

# News From The Village

the children's  
village

Summer 2012



“They’re my reason for waking up in the morning.”

Aileen Loran didn't count on being a foster mom for three children, but when it looked like siblings Justin, Lawrence and Miracle would have to be split up, she quit her job to take care of them. Now she's their "real" mom. The adoption was finalized in April.

## Whatever It Takes

“I love them no matter what,” says Aileen Loran. “I don't want them to think we're any less a family because they're adopted.”

Aileen is no stranger to the foster care system. As a child she lived with a foster mother for a few years when her mother could not care for her. Now, as an adult, Aileen has raised two of her own children, two foster children, and is raising three more that she just adopted— 5 year old Justin, 4 year old Lawrence, and 3 year old Miracle.

Aileen met Justin at 3 months old when his young mother was unable to provide a safe home for him. She kept a close connection to his mother because she felt it was important for Justin to know her. One year later, Justin's mother gave birth to Lawrence and, when he entered foster care, Aileen went to the court to ask that the brothers be placed together.



Justin is happy that he now has his very own family

Another year passed and the boys' mother gave birth to their sister. Born premature with several health challenges, she was aptly named Miracle. Aileen again went to court to ask that the siblings live together. To convince a judge that she could care for the three, she left her job and dug into her savings to get the family through the difficult first few years.

After several years of caring and advocating for the children it became clear that their biological mother was never going to be able to care for the children. “I never thought I would adopt, but you just can't help but love them.” This past April the adoption was finalized for all three children.

## New Strategic Alliance

In April, The Children's Village formally began a strategic alliance with Harlem Dowling-Westside Center for Children and Family Services (HDWC). The alliance draws on our mutual strengths and is designed to enhance services to the children and families we both serve.



As part of this alliance, Dr. Jeremy Kohomban, President and CEO of CV, has been appointed President of Harlem Dowling. HDWC will retain its own programs and mission, but will benefit from our expertise and resources. HDWC, established in 1836, was one of the first charitable institutions dedicated to children and the very first to provide for “children of color” in the United States.

This summer, we also entered into a Strategic Alliance with Bridge Builders, a small community-based organization in the Bronx. This partnership will add strength to our community-based services in New York City and support the important work that Bridge Builders is doing.

Looking at them now you would never know the challenges they faced becoming a family. The boys have started elementary school and Miracle attends a special program to meet her developmental needs.

On the playground at the local park when one of the boys takes a tumble from the monkey bars, you hear a familiar, “Mommy!” But with a few words of assurance and a big hug, he is back at it swinging his heart out.

Keeping Children Safe and Families Together

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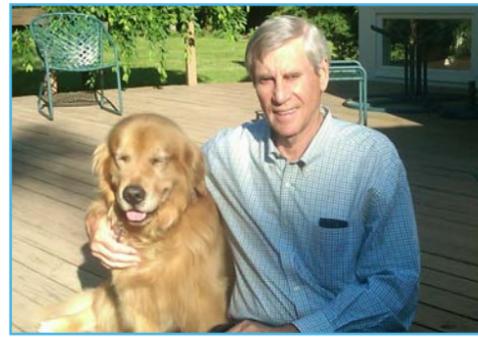
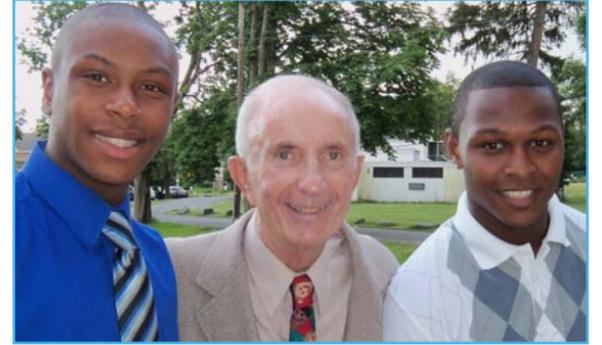
About The Village

Founded in 1851, The Children's Village works in partnership with families to help society's most vulnerable children so that they become educationally proficient, economically productive, and socially responsible members of their communities.

