

## Inwood House and Children's Village Announce Merger

The Boards of Trustees of Inwood House and The Children's Village® have announced "a formal alliance that will create a dynamic organization with the capacity to provide better services for more young men and women at the margins of society." Founded in the mid-1800's, both organizations bring a rich history and compelling charitable mission to help those most in need. The Children's Village's expertise lies in working with a broad base of at-risk teens, while Inwood House offers a unique niche within that segment with its expertise in caring for pregnant and parenting teens and in pregnancy prevention.

"We are excited about partnering with The Children's Village," said Inwood House Board President Andrew

Wozniak, Managing Director at Cisco Systems, Inc. "Together we can leverage Inwood House's specialized expertise and knowledge to expand beyond direct service and bring the issues of pregnant and parenting teens to the forefront of the national agenda."

"We are very pleased that Inwood House chose us as a partner," said Children's Village Board Chairman Paul H. Jenkel, former Senior Vice President at Alliance Capital Management Corp. "We admire the organization's strong commitment to pregnant and parenting teens, and its desire to serve increased numbers of this marginalized population."

Carlton S. Mitchell will lead Inwood House's transition in the role of Interim Executive Director. His credentials



Jeremy Kohomban



Carlton Mitchell

include over 30 years of executive-level experience in the nonprofit, public, and private sectors. He previously served as Interim Executive Director of Turning Point-Brooklyn, Interim President and CEO of Families First New York, Executive Director of the International Center in New York, Inc. and as Deputy Commissioner of Community Development in the New York City Department of Youth and Community Development.

"Carlton brings the necessary business acumen and operational skills at an important time in our agency's history," said Dr. Linda Lausell Bryant, former Inwood House Executive Director, and now Clinical Assistant Professor, and the Katherine and Howard Aibel Visiting Assistant Professor and Executive in Residence at the New York University Silver School of Social Work. "I have the utmost confidence in Carlton and in this plan to ensure that Inwood House's mission continues to have a powerful impact on young people throughout New York City. We are also grateful for the

support given by the New York Merger, Acquisition, and Collaboration Fund."

Mitchell will work closely with Dr. Jeremy Kohomban, President and CEO, The Children's Village, who will lead the merged organization.

The joint organization envisions pursuing a two-pronged strategy, according to the announcement. "First, it will remain true to providing high quality, direct services to a broad base of at-risk young people, including programs designed to prevent teen pregnancy and provide services to pregnant and parenting teens. Second, the Inwood House Division will expand its traditional role as advocate and thought leader to ensure clients' voices and needs are heard.

"The joint organization will have a significant influence on the policies and practices that affect at risk teens," the Board's added. "By joining forces, Inwood House and The Children's Village will amplify each other's ability to profoundly change more young lives, whether through direct services or targeted advocacy."

## A History of Innovation... Times Two!

The planned merger of The Children's Village and Inwood House combines two agencies, each of which has a long history of quality service and innovation.

The history and evolution of The Children's Village, founded in 1851, from being the nation's largest institutional residence for foster care children and troubled youth into a multi-faceted youth and family serving organization with a broad continuum of programs focused on helping kids and families while they are at home in their own communities – and the transformation of its residential campus into a series of highly specialized programs designed for short-term interventions for children and youth with particular needs and challenges -- is relatively well known.

On the other hand, the rich history of Inwood House, which is actually older but considerably smaller than its new partner, may be less understood. Established in 1830 to help sexually exploited girls in New York City rebuild their lives, Inwood House is internationally recognized as a leader and innovator in teen pregnancy prevention, youth development, and teen family services.

"Inwood House began when a group of women from what was then known as the Magdalene Society went right into the slums of the Five Points section and opened a shelter right among the row of houses used for prostitution so that young women would be able to see that there was an opportunity for a different life," says Laurel Crosby, Director of Institutional Partnerships at Inwood House.

Inwood House was among the first to address the connection between poverty and teen pregnancy, as well as the first to provide mother/child foster homes, deliver ongoing family support services after childbirth, engage teen fathers, bring asset-building comprehensive sexuality education and prevention programming to schools, and serve on the front lines of prevention in the AIDS epidemic.

Today, informed by rigorous research and a highly qualified staff, Inwood House's programs promote the healthy development of more than 2,500 youth from New York's most vulnerable communities through residential and foster family care and ongoing Teen Family Support initiatives, and comprehensive school and community-based Teen Pregnancy Prevention programs in New York City.

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