, reading and math time, among other activities. They participate in emotions check-ins at the beginning of every day, and talk about how to be good and respectful friends in the Kids' Club community. The kids enjoy making friends and getting to do fun activities. From the program's start in July 2021 to May 2022, Lily has seen growth in the residents who participate in programming and utilize the resources and referrals with which she connects them.

Through the Mobility Mentoring® program, Lily helps residents set goals. She connects them with community classes, parenting and family development support, rent and utility assistance, employment and education, childcare, benefits assistance, mental health counseling, and financial coaching. From July 2021 to May 2022, 14 residents participated in Mobility Mentoring®. With Lily's support, residents have started college at Community College of Denver (CCD), increased self-care, improved mental health, gotten their children involved in summer programming, and saved one month's worth of living expenses. The success stories don't stop there!

A second resident started financial counseling with Bank on Denver to make a plan to pay off debt she owed to a university. She then started school at CCD with the goal of getting her Associates degree in Business Management. She has completed two semesters and has two more left.

A third started his own cleaning business after starting with the program. Within three months, he was able to secure five new clients, which allowed him to hire more people for his team. He was also able to save \$1,500, and is now working on a goal to buy a house for him and his daughter.

A fourth resident started painting, a new hobby for her. She often shares how she feels connected to her daughter, who passed away, through her art. Her mental health has improved, and she has grown in her confidence in art and is now selling her paintings.

Warren Village looks forward to continuing to grow its programming at Ivy Crossing and support a wider community of residents in its second year.

SERVICES PROVIDED

501 resource referrals

150 children's needs referrals

101 rental and utility assistance referrals

22 benefits assistance referrals

14 Mobility Mentoring® participants



Ivy Crossing kids enjoy Summer Kids' Club

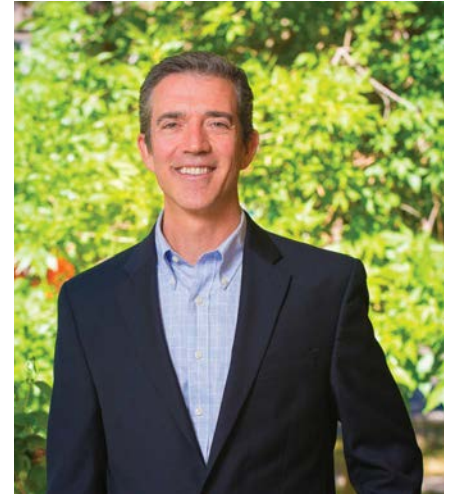


THE QUALITY OF COMMUNITY

From our President & CEO

Dear Friends and Supporters,

It's a pleasure to greet you all in the midst of this beautiful Colorado summer season! I hope you have enjoyed some quality time with family and friends—whether at your favorite mountain destination or beach getaway, or a relaxing staycation at home! I know for myself, it can be tempting to overbook these precious summer months with too much activity, and not enough self-care. I hope that each of you will make time for at least one special thing for just yourself this summer—we all deserve a little quality time for ourselves!



Here at Warren Village, we're thinking a lot about quality as well. Even with so many opportunities for growth in front of us—especially our plans to build a new, third facility in Southwest Denver—we are committed to ensuring that all families we currently serve receive the highest quality 2Gen programming. I am so proud of our incredible staff, from our hard-working Early Learning Center teachers, to our dedicated Family Advocates and Housing Specialists, to our talented development and administrative staff—every one of them is committed to continuously improving our model and the services we provide. You'll see this commitment demonstrated throughout the pages of this newsletter—the renewed focus on community-building as we begin to emerge from a long pandemic, the integration of full-time mental health care for our families right here on-site, the assistance to our newest graduates as they transition into a new phase of their careers, and much more.

As the leader of this amazing organization, I'm also proud that this fall, we'll be launching our new Strategic Framework, an essential tool to help us measure that continuous improvement we seek, and keep our focus on quality, even as we move to the next phase of our expansion project later this year. I look forward to sharing more about this with you all in the coming months.

As you enjoy these last weeks of summer, this could be a perfect time for you to reflect on your partnership with us here at Warren Village, and consider taking it to a whole new level! As we continue to enhance our services and reach more families, we need your help – even more. Please consider increasing your gift to Warren Village this year, volunteering more of your time, or connecting us to a new potential partner. It's through this increased commitment from you, our friends in the community, that we can grow our impact together.

