

News from the Village

the children's
village

Summer 2016



From juvenile detention to NYU: Maurice wants to be a role model for his younger brother.

Maurice Reid (right) and his brother Nigel at the WAY Dinner on May 9 in New York City, where Maurice was honored with the President's Award.

"I Look at You and I See Myself"

At 23, Maurice Reid is about to graduate from New York University feeling like the sky's the limit. But as someone who spent nearly his entire life in the foster care and juvenile justice systems, his story could have turned out much differently.

When Maurice was at CV, he was so eager to go home, he says, that they called him "the AWOL king." But when Maurice returned to his family in Brooklyn at the age of 13, things were difficult. His mother was busy raising six other children and he felt lost. He dropped out of school, took to the streets, and eventually served two years in a juvenile detention center.

"He wanted to lead by example, to end his family's cycle of poverty."

"When you come out of an institution, you can mess up again or end up on the righteous path. I decided to work toward the righteous path," Maurice said. He reached out to CV and became part of the Work Appreciation for Youth (WAY) Program, a privately funded program that provides support to kids for up to five years.

WAY senior counselor Carl Johnson helped Maurice think through his goals and how to attain them. "Maurice was incredibly ambitious and driven, and highly focused on improving his future and his siblings' futures," Carl said. "He wanted to lead by example, to end his family's cycle of poverty. He was their brother, but also acting as their father."

Carl helped Maurice secure housing, an important first step. Maurice enrolled at Westchester Community College, where he earned top grades while working several jobs, then transferred to NYU, where he'll soon complete his bachelors degree in international relations with a minor in business. With determination and the guidance of Carl and a handful of other dedicated CV employees – relationships that continue to this day – Maurice is now an independent young man equipped with the skills to take care of himself and leave the past behind.

Maurice was recently honored with the President's Award at the 32nd Annual WAY Dinner. "It wasn't an easy road. I was very hard-headed when I was young." As he looked out at the group of WAY participants and graduates he said, "I look at you and I see myself. I've been there. Just focus on building relationships with people you trust, people you can actually talk to. You can go anywhere you want to go... you've just got to set your mind to it."

"Just call me Grandma"
Read about a very special foster mother on page 3

Weekends with the Miners



Most Saturday mornings, the Miner family travels to Dobbs Ferry to spend time with the boys at Rose Cottage. Parents Pam and Lee believe in giving back and teaching Charlie and Julie what it means to help others. So the Miner kids have grown up playing ball with the Rose boys, organizing events on campus, volunteering at CV's Masquerade Gala, and much more.

The Miners love to spend their time with the boys playing outside, but also feel the boys need a bigger space to play indoors. Last year they advocated for renovating the basement to make it a playroom.

To raise money for that effort, daughter Julie ran her own fundraising event, and the dollars raised became the seed money for the project. Today, with generous donations from not only Pam and Lee, but other individuals and foundations, the entire cottage is being renovated – including adding a beautiful playroom. Thank you Pam, Lee, Julie, and Charlie for caring so much about the kids.

Keeping Children Safe and Families Together

Board of Trustees

Chair
Paul H. Jenkel

Vice Chair I
James E. Mann

Vice Chair II
Jamie Marley

Secretary
Janet I. Benton

Trustees
Lois S. Amend

Gregg Bienstock

Leonard Comberiate

Heidi Davidson

Emma DeVito

Katrina Dudley

Wes Engram

Edward Gooding

Peter Hicks

William Hirshorn

David D. Howe

Kevin J. Life

Pamela Loscher

Thomas Martin

Robert S. Robbin

Michael Schaenen

David Schwartz

Sanjay Singla

David W. Smith

Robert Cameron Smith

James M. Timko

Francine Vernon

Michael J. Woods

President and CEO
Jeremy C. Kohomban, Ph.D.

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.

Circle of Friends Annual Dinner Another Sold-Out Success

CV's friends and supporters raised \$360,000 (after expenses) at the 16th annual Circle of Friends dinner on April 28. For the third year in a row, the event was sold out. Next year, we are moving to a larger space at Chelsea Piers so we can accommodate all our friends. Please mark your calendar for April 29, 2017.