**Dear Friends,**

As part of a new succession plan put in place by the Board last summer, Bill Krupman, who has been Chairman of the Board of Trustees since 2003, has stepped down. Paul Jenkel, formerly Vice Chair and Treasurer, assumed the chairmanship effective July 1. Over the past eight years, I've had the opportunity, both personally and professionally, to get to know our Trustees, an extraordinary group of men and women. In their respective roles, these two men have been particularly instrumental in keeping CV not only financially stable during difficult times, but also in helping us navigate a period of transition that included a long-running economic recession, radical changes in funding, an explosive increase in the agency's community-based programs, and dramatic changes in the child welfare and juvenile justice fields.

Bill Krupman was elected to the Board in 1974 and, over the years, has involved his whole family in our mission. His wife, Anne, his daughter, Pam, his granddaughters, even his brothers, are all involved in various ways. In those 37 years, he served on almost every standing committee, led the effort to increase after-care for all youth leaving our Dobbs Ferry campus, represented our first delegation to Iraq to help train NGO's working with widows and orphans, and he has been a formidable fundraiser, particularly for our capital projects. I am delighted that Bill will continue to be involved on the Board for many years to come.



Paul Jenkel, who has been one of the Board's most active and involved members since he joined in 1993, is a critical thinker who will serve the Village well as chair. He has led the effort to protect and grow CV's endowment and has lent his considerable financial expertise to the budgeting and reporting of our growing operations. With his passion for our work, Paul is one of our most successful fundraisers. He was instrumental in setting up The Children's Support Foundation, a planned giving collaboration that has allowed CV to develop a charitable gift annuity program. Paul has also involved his family in our work as his wife Barbara has been a full-time volunteer in our assistance dog program for more than ten years.

This is an exciting time for The Children's Village as we continue to transform and expand our work with children and families into the communities where they live. I am grateful to have the leadership of a Board of Trustees, and our new Chairman, who have the knowledge, passion, and expertise to help us continue to change lives.



Sincerely,

*Jeremy*

Jeremy C. Kohomban  
President and CEO

**Social Impact - Graduation**

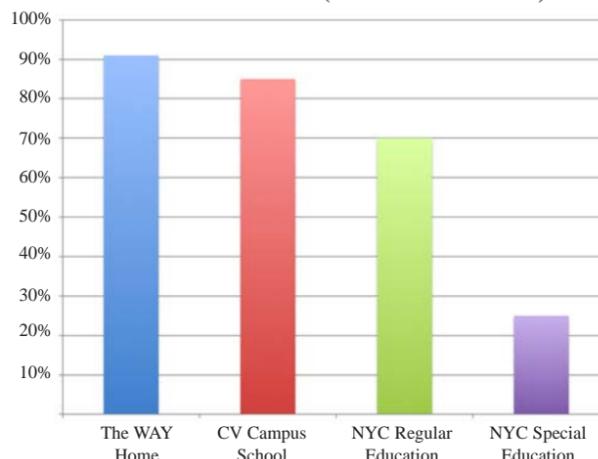
Graduating from high school is not just a milestone for young adults, it is also an indicator of future success. According to the Center for Labor Market Studies at Northwestern University, high school graduates earn \$1,066,000 in a lifetime compared to \$595,000 for those who do not finish high school.

In addition to personal achievement, students who do not finish high school place a large burden on public services. According to The Center for Cost-Based Studies at Columbia University, each additional black male high school graduate saves \$186,500 in taxes paid and reductions in health care, crime and welfare.



This year, 85% of seniors in CV's campus school graduated, and the graduation rate for youth who have left CV and are in our WAY Home Program is 91%. This graduation rate far exceeds the 70% of New York City students who graduate within 5 years, and even further exceeds the graduation rate of special education students. This success represents a significant social impact over the lifetime of these students.