In partnership,

Ethan Hemming, President & CEO

WORK AT WARREN VILLAGE



Early Learning Center teacher Joy and a student in her class

We're hiring Early Learning Center teachers! The Warren Village Learning Center serves children ages 6 weeks to 10 years old in a comprehensive, high-quality, early learning environment. Our teaching teams are dedicated to providing a supportive and nurturing learning environment that helps foster the development of the whole child. Warren Village places a strong emphasis on teacher training and application of Conscious Discipline®, an innovative social-emotional learning and classroom management program designed to give teachers the discipline skills they need to address the emotional and social issues of children. Join our team of dedicated teachers and provide warm and responsive care to the little ones at Warren Village. Learn more and apply at warrenvillage.org/about-us/#careers.

FIRST STEP SUPPORTS TEEN MOMS AS THEY GRADUATE FROM HIGH SCHOOL



Class of 2022 graduates Myra, Karen, and Chalaya | Photo courtesy of Florence Crittenton Services

In January 2022 a group of teen moms working to complete their high school education and their children moved into First Step, Warren Village's new communal living residence for teen moms. Warren Village partners with Florence Crittenton Services, a nonprofit that provides high school education, childcare, and wraparound support services to teen mothers in the metro Denver area. The young women in the inaugural group of First Step residents all experienced housing instability, which creates a barrier to graduating. First Step provides a stable environment for teen moms to thrive while they go to school. Programs like the positive community culture group encourage community among the young residents, teaches conflict resolution and communication skills, and gives each teen the chance to share her point of view - all skills they will need throughout their lives.

In May, four First Step residents graduated with the Florence Crittenton High School Class of 2022. Chalaya Davis, Myra Gutzmer, Karen Madeus, and Bettina Lopez all walked across the stage and received their diplomas. "Having the housing helped me graduate," says Myra. "This is my own space. I feel safe here. My son is happy here." Before she moved into First Step in January, Myra was taking an hour bus ride to school. Once she was living in the First Step house, a van from Florence Crittenton picked her and the other girls up each morning. This convenience plus the extra hour of sleep allowed Myra to be successful in her last semester of high school and graduate as the Class of 2022 Salutatorian.

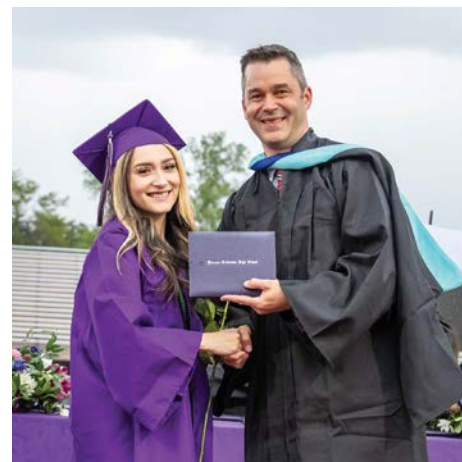
Each high school graduate has post-secondary plans. Karen wants to go to school to become an EMT, and then continue on to be a paramedic. Chalaya plans to go to trade school to pursue a career in plumbing with the hope of owning her own business some day. Bettina plans to enroll at Emily Griffith Technical College in the Barbering program. Myra is enrolled at Red Rocks Community College to pursue a nursing degree. "I'm so proud that I graduated. Without Florence Crittenton and Warren Village combined I feel like I wouldn't have graduated or be where I am today, getting ready to go to college," Myra says. "I'm proud of the person I am today. I got myself through it all."



Salutatorian Myra gives a speech | Photo courtesy of Florence Crittenton Services



Graduate Chalaya receives her diploma from Florence Crittenton High School Principal Josh Howard | Photo by Vince Dean Photography and courtesy of Florence Crittenton Services



Graduate Bettina receives her diploma from Florence Crittenton High School Principal Josh Howard | Photo by Vince Dean Photography and courtesy of Florence Crittenton Services

HIGHER EDUCATION GRADUATES CELEBRATE THEIR ACCOMPLISHMENTS



Jada and her daughter

For Annalicia, 2022 will be the year she made big steps toward her career goals and earned a certificate in Early Childhood Education from Rasmussen University with the support of Warren Village. "Graduating means a lot to me, because now I have a successful career working with children that I enjoy the most!" says Annalicia proudly. "I also want to be a good role model for my daughter and show her that no matter the struggles you're facing, you can still find a way to achieve your goals as long as you keep putting your heart and mind into it." Graduating with a post-secondary degree or a certificate often leads to higher pay and advancement opportunities.