Brandyn presented Lauren with artwork captioned: "Dear Mentor Lauren. This is a picture of some of my favorite things you've shown me. The aqueduct, hiking experiences, and mud... because there is always mud. You've shown me things I've never seen before. Thank you so much."



An important part of this annual event is to honor those who contribute to our work in a major way. This year, we presented the Legacy of Service award to Lauren Blum, who helped start and continues to nurture the literacy program. The Corporate Award went to the law firm Patterson Belknap Webb & Tyler, LLP, which has the distinction of having attended every one of our 16 dinners.

Thank you to the Dinner Committee, our Trustees, the CV Leadership Council, and the corporate sponsors, especially Macquarie Group and Ambac Financial Group.

Taking Mentoring to the Next Level by Paul Muratore

I was fortunate to retire early from corporate America last year, and when I thought about what I really wanted to do with my time the answer was obvious: Find and support mentors for kids who have no one. My 30 years as a volunteer at The Children's Village have taught me that, although most kids leave campus and go back to their families, some boys have no one to go home to – literally, not *one person* who cares about their future.

The experience has taken me down many interesting and unusual roads. When Toby talked about his interest in maps, we spent hours in the map room of the New York Public Library. Then, with transit maps in hand, we rode the subways, discovering routes way off the beaten path of the 4 and 5. With Hasani, I had the privilege of being his partner as he explored career

options – eventually discarding ideas about becoming a Navy Seal or a police officer for the decision to start with college.

Continued on page 4



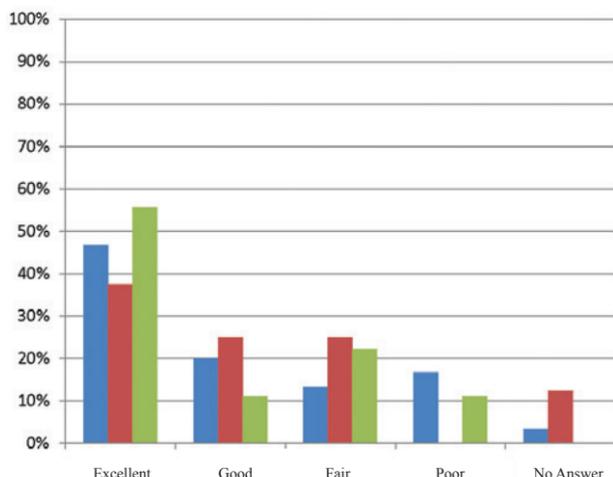
Paul Muratore (right), founder of Connections, with his mentee, Hasani.

Outcome Corner: When Children Are Taken into Foster Care, Engaging Their Parents Is Our First Job.

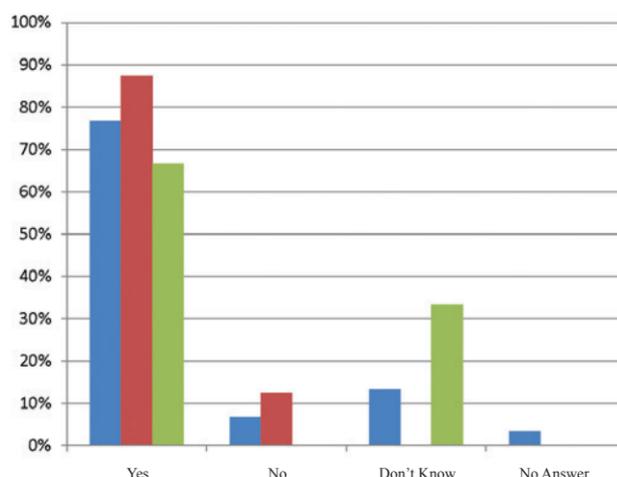
Having a child taken away is one of the worst things a parent can endure. As the organization charged with caring for the children who have been removed, we are the face of the "system." We work hard to show parents that we understand their struggles and that we want to partner with them to return their children as soon and as safely as possible.

Below are results from our most recent Parent Satisfaction survey.

