

THE VILLAGER

☒ SUMMER 2024

A Celebration of Five Decades

Photos by Bernard Wooten Photography

The Warren Village community knows how to celebrate! Current and former residents, Board members, donors, partners, neighbors, and friends gathered together on May 31 on Gilpin Street at the Community Celebration block party in honor of Warren Village's 50th anniversary. We reminisced, played games, ate food, and filled the street with color in front of the 50-year-old apartment building that has witnessed the growth, tears, joy, and ultimate successes of so many single-parent families throughout its existence.

Thank you to everyone who has been, is, and will be a part of the fabric of our community. We celebrate each of you! Thank you to the Ent Credit Union Community Fund for supporting the Community Celebration and to the many volunteers who helped the celebration run smoothly, including Apartment Association of Metro Denver and Wells Fargo.



Coming to You Live from the School-Age Classroom



We're coming to you today with an exclusive interview with the creative forces behind the new Warren Village News Show created by the Early Learning Center (ELC) School-Age Classroom kids, news anchor Zaidah, field reporter King, and producer and classroom teacher Dennis. "We're doing the news about made-up stories - and real stories - like Women's History Month, [Warren Village staff] anniversaries, Black History Month, and Cesar Chavez Day," says Zaidah. "And some funny stuff about someone's mom who can't cook!"

Mustachioed anchors, weather, sports, field reporters, crazy backgrounds, mom jokes - this news show has it all! On screen, anchors Zaidah and A'lyjah, weather reporter Adam, and field reporter King bring the news to the Warren Village community. Behind the scenes, teacher Dennis and many other school-age kids help to make the show happen. The hardest part for the kids?

A lot of takes. But it's clear to us that these kids are putting in the work, working hard, and having lots of fun!

What inspired Dennis to start a news show? "Why did I start this? Mainly for the kids, so we could do some fun skits and do a news show for Warren Village. I started it to give them ownership over a fun little thing. Most of it is all them, and I edit the footage. I really did it for a fun experience for all of us to do as a class."

Future ideas for episodes of the news include showcasing Warren Village in serious and silly ways, like potty training shoutouts to younger kids in the ELC, and interviews with Warren Village President and CEO Ethan Hemming, moms, and alums.



Family Services Staff Attends EMPATH Conference



The journey to economic mobility and personal independence cannot be traveled alone. Residents look to their Warren Village Family Advocates for education and career support, resource navigation, goal setting, and encouragement. Family Services staff across all locations use tools from organizations like Economic Mobility Pathways (EMPATH) to provide structure to each resident's journey. EMPATH's Mobility Mentoring Program and Bridge to Self-Sufficiency are a framework to guide the case management and coaching work we do.

Warren Village is a part of EMPATH's global Economic Mobility Exchange, a membership network of over 1,000 organizations. In the spring of 2024, EMPATH hosted a two-part conference that Family Services staff attended - one for members of the Exchange and one open to the public.

During the Member Convening, Family Services staff discussed Mobility Mentoring practice, program design, and implementation with other direct service staff and program leaders across the country. They learned about ongoing research that is being conducted in the field, best practices for the work, how other organizations are implementing the model across the country, and upcoming innovations. During the second part of the conference, the Warren Village team heard from leading voices, such as Ibram X. Kendi and Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley, about what works in disrupting poverty. They learned about how others across the country are promoting economic mobility in early childhood, in affordable housing settings, and through guaranteed income projects as well as work on eliminating the racial wealth gap. The Warren Village team was especially moved by the panel on "Intersectional Professionals" - a term used to identify folks who come to the work with an intersection of educational, work, and lived experience with poverty. The team left inspired and re-energized!

∴ The Power of Generosity, Gratitude, and Community

From Our President & CEO

Dear Friends and Supporters,

As we embrace the days of summer, we have much to celebrate here at Warren Village. I am honored and humbled to share a remarkable milestone in our journey - this year marks the 50th Anniversary of Warren Village! Since our inception in 1974, Warren Village has stood as a beacon of hope and support for over 8,500 single-parent families in Denver, providing vital programs and services to nurture their growth and empowerment.



Reflecting on our founding principles, I am reminded of the visionary words spoken by our original founders during the opening ceremony for 1300 Gilpin: "We propose to create a Community Center to serve as the place where a 'true community' spirit can be instigated and grow to fruition." These words have guided us through five decades of unwavering dedication to building not just a place of residence, but a genuine community, where families can thrive.

Inside this edition we celebrate our 50th anniversary with a look back through our history and with an incredible block party that brought together the Warren Village community. We take a peak into the school-age classroom in the Early Learning Center where students are creating an original news show. Our Family Services staff attended the annual EMPATH Disrupting Poverty conference and engaged with practitioners and policy makers from around the world to create solutions to break the intergenerational poverty cycle. Finally, we pay tribute to Mark Waddell, the son of our founder, Dr. Myron Waddell, who more than carried on his family's legacy. He showered love and support on Warren Village for decades.

As we look ahead to the next chapter of our journey, I am filled with gratitude for each and every member of the Warren Village family – past, present, and future. Your dedication, passion, and unwavering support continue to inspire us as we strive to build a more inclusive, equitable, and compassionate world.

