

Winter 2016



This apartment is opening up so much opportunity for me! Everything is going to grow from this.

Addressing a Critical Need

“Oh my gosh, look at the windows! And the tile! And even the faucet...it’s beautiful!” Miranda Lebron was brimming with excitement the first time she saw what is soon to become her very first apartment.

Miranda, 20, is moving into one of 12 studio apartments designated for foster care or homeless youth on the top two floors of our soon-to-open Harlem building. This innovative project blends community, beauty, and affordability with rents as low as \$165/month. The idea is to make them affordable even for young people trying to avoid dependence on social services. Called Inwood House, the youth apartments address critical barriers to independence--housing and a community of support.

While the rents are low, furnishing the apartment is another hurdle. Thanks to the DARMA Fund and other generous donors, each of the residents will receive a gift card to purchase some of the things they need. When Miranda heard this news, she was doubly excited and has already picked out her mattress.

Housing is the single biggest barrier for foster care and homeless youth becoming independent.

from interior design to nursing out of a desire to help others. She’s already certified in phlebotomy and EKG testing and hopes to one day work in an emergency room or in a triage unit.

Miranda has been in foster care since she was 14 years old. Like with any young adult, moving into her own apartment is an exciting step.

“It’s a big change. I’m excited for the little things, like going food shopping and cooking in my own kitchen. I can’t wait to have the freedom to cook whatever I want!”

A full-time student at Queensboro Community College, Miranda switched her major

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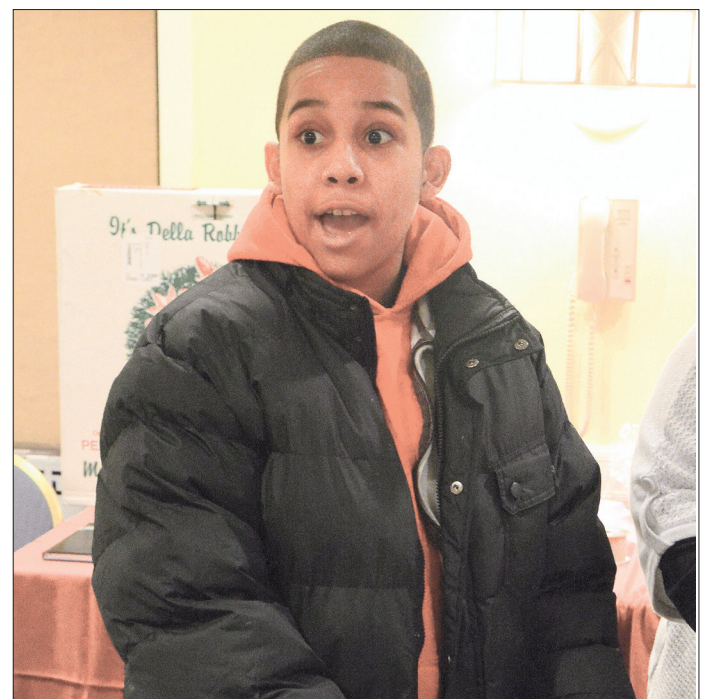
With Your Help, Our Children Will Make Holiday Memories

Being in foster care is especially difficult at this time of year – many of the kids we work with will spend the holidays away from those they love.

With the help of generous friends like you, we are able to provide gifts for every child. But fun events and outings can mean even more. **Even a small donation can sponsor a holiday memory for a child in foster care.**

- \$25 will fund an ice skating trip
- \$50 will pay for ice hockey tickets
- \$100 will let a teen try snowboarding

You can brighten the holidays for these deserving kids. Please donate to our Holiday Drive by using the enclosed envelope or visiting childrensvillage.org/help.





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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.

A Blueprint for Success



The trajectory of Perrian Glasby's life took a radical turn in the wrong direction when he was a freshman in college. "I did a knuckleheaded thing. I was hanging with the wrong crowd, feeling peer pressure, trying to find my way." That "knuckleheaded thing" led to an arrest, being convicted of a felony, and incarceration.

As part of his probation, Perrian was assigned to CV's Harlem Justice Community Program, which helps youth avoid getting in trouble again. The program focuses on

school, work, and connecting with family and community supports – all designed to give young people a plan and a focus.

"The program reminded me that, with an education, I should be able to make a living and have a comfortable life," said Perrian. "That I could still succeed regardless of what happened when I was 17."

As part of the program, Perrian – like all participants – was matched with a mentor. "My mentor was a successful African-American man that I could look up to and try to be like. He was successful even though he'd been incarcerated too."

Perrian came full circle and is now a CV staff member, mentoring young people coming into the program. "I really like being a mentor. CV gave me a blueprint on how to do things, and now I'm sharing that with others. Because of my age, the youth relate to me. I help them see that if I can do it, they can do it too."

Perrian is set to graduate with a bachelor's degree in criminal justice in May. He plans to pursue a master's degree in social work in the fall.

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Outcome Corner: Highlights from 2016



Foster Care Youth

93%

of eligible children in our foster care program remained with or returned to families.

Juvenile Justice Youth

100%

of the formerly incarcerated teens we worked with in our community programs stayed out of detention.