How would you rate the care your child/children are receiving at Children's Village?



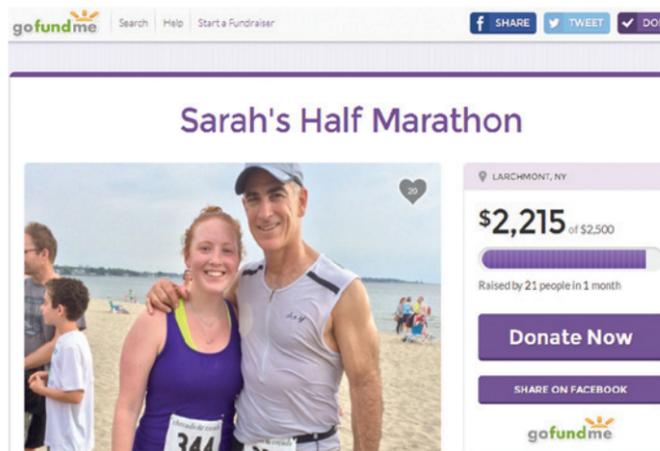
Do you feel your child's/children's medical and/or mental health needs are being met?



Overall Programs Foster Homes in the Community Dobbs Ferry Residential Campus

CV Special Report: Our Youngest Donors Go Digital

Today's young philanthropists are not setting up lemonade stands and car washes. They're taking to the Internet on crowdfunding sites like GoFundMe, CrowdRise, and Fundly – and they're raising real money for the causes they care about. In the last month, CV has been the recipient of two crowdfunding campaigns, and we thought you would like to hear about them.



Sarah Bienstock, a 19-year-old whose father is a trustee and whose mother is a volunteer, started a fundraiser as part of running the St. Louis Half Marathon. She set up a page on

GoFundMe.com (which was “so simple”), sent an email to her friends and family, and the donations starting rolling in.

“It seemed like every time I checked my email I’d see that I’d gotten more donations. I was not anticipating that at all!” she said. Her first goal was to raise \$500; when that was surpassed, she increased it to \$750, then \$1,000, and then \$2,500. She ultimately raised \$2,215.

“It seemed like every time I checked my email I’d see that I’d gotten more donations.”

A Young Man’s Dream

CV’s state-of-the-art music studio is only a few months old, but it is already inspiring teens to explore their musical talents. Aaron M. used the studio to rehearse for his performance at the Garden of Dreams Foundation’s “Decade of Dreams” annual talent show on April 11. He performed an original Reggae song for 6,000 people at Radio City Music Hall.

“[It] was an unreal opportunity for me. And it wouldn’t be possible without the Garden of Dreams Foundation or The Children’s Village,” Aaron said.

Aaron followed up his Radio City debut by performing for guests at CV’s annual dinner.



Jordan Manfredi had been so touched by a neighbor’s charitable project that she decided to start one for her 18-month-old daughter, Lily. “Since Lily’s middle name is Love, I figured we should give back on Valentine’s Day.” She also created a fundraising page on GoFundMe, calling it “Lil Love Goes a Long Way.” The campaign garnered \$606 in donations for CV.

“I wanted to start a tradition that Lily can be proud of. We plan to do it every year,” Jordan said.

While we’re excited by the trend of online fundraising, we don’t want to forget the traditional. Hannah Engram, a first-grade Brownie (and daughter of trustee Wes Engram), asked her cookie customers to purchase boxes for the kids at CV. She netted 120 boxes of Girl Scout cookies and \$27! Her donation was one of the most popular with our teens.