Thank you for being a part of our story, and here's to the next 50 years of empowering families and strengthening communities together.

Warm regards,



Ethan Hemming, President and CEO

∴ 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 have been thrilled to recently welcome the following Trustees, each of whom brings passion, expertise, and a willingness to help move Warren Village to the next level: Sarah Bracken, Owner, As You Wish Boulder; Marcus Divita, Controller, Concord Energy, LLC; Katie Goodwin, University Counsel, University of Colorado Boulder; Debbie Herrera, Colorado Housing and Finance Authority; Andrea Stiles Pullas, Principal, Prosono. For a complete listing of our Board members, please visit WarrenVillage.org/#board-of-trustees.



Sarah Bracken



Marcus Divita



Katie Goodwin



Debbie Herrera



Andrea Stiles Pullas

WARREN VILLAGE

50 Years of Milestones

As we celebrate Warren Village's 50th anniversary, we reflect on some of our biggest milestones.

1969

Warren Village is incorporated as a non-profit organization

1971

HUD approves 96-unit complex to serve low and moderate income families

1972

Construction of Warren Village begins

1974

First residents move into Warren Village; Warren Village receives 501(c)3 status

1975

Learning Center officially opens

1977

Family Services Program starts



1980

Development Office opens

1981

Infant Center opens

1987

First annual Holiday Shop for residents

1989

The entryway structure at the front of 1323 Gilpin Street is added

1990

Friends of Warren Village is founded

1996

Healthy Beginnings Clinic starts

1998

Purchase of the admin building at 1300 Gilpin Street

2002

First Warren Village website launches

2007

First Step opens its first iteration

2008

Completion of the Learning Center playground renovation

2011

Partnership with Mental Health Center of Denver to provide on-site supportive services



2014

Ribbon cutting for the Nature Explore Outdoor Classroom

2017

Resident Wellness Initiative launches, with wellness plans and mental health services

2021

Partnership with Ivy Crossing begins

2022

First Step begins programming for teen families

2023

Groundbreaking for Warren Village Alameda Campus

2024



Looking Back and Looking Forward



The middle of the last century saw a population boom in Denver, bringing about changes across the city. Capitol Hill was at the heart of this change; the neighborhood's large single-family homes were being subdivided and filled with young adults, retirees, and single-parent families, while wealthier homeowners moved farther away from the city's urban center. One group of Cap Hill residents - the members of Warren United Methodist Church - felt this change especially. The church was facing the same migration crisis as its members. Yet rather than trying to move locations to the suburbs, the Warren United congregation chose to dig in to Cap Hill and sought to address the changing needs of the neighborhood rather than change their address.



Inspired by the experiences of Warren Village founding member Dr. Myron Waddell and guided by an in-depth demographic study of the changing neighborhood, Warren Village, and its model of transitional housing for single parents was born.

The Warren Village of 1974 was not the complete and planned integrated residential building and learning center that it is today. When residents moved in during that first year, the building did not have air conditioning and the learning center was unfinished. By the end of 1975, the learning center was open, apartments were filling up, and plans for the next steps in Warren Village's growth were in the works. The program itself was an outstanding success and well positioned to be a model for similar programs around the city and country. In fact, by the end of the 1980s, Jack Kemp, then Secretary of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, visited Warren Village, calling it "a model that I'd like to see get started in other cities."

Warren Village in its early days in the 1970s

The 1990's and 2000's mark a period of stabilization for the organization. Administration moved across the street from 1323 to 1300 Gilpin, concerted efforts were made to establish a strong and consistent donation pool, national awards started racking up, and smaller remodels to Warren Village properties ensured facilities were modernized and beautified. In 2006 Warren Village took its next big step, establishing the First Step program in collaboration with The Gathering Place at 5280 Federal Boulevard. The program was designed to serve families seeking to resolve significant barriers, such as evictions, unresolved housing debts and/or collections, incomplete education, or involvement in the justice system. In 2014, our 40th anniversary year, our Early Learning Center was awarded a 4-star Qualistar rating, which was the highest rating possible at the time, and set the stage for the next decade of excellence from Warren Village.



Photo credit Hyoung Chang, The Denver Post, December 12, 2004



Photo credit Joe Amon, The Denver Post, March 9, 2009



Residents at the 40th anniversary celebration

The last decade for Warren Village has been a period of sustained growth. In 2016 we hired Ethan Hemming as President and CEO, who has led with a vision of expanding Warren Villages capacity internally and at large in the community. This expansion has included the transfer of First Step's building to Warren Village ownership and a new partnership with Florence Crittenton Services and other organizations supporting teen mothers pursuing their education. We're partnered with Ivy Crossing Apartments to provide Warren Village services in 2021, and held a groundbreaking for Warren Village at Alameda in 2023. In 2023 the Early Learning Center also earned a 5-star Colorado Shines rating, once again marking Warren Village as a top-level learning center.

As we look to the future, there are some extremely exciting developments on the horizon. Warren Village at Alameda will be opening for move-in later this fall, the Warren Village clinic initiative will come back on-line, First Step will be expanding its programmatic offerings, and Warren Village will continue to nurture metro Denver – two generations at a time.