**Graduation Rates (Based on 5 Years)**



## The Love Goes Both Ways

By Volunteers Pam & Lee Miner

It has been our honor and privilege to be volunteers at The Children's Village since early in 2011. After meeting President and CEO Jeremy Kohomban, we were hooked. Jeremy is so committed to his work, it's contagious.

**“Without fail, every visit is as special to us as volunteers as it is to the boys.”**

We wanted to be involved as a family in helping the boys. We banded together with five other families from our community and adopted Rose Cottage. We visit the boys regularly either as a group or with one or two families at a time. We have done various holiday activities with the boys including egg dipping at Easter and decorating at Christmas.

We are in our second year of planting a flower and vegetable garden at the cottage. Everyone gets involved and much fun is had by all – and the garden looks beautiful! We're currently working with the boys in preparing for the upcoming CV Triathlon (mini) scheduled for August.

Without fail, every visit is as special to us as volunteers as it is to the boys. They are a great group and are anxious to share and learn. Our children have benefited greatly from their interaction with the kids, giving them a broader perspective of the world and their community. The love goes both ways, and that is what counts most.



Pam & Lee Miner (right) with fellow volunteers Anita & Randy Borkenstein, who adopted Rose Cottage. The group is affectionately known as "The Chiles".

## What have volunteers been up to at The Village?



Morgan Stanley volunteers spent lots of time at CV this spring. Several teams spruced up the cottage gardens. The group shown above adopted Butler Cottage and plans to come monthly to spend time with the boys.



Another team of Morgan Stanley volunteers worked in our Greenhouse and planted a new garden at Van Horn Cottage. They worked alongside several enthusiastic student workers.

## Celebrating our Volunteers & Neighbors



Long-time volunteer Lou Codella, Director of Volunteers Candi Fitts, and Chairman of CV's Board of Trustees Bill Krupman.



School-based Mentors from local high schools worked with the youngest CV kids from Rose cottage the entire school year.



Volunteers from Pepsi were honored for their continuous support of Johnson Cottage. They have built such a strong connection with the boys that two young men presented poems at the event to say thank you.

Cheers were heard all over the campus on May 15 when almost 200 volunteers, staff and boys gathered in the Lanza Center to celebrate the end of the after school academic year and recognize some truly remarkable people who volunteer their time year round. The special people recognized are:

### School Based Mentors

Leonard Allen-Smith  
Suyash Bhatt  
Marcin Bisaga  
Julia Decker  
Gabriel Frabasile  
Miles Hirozawa  
Rebecca Joseph  
Danielle Schoen

### Art Interns

Laura Gruce  
Eric Kaplan

### Pastoral Volunteer

Andre Coleman

### Mentors:

Robert Caie  
Greg Troisi

### In Kinders

Diana Asher  
Fabio Corsi  
MJ Madigan  
Rhona Neuwirth  
Jeff O'Donnell  
David Schwartz

### Pepsi Mosaic Group

Lanice Byfield  
Dawn Caldwell  
Colette Collins  
Nicole Downs  
Cathy Harrison  
Viveen Laing  
Gloria Moncrieffe  
Davon Roberts  
Bervel Stewart  
Sandy Vasquez

### Greenhouse Volunteers

Charles Branch  
Ann Hein  
Rhona Neuwirth  
Barbara Rissmeyer

### Longtime Achievement Award

Lou Codella for 35 years of service



The "In-Kinders" are the lifeline for many families in need of furniture, clothes, and other household items. They come weekly to The Village to sort through all our donations and find treasures for needy families.



CV's Chaplain Reverend Holby (center) is seen here with Mentor Bob Caie (right) and Hasan M. (left). Bob attends Hasan's track meets and is often the loudest voice in the crowd cheering him on. The pair are also regulars on the Midnight Run, which goes into NYC to feed the homeless.