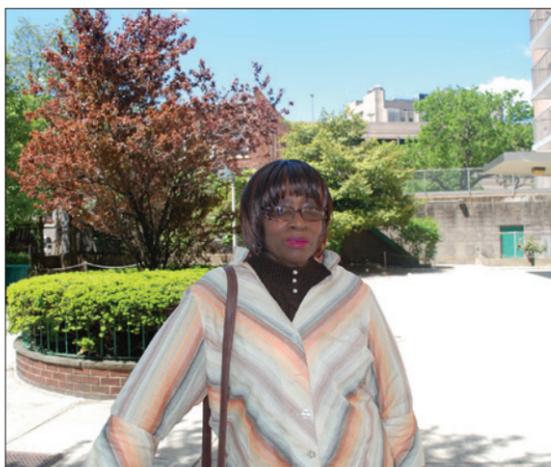


Whether through crowdfunding or knocking on doors, these fundraising campaigns brought not only dollars but also new friends to The Children’s Village. Thank you to Sarah, Lily, Hannah, and their parents. As Sarah said, crowdfunding is easy. If you or your children would like to start a campaign, try one of the sites mentioned, or call us. We’ll be glad to help.



“I call the kids my children, period.”

Over the past 20 years Rachele Glover has opened her home – and her heart – to 16 foster children. They’ve ranged in age from 5 to 17, some staying for just a few weeks and others for several years – but no matter how long they stay, she considers them family.



“Every one of my kids has had tragedy in their lives. I try to help them learn to talk about their feelings. The young ones don’t understand why they’ve been taken away from their families, but I try to explain that this is just the way it needs to be. And to let them know they have people that love and care about them.”

Ms. Glover, 68, has three children of her own, and decided to learn more about becoming a foster parent as her children neared adulthood. “My kids were getting big and I had plenty of room. I felt lost without my children in my house. I was lonely. I have a lot of love, energy, and patience. I thought, ‘I could give a kid some love.’”

In recent years, most of the kids who’ve come into her life have been difficult-to-place teenagers. The young adults can be challenging, she says, but

“They are all just SUPER young ladies and men, I get a lot of joy from them.”

with clear expectations – respect for each other being top of the list – everyone seems to settle in. Even when the kids are having a rough time, she feels that they appreciate what she does for them. “They are all just SUPER young ladies and men,” she said. “I get a lot of joy from them. Just as much as I give to them, they give to me.... The main thing these kids need is your time – time, energy, and patience. They just want someone they can count on.”

She finds that the support CV gives to her as foster mother and to the foster kids is invaluable. “(CV) does everything to get their self-esteem up,” said Ms. Glover. “They teach them about checkbooks and cooking. They take the kids on a lot of trips... to see colleges, to plays and things. They teach the girls about make-up and clothes. It’s wonderful.”

“I enjoy being a foster mother. I call the kids my children, period. I tell them, ‘Just call me grandma. You’re my grandchild now and that’s it.’”

News From The Village

The Children's Village
Dobbs Ferry, NY 10522

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit # 65
Southington, CT

www.childrensvillage.org

Address Correction Requested

To volunteer, donate or get involved, visit our website or follow CV1851 on Social Media



Want to stay up-to-date on The Children's Village? Visit 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!



We hope you will join us for our upcoming events:

Golf & Tennis Classic

September 20
Tamarack Country Club

Sally Paddle Tennis Tournament

October 26
Fox Meadow Tennis Club

Masquerade Gala

October 29
Portuguese-American Community Center

For more information visit us online at
childrensvillage.org/events

Or contact RoseAnn Magdaleno at
rmagdaleno@childrensvillage.org



Mentoring, continued

With the help of CV staff, this spring I launched (as a volunteer) a program within CV called Connections. Its mission is to help young lives succeed by providing one-on-one, long-term mentoring to teenage boys in foster care. The ambitious goal is to match 20 boys with 20 mentors this year.

Connections will differ from CV's current mentoring program, which focuses on kids on campus, in that Connections mentors will follow kids into the community when they leave campus. It's more challenging, maybe a little scary, but it will allow mentors to forge a critical long-term connection. To make it work, I am raising funds to provide on-the-ground, 24/7 staff support to mentors. Sort of like a mentor to the mentors.

I want to thank Children's Village for having the vision to allow me to take the next step in helping the kids who have no one. For more information, visit childrensvillage.org/connections or call me at 917-902-5280.

Is there room at your table for one more?

Every child needs an adult to care about them.
Learn more about becoming a foster parent;
please visit our website at
childrensvillage.org/foster-and-adoptive-homes