Community Youth

98%

of formerly homeless teens in our transitional living apartments are now living in stable housing.



Hope Takes Flight



Darian Slater has dreamt of becoming an airline pilot since he was 6 years old. At 20, despite years of that goal seeming increasingly unattainable, he's enrolled in a bachelor's degree program in Aircraft Operations at Vaughn College.

As a child living in Brooklyn with his mom and three siblings, Darian had trouble focusing in school, had a reading ability far below grade level, and was frequently reprimanded for poor behavior.

To help him focus, his school district recommended he attend Greenburgh Eleven on CV's Dobbs Ferry campus. He began commuting in the seventh grade, a bus journey that took 90 minutes.

"I cursed that bus ride. I hated it every day!" he says with a laugh. "But one day in tenth grade, I realized something. I still couldn't read well and had failed another Regents exam. I still hoped to become a pilot – and I realized that wasn't going to happen unless I made it happen."

I told myself, "If becoming a pilot is your dream, you've gotta get through this."

After that, he pushed to do better in school even though it was a struggle.

"My teachers really helped me pursue my goal. They helped me research colleges and complete my applications. When I was ready to submit my application to Vaughn College, I didn't have \$40 for the application fee. I was so upset."

The school guidance counselor convinced the college to waive the application fee, and Darian was accepted.

"I couldn't believe it. My guidance counselor called me when I was on the bus going home, and it was too good to be true. I thought it was a prank. But then the letter came and I knew it was for real!"

Darian spoke at the school's graduation in June, challenging the graduates to follow their dreams.

He is now in his second year of college, going to school full time and working 30+ hours at a department store. He qualified for his student pilot's license, the first step toward a commercial license, and looks forward to being the first person in his family to earn a bachelor's degree.

Darian relishes every second he's able to spend in an airplane--his dream come true.

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Paws of Healing

Justin R. was still new to the Dobbs Ferry campus when he learned about our dog training program, but he wasted no time in applying.

"I was really hyped when I learned there was a dog kennel here. I like cats, too, but dogs are more fun to play with."

Justin works in our Canine Rescue & Rehab program, a partnership with the Paws Crossed Animal Rescue Shelter. The program pairs campus residents with rescue dogs to teach them basic obedience and social skills, helping to make the dogs more adoptable.

The teens quickly identify similarities between the dogs' circumstances and their own, especially the loss of family and being taken from their homes. It helps them understand the dogs and also helps them openly discuss their own experiences.

"It's remarkable to see the teens and dogs interact," said Program Manager Adam Mallin. "The teens quickly learn that their behaviors and emotions are mirrored by the dogs – if the boys are angry or fearful, the dogs act defensive and timid. The teens train the dogs to behave well through trust and compassion, and everyone benefits."

Justin's first lesson focused on teaching an energetic dog named Tess how to sit on command, heel, and walk on a leash. The tasks were challenging, but Justin showed patience and perseverance – reminding himself, "I can do it, I can do it!" – and great pride when Tess mastered the tasks.

The session ended with a handshake and a "Great job!" from Adam, and one last task for Justin: Spend time cuddling and playing with Tess. "Training has to end with love!"

Canine Rescue & Rehab is privately funded. Visit childrensvillage.org/dogprogram to make a donation.

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News From The Village

The Children's Village
Dobbs Ferry, NY 10522

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www.childrensvillage.org

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

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Know someone who may be interested in our work? Pass along this newsletter to spread the word!

I needed someone to help me help myself. I was failing on my own. Fostercare made it possible.

#FosterPossible

Every child needs an adult to care about them. If you know someone who would make a great foster parent or want to learn more about fostering, visit childrensvillage.org/foster-and-adoptive-homes

the children's
village®



Thank you!

Hats off to our volunteer committee members for planning three fabulous fundraisers! Our Golf and Tennis Classic on September 20 raised \$90,000; the Sally Paddle Tennis Tournament on October 19 raised \$55,000; and the Masquerade Gala on October 29 raised \$67,000 (all amounts are after expenses). Many of our programs are supported through government contracts, but they fall far short of allowing us to deliver the kind of services and support we believe children deserve. Fundraisers – and the donations of supporters like you – change lives.

We look forward to seeing you at our annual
Circle of Friends Dinner at Chelsea Piers on April 27, 2017!



The foursome from American Mobile Dental had a spectacular hole-in-one!



The Best Costume Party in Westchester raised funds for homeless kids!

Critical Need, continued

“I want to become so successful that I can give back to people who have the struggles I grew up with. Helping kids in my predicament is my biggest goal.”

In addition to being a full-time student, Miranda recently switched from a part-time to a full-time job to help her save money for move-in day. She works the overnight shift at a clothing store near Rockefeller Plaza as part of the visual design team.

“I’m living in Far Rockaway now, so getting to school and my job will be much faster from Harlem. This apartment is opening up so much opportunity for me! Everything is going to grow from this.”

The new building is located at 2139 Adam Clayton Powell Jr. Boulevard, on the corner of 127th Street. It includes 60 affordable apartments (12 for foster and homeless youth) as well as offices for CV and our partner Harlem Dowling, a clinic for foster families, and a food pantry. The Grand Opening is tentatively scheduled for February.