Completion of a higher education program can also be a key to owning a home and becoming self-sufficient. Jada graduated this year from the Institute of Health Science as an electroencephalographic (EEG) technician. "Graduating with my certificate has changed my life tremendously!" says Jada. "My daughter's life will be forever changed because of my decision to finish school. I am now in the closing process of my new home, and no longer receive government assistance. I feel proud that for the first time in my life, I am able to pay all of my bills on my own!" Jada's move out date is quickly approaching, and while she is nervous about leaving, she is excited to start this next step in her and her daughter's journey.

Warren Village provides residents with the opportunity to further advance their education. Residents like Annalicia and Jada who elect the education pathway work with Family Advocates to complete their educational goals. "So far this year, we have had 12 Warren Village residents graduate," reports Family Advocate and Education Specialist Loren Waltz. "They have earned certificates, Associate's degrees and Bachelor's degrees from eight programs." Loren supports residents with educational coaching, developing study skills, choosing a major or program based on their goals, applying for financial aid and registering for classes. Each resident creates an education plan with Loren to guide them along their educational journey.

As residents move through their degree or program, Loren continues to support their success, meeting with them regularly. She talks to them about their continued interest in their program or major, and helps them change direction if they realize it is not the path they want to pursue. If they are hitting barriers, she helps them problem solve to find a solution.

I appreciate all of the help I have had from staff at Warren Village along the way, especially when I was still deciding whether or not I wanted to start my program in the first place.
- Jada

"I'm very excited to see where this journey takes both me and my daughter," Annalicia says. "I want to thank Warren Village for helping make this possible. The support has been amazing. I will never forget this experience, and hope to inspire other single parents, as well."

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 the following new Board members, each of whom brings passion, expertise, and a willingness to help take Warren Village to the next level: Captain Rob Biddle, Chief Pilot, Denver, United Airlines; Kyle Craig, Principal, Outlook Consulting, Inc.; Gina Carbone Fenton, Public Affairs Professional; Angie Howes, Partner, The Howes Group; Rachel Nixon, Vice President, IMA; Ebony Santucci, Contract and Performance Manager, City and County of Denver, Department of Housing Stability; and Madeline Williams, Director, Bridging the Gap, Mile High United Way. For a complete listing of our Board members, please visit WarrenVillage.org/#board-of-trustees.



Captain Rob Biddle



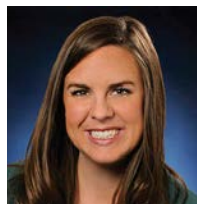
Kyle Craig



Gina Carbone Fenton



Angie Howes



Rachel Nixon



Ebony Santucci



Madeline Williams

CORPORATE PARTNERS PLAY A CRITICAL ROLE IN SUPPORTING OUR FAMILIES

In today's world, it is commonplace for businesses to give back to the communities they exist in and donate to causes that align with their company mission. At Warren Village, we are grateful to have many corporate partners who help us access skills, funding, resources and people to extend our reach and our impact. Partnering with non-profit organizations positively impacts a company's employee satisfaction and retention. It's also great for brand identity—helping to bolster customer trust and public respect. It's a win-win!

Warren Village offers a number of ways that you can make a difference in the lives of our families. Whether you are interested in rolling up your sleeves and volunteering, making a monetary donation or attending, sponsoring, or hosting an event – your contribution is an investment in our community as a whole. For more information about corporate sponsorships, contact Michele Kilen, Foundation and Corporate Relations Manager, at mkilen@warrenvillage.org.



Amp the Cause/Sage Hospitality

In May, staff from Sage Hospitality took part in some landscaping and painting to help brighten the Gilpin campus for our families. Through Amp the Cause's Community Day, volunteer businesses and nonprofits connect in a hands-on, experiential day of service. Each year over 800 volunteers provide 5,000+ hours to 55 local nonprofits!



KeyBank Neighbors Make a Difference Day

The KeyBank team spent the afternoon sorting and organizing donated books for our resident library. The library comes in handy for parents who have their children with them while attending Life Skills Classes, meetings, and other gatherings. Children are also welcome to borrow or keep the books to create a library of their own at home.



Builders for Babies

Organized by HomeAid Colorado, Builders for Babies Diaper Drive initiative has made significant differences for families, including Warren Village residents, who are in dire need of the essentials. This year, an astonishing 1.7 million diapers and 1 million wipes were collected.



ACP Golf Tournament

Again this year, Warren Village was the beneficiary of the All Copy Products Charity Golf Tournament, held at the beautiful Lone Tree Golf Club in June. Every year ACP provides wonderful prizes, great food, and excellent golf!



THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING CORPORATIONS FOR THEIR RECENT SUPPORT

Bank of America
Bank of the West
Huntington
National Bank
KeyBank

KPMG
Charles Schwab
U.S. Bank
Vectra Bank

CORPORATE SPOTLIGHT: UPS DELIVERS

UPS is a new corporate partner to Warren Village. In addition to serving as the Reception Sponsor at our Annual Gala, UPS awarded Warren Village a grant to support our adult self-sufficiency program. Recently, UPS employees organized school supplies, stuffed back packs, and built garden beds. "UPS supports Warren Village because their work in providing support for some of the most basic needs like housing, education, childcare and workforce development for our most under-served populations resonates with us," says Maritza Ramos, Region Community Relations Manager.

THERAPISTS REMOVE BARRIERS SO RESIDENTS CAN ACCESS MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES



Mental Health Clinicians Catherine Barnes and Luke Frank

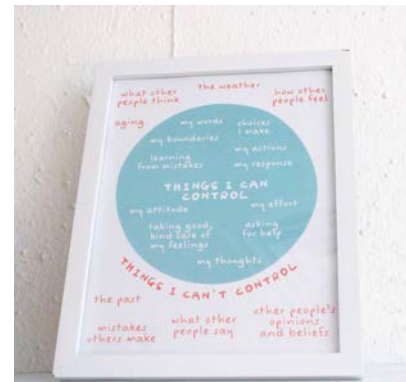
We are here and accessible, and we have a safe, comfortable, and confidential space to meet with you.

This is the message that Catherine Barnes and Luke Frank, Warren Village's Mental Health Clinicians, want residents to hear when it comes to the mental health services they provide. "We try to take down all of the barriers, or as many as possible, for our residents to access mental health. There is no insurance requirement and no fees," says Catherine. "We really want to normalize mental health." Luke and Catherine see Warren Village residents—both children and adults—individually and in group sessions. Thanks to a grant from Caring for Denver, Catherine and Luke support parents through stress, conflicts that arise while co-parenting, mental illness, parenting in general, PTSD, and school. So far in 2022, Catherine and Luke have served 38 residents—19 of whom identify as BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and people of color)—with a total of 241 therapy sessions.

Education, skill building and creating community are big pieces of the supports that Catherine and Luke provide, particularly through groups. "Groups can let residents learn from each other," says Catherine. "Bringing different experiences to discuss and sharing wisdom is huge, and normalizing some of the stressors that come along with being a single parent, a parent, and a person is so important." In groups, "you don't have to talk, but you are still there and absorbing information," explains Luke.

The resident population at Warren Village is very diverse, and Luke and Catherine work hard to support each person equitably and with a trauma-informed lens. Bringing awareness to the mental health needs of BIPOC communities is "crucial and so important," emphasizes Catherine. She works to break down the cultural stigmas around mental health that she sees with a lot of her clients. When it comes to marginalized communities, "there are so many crucial supports that are unfairly distributed," she says. "A person is at higher risk for trauma because of marginalization, and it is that much more crucial to normalize mental health and get access to care."

Luke points to internalized oppression and racism, financial barriers, a lack of resources in marginalized communities, and a lack of time as some of the reasons that members of the BIPOC community do not access mental health care. These are all barriers that many Warren Village residents face or have faced. "They have tremendous traumas, but they are just stuffing it down and working to make ends meet," says Luke. "That's why having mental health support here is so important."



Catherine and Luke have worked to create a safe, comfortable space

REPRESENTATIVE DIANA DEGETTE REQUESTS FUNDING FOR WARREN VILLAGE EXPANSION

U.S. Rep. Diana DeGette (D-CO) announced on July 20 that she has secured more than \$20.8 million to help fund 11 projects in the Denver area as part of a government spending bill the U.S. House approved, including \$4 million to help Warren Village build a third location to support single-parent families. The projects are designed to make more housing, food and other essential services available to those in need throughout the Mile High city. Warren Village's new site will feature an additional 89 apartments for single-parent families, an Early Learning Center with capacity for 100 children, and asset-based, individualized coaching and life skills in Southwest Denver. Warren Village is proud to be selected as one of the projects Rep. DeGette is funding that are designed to provide more affordable housing, food and essential health services to those in need in our community. The legislation, which the House approved by a vote of 220-207, now heads to the Senate for its consideration.



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LET'S GET DIGITAL

So many amazing things are happening at Warren Village that we are giving you extra issues of The Villager! Moving forward, we will publish four issues of our newsletter every year, and two of these will be primarily digital. Sign up to receive the digital issues of The Villager at warrenvillage.org/contact-us.

