Anthony’s story starts like that of most young people at CV’s Residential School. From the time he was born, he was shuffled through a dozen foster homes and residential programs. As a young teen he was almost adopted, but it didn’t work out. Not feeling like he belonged to anyone, he was angry and lonely, which led him to skip school, run with the wrong crowd, and eventually get arrested.

When Anthony came to CV at age 15, he continued to struggle. “I kept messing up because I just didn’t understand that people actually wanted to help me. I was doing a lot of immature stuff.” One thing that helped him was working in the Dog Training program. He was one of the best trainers and felt good that he was helping people less fortunate. But school work was a major problem for him, and he eventually gave up.

"I just needed to pass two tests to get my diploma, but I couldn’t. I was just frustrated, so I left. Kids don’t realize how hard it is out on your own. I was working overtime and couldn’t afford to live. It was the hardest thing I had ever done. I had no support, and I just wanted to go back to CV.”

When Anthony did come back to CV, Trustee Jim Mann, a college professor, met weekly with him to help him pass the Global Studies and U.S. History Regents tests he needed to graduate.

This summer, Anthony finally got his diploma. Mr. Mann is now helping him create a repayment schedule for his credit card debt and phone bills so when he is out on his own this time, he won’t be overwhelmed.

“Anthony is a bright kid who’s demonstrated the capacity for hard work. When opportunities come to him in life, I think he has the skills to take advantage of them,” Mr. Mann said.

When asked about why he has given so much of his time as a tutor, he says, “I hope all kids at CV grow up to be taxpayers who will make a contribution to society. I absolutely think Anthony is one of those kids.”

Anthony has been accepted into the Borough of Manhattan Community College for the Spring semester, and he plans to take courses to prepare him for a career as a K-9 police officer. He is also taking the next step to becoming independent and next month will move to a Supportive Housing apartment in Manhattan. As part of CV’s WAY Home program, Anthony will continue to have someone to help him stay on track.

"I felt safe at CV... Kids don’t realize how hard it is out on your own.”

A Hard-Won Diploma

After being out on his own for three months, Anthony came back to CV to finish high school and take concrete steps to prepare for a career. With the skills he learned in the Dog Training program, Anthony is exploring a career as a K-9 Officer.

Keeping Children Safe and Families Together

Fall 2012

CV is Nonprofit Excellence Semifinalist

We are delighted to announce that The Children’s Village has been selected as a semifinalist for the 2012 New York Nonprofit Excellence Awards, which recognizes outstanding management practices.

“These 10 semifinalists are not just well managed organizations, but also exceedingly credible authorities on the significant challenges that even the best-run nonprofit organizations face in the current climate,” said Ronna D. Brown, president, Philanthropy New York. "Donors want to feel confident that their contributions are not just going to a good cause, but to organizations that manage their people and resources effectively."
CV was selected by Art Connects New York to host a permanent exhibition entitled, “Art Connects Us to Each Other and to Life.” The site for the exhibition is CV’s new Bronx office on Fordham Road, and the exhibition was part of the Grand Opening celebration held this summer.

In the words of exhibit curator Diane Churchill, “The theme of the art in this collection is connection—the connections between individuals, between people and their communities, and the connections people make within themselves. I hope the artwork connects to the people who come to The Children’s Village and mirrors their thoughts, feelings, hopes and dreams.”

Local artists, curator Diane Churchill, & NY Art Connects Executive Director, Ginger Stulick Porcella, with some of the art pieces that enliven the family waiting area in CV’s new Bronx office.

Social Impact - Finding Families

Adoptions mean family, and family means having people who will love you through mistakes and setbacks. Too often, children enter foster care and languish there year after year with their connections to family slipping away.

Last year, CV helped 33 children find permanent families through adoption. This not only exceeded the goal set for CV by the Administration for Children’s Services by 26%, but it was also the most adoptions we have completed in a single year.

CV is one of the highest performing adoption agencies in the City and Director of Adoption/Foster Care David Collins was invited by the Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies to participate on a panel about the challenges of recruiting and retaining excellent foster parents.

Adoption Growth at Children’s Village

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.
Summer Interns

Every summer, The Children’s Village hosts dozens of interns throughout our programs. Supporting the education of future clinicians is one of the ways that CV contributes to best practices, and the interns provide a youthful energy and enthusiasm that enriches our work. Interns come to CV from top schools in the region, play a key role in treatment while they are here and, down the road, some return as staff members.