Warren Village at Alameda Updates



Warren Village at Alameda is well under construction. Framing has been completed, and both buildings have topped out and are roofed and dried in. All windows have been installed on the south building, and window installation is wrapping up on the north building! Throughout the year, we will be ramping up staffing, including hiring early education staff and Family Advocates to ensure staff are in place and trained to serve residents when the campus opens in late 2024. An essential part of the startup will also be the solidification of service partnerships. We've hired two key positions to support our exciting growth.



In November 2023, Karen Fox Elwell joined the Warren Village team as the Vice President of Supportive Services. She will oversee Warren Village's supportive services across Warren Village's four locations, including Alameda. Karen is an experienced, collaborative leader with a master's degree in social work, a master's in business administration, 13 years of experience in senior non-profit leadership, and 21 years of experience working with members of historically marginalized communities to equip them with vital skills for future success. For nearly five years, Karen served as the President and

I am excited to join the Warren Village team during this time in the organization's history. Within Denver's non-profit sector, Warren Village is well-known for its deep impact in the community. I am excited to build upon the organization's strong foundation and continue to deepen the impact for families in our community.

CEO of Growing Home, a nonprofit organization advancing equity in food, housing, parenting education, and lifelong stability. Karen is passionate about supporting transformative change in the lives of children, families, and communities.



Andrea Chapman joined Warren Village in April 2024 as the Director of Supportive Services for the Alameda campus. Before joining Warren Village, Andrea served as the Services Director at the Housing Authority for the City of Brighton. Throughout her career in community-based social services, she has collaborated with diverse communities, focusing on the intersection of supportive services and housing.

I chose to work at Warren Village because I believe in transformational change. I believe that meaningful and sustainable progress is only possible when individuals and communities are empowered to undergo profound transformations. At Warren Village, I see an opportunity to be part of an organization that is dedicated to facilitating such transformative journeys.

Andrea's extensive experience includes providing programmatic direction for intimate-partner violence and child abuse programs in Northern California, overseeing an inaugural year of operations for a low-barrier homeless shelter in Michigan, and spearheading a street outreach initiative for unsheltered transitional-aged youth in Los Angeles. Andrea holds a Bachelor of Science in Sociology from Central Michigan University, supplemented by various certifications in Crisis Intervention and Trauma-Informed Care.

Warren Village Pays Tribute to Mark Waddell



At the beginning of 2024, the Warren Village community lost Mark Waddell - a Board member emeritus and life-long friend and champion of Warren Village. Mark's loss will be deeply felt by all involved with Warren Village. Warren Village was in Mark's DNA. His father, Dr. Myron Waddell, was an active member of Warren United Methodist Church and saw the need for an intentional community of single-parent families who could live and thrive in a safe and nurturing environment while working toward self-sufficiency. Dr. Waddell, along with Warren Church and the greater community founded Warren Village in 1974. Mark - through deed and word - more than carried on his family's legacy. He showered love and support on Warren Village for decades. In no small measure, we are celebrating the past 50 years and looking forward to the next 50 because of Mark and the Waddell family.

Community Partnerships Empower Families

The support of our community partners allows us to do what we do best: empower single-parent families to transform their lives, break the cycle of poverty, and build brighter futures for generations to come. Powered by their generosity and dedication, our incredible partners help us advance our work by committing their time, talent, and financial resources. Our community is strongest when we all support each other!

- **Charles Schwab** employees selected Warren Village as one of their sites for their company-wide Volunteer Week! A group of volunteers from across all different Schwab departments arrived on campus to paint, organize basic needs supplies, and prepare the community garden.
- **United Airlines** sponsored our first Family Night of the year with pizza, coloring, games, and, of course, paper airplanes. United employees shared meaningful and fun interactions with residents, including many exciting rounds of cornhole!
- Our friends from the **Apartment Association of Metro Denver** came out in full force to clean up the neighborhood and help Warren Village staff prepare for its Community Celebration.
- This year, **BMO** is partnering with Warren Village to offer its "Pathway to Homeownership" program to residents, alumni and staff. Through a combination of in-person and virtual classes, the program is designed to help first-time homebuyers understand the process of buying a home and prepare financially. Additionally, BMO sponsored a Family Night this June at Cheesman Park.
- **Zocalo Community Development's** second annual hygiene drive was a huge success. Through its dedicated employees and caring residents, Zocalo gathered over 700 items for Warren Village residents and alumni.



Charles Schwab volunteers



Apartment Association of Metro Denver volunteers



United Airlines volunteers



BMO volunteers at Family Night



WARREN  VILLAGE

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Save the Date

 WARREN  VILLAGE

Aspire Gala 2024

Saturday, September 14
at the Denver Center for Performing Arts Seawell Ballroom

Warren Village is celebrating its 50th anniversary. You will not want to miss this milestone celebration! Purchase individual tickets at www.warrenvillage.org/gala. Contact Michele Kilen, Development Director, at mkilen@warrenvillage.org or 303.320.5057 for sponsorship opportunities.