## Upcoming Events

**Tri-it Triathlon - August 2, 11-2pm**  
at our Residential School  
Dobbs Ferry, NY

**Golf & Tennis Outing - September 13**  
St. Andrews Golf Club  
Hastings on Hudson, NY

**Masquerade Gala - October 20**  
Roosevelt Ballroom  
Yonkers, NY

**The "Sally" Paddle Tennis - October 24**  
Fox Meadow Tennis Club  
Scarsdale, NY

For more information visit [childrensvillage.org/events](http://childrensvillage.org/events) or contact [rmagdaleno@childrensvillage.org](mailto:rmagdaleno@childrensvillage.org)  
914-693-0600 ext. 1224

## Thoughts on CV's Circle of Friends Annual Dinner

By Alisa Kesten, Executive Director, Volunteer Center of United Way

It was a delight to be part of CV's Circle of Friends Dinner on May 10. It is not easy to convey all that the organization does to lift up and support vulnerable children--and leave time to raise significant financial support in one evening. But heartfelt remarks from the honorees, music from the children, and a terrific video provided a good overview about how CV helps children through connections to caring adults, educational programs, social skills building, and job preparation. The powerful remarks by Honorees Peter Cieszko and Armand Paganelli showed their authentic connections to The Children's Village and all the youth served. A special thanks to everyone who answered my quick SOS through social media and found my car keys. The evening was a complete circle of success!



Former NY Jet and Pro-Bowler Tony Richardson (l) and NY Jet Jeremy Kerely attended the dinner with Leadership Council Member Jaclyn Rosenberg. The NFL duo were the hit of this year's After Party held on the terrace of the Lighthouse at Chelsea Piers.



Honorees Peter Cieszko (l) and Armand Paganelli (c) spoke with heart about the CV kids they have met and been able to help. The event raised more than \$350,000 for programs to support children and families.



Christine Tortorella (r) composed an original song performed by the boys at the dinner. She was joined by husband and NY Rangers Head Coach John Tortorella and daughter Brittany, along with more than 420 other guests and friends of CV.

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The Children's Village  
Dobbs Ferry, NY 10522

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visit our website or follow CV1851 on



Want to stay up-to-date on The Children's Village? Visit [childrensvillage.org](http://childrensvillage.org) and click "Join our Mailing List".  
Know someone who may be interested in our work? Pass along this newsletter to spread the word!

### Building Relationships Across Borders

Our Division of Immigration Services (DIS), which has been in operation for almost 8 years, provides safety for children who come to our borders without guardians. Some of the children are eventually sent back to their home countries, while others are reunited with families stateside.

Our staff have welcomed recent opportunities to meet with diplomats from the children's home countries to strengthen cross-border ties with these nations. By building relationships with consulates we are developing advocates for the children who can assist in their swift return.

The First Lady of Mexico visited last year. In March, the Coalition of Latin American Consuls in New York held a meeting on our Dobbs Ferry campus, and in recent months high-ranking officials have visited the program representing Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras.



Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Rita Claverie De Sciolli (left) and Consul General Oscar Padilla Lam of Guatemala (second from right) with Regis McDonald, VP for Program and Policy and Wendy Claudio, Division Director.

### A Remarkable Journey Fit for the Big Screen

"From Riker's Island inmate to Valedictorian." Sounds like something you would see in the movies. But for Jeffrey Knight it is absolutely real.

Jeffrey entered the foster care system at age six. He spent the next ten years moving from group home to group home making friends with tough older guys and getting caught up in a dangerous life, a life that eventually landed him in prison. After serving a sentence at Riker's, he was sent to The Children's Village where his life took a dramatic turn for the better.

Living in a specialized program for older teens without family resources, Jeffrey found the one thing he had been missing during his first ten years in foster care—relationships with people who cared about him. "I have to thank Children's Village because my life really turned around because of them."

That dramatic turn he mentioned not only kept him in school and out of trouble, it



Jeffrey Knight just before his Valedictorian speech at graduation.

motivated him to reach heights he had only dreamed of. While working part-time, Jeffrey did so well in school that he became the Valedictorian of his class. Jeffrey is now living independently and, with one semester of college under his belt, is planning a career.

To see a short video about Jeffrey's journey, visit our Video Gallery at <http://childrensvillage.org/videos>