One of our impressive interns this summer was Anastasia McGlade (pictured), a senior at Cornell University. Anastasia interned in our Rapid Intervention Center (RIC), which works with boys and girls in short-term crisis. She was part of the Blumenthal Internship program at Cornell University, which has been sending students to CV for 7 years.

Back-to-School Jam in Harlem

The third annual “Back-to-School Jam” held at CV’s Polo Grounds Community Center was a huge success thanks to generous volunteers and donors. The day-long event featured a health fair, food, dancing, and, of course, the distribution of backpacks and school supplies. The Polo Grounds is home to more than 4,000 low income families.

Thanks to generous donors, students at CV’s Polo Grounds Community Center received more than 400 backpacks filled with school supplies.

You Only Finish if you TRI-IT

On August 2, CV held an exciting mini-triathlon for youth on our Dobbs Ferry campus. Dubbed TRI-IT by the boys, the event attracted enthusiastic participants from every cottage on campus plus staff members who ran, biked, and swam alongside the boys. More than 40 volunteers distributed t-shirts, staffed the aid stations, or just cheered on the participants.

The event was the brainchild of volunteer Lee Miner (far right), Mark Klion (center), and Anita Borkenstein, who wanted to give the boys the opportunity to gain confidence through competition. With their help, and that of other volunteers, the boys trained for months to prepare for the event both physically and mentally.

A special thanks to the entire committee, to the volunteers, and to sponsors Toga, Swim Free, New York City Triathlon, and Whole Foods. Visit the video gallery on our website for a recap of the event.

http://childrensvillage.org/videos.

PepsiCo - A Good Corporate Partner

PepsiCo Mosaic Volunteers have sponsored Johnson Cottage for three years. As part of their monthly activities, they held a basketball tournament for the boys. They also arranged for Pepsi to donate soda for our Masquerade.

The PepsiCo Mosaic Volunteers have been so engaged that, this summer, some PepsiCo colleagues decided to volunteer at CV too. They had such a good experience that they will be collecting food for our families at Thanksgiving.

A Day with the NY Jets

CV’s Leadership Council took twelve CV youth to watch the NY Jets play the 49’ers in September. Before the game, the group had an old fashioned tailgate in the parking lot and were treated to a trip down to the field and a visit by Wide Receiver Jeremy Kerley.

For more information visit www.childrensvillage.org/events or contact rmagdaleno@childrensvillage.org 914-693-0600 ext. 1224

http://childrensvillage.org/videos.
Runaway Shelter - Just Like Family

Her entire life Nakyah, who just turned 18, has been bounced around from place to place by a mother who struggled with drug addiction and health problems. Life was never easy. There were no birthday celebrations, hot meals, or family dinners, and school was hit or miss.

Several months ago, Nakyah left their most recent apartment because she was getting bullied and beaten up by other girls living there. “I got jumped and couldn’t take it, so I left. I slept in hallways of random buildings for awhile.”

One thing she did have was good friends. One of them told her about CV’s Sanctuary Shelter and, on a particularly cold night, she called for help. A shelter counselor found Nakyah on the street and took her to The Sanctuary. She got a warm bed, hot meals, and a sense of safety she hadn’t felt for a long time. “A lot of my friends come visit me, and then they don’t want to leave. It’s so nice,” Nakyah said of The Sanctuary.

In the weeks that followed, staff helped Nakyah process her difficult past and plan for the future. Unfortunately, Nakyah’s mother moved out of state and couldn’t be located, but staff found her grandfather, who had no idea of the problems she was having. Nakyah and Grandpa are excited to be reunited, although Nakyah admits a little reluctance to leave the first safe place she can remember.

“They treat me like family here. They let me talk for hours and just listen. No one’s ever cared that much about me.”

Golf Outing Raises $50,000 for Kids

CV’s 9th Annual Golf and Tennis Classic raised $50,000 for programs for at-risk youth. With a gross score of 59, the foursome from Mt. Carmel Pharmacy took the winning prize. (L to R) Sal Inguate, Armand Paganelli of Mount Carmel Pharmacy, Tony Keogh, Jim Timko of Timko & Moses, LLP. Thanks to our hard-working committee led by Mark Scherer of Morgan Stanley and our Gold Sponsor MasterCard Worldwide!