

“He has an opportunity to become whatever he wants to be.”

-Victor Quirolo
Head Coach
Iona Prep Football



Sidney Weston, former participant in CV's STEP Program, on the campus of Iona Prep.

Huffington Visits Polo Grounds Girls' Club

Arianna Huffington of the *Huffington Post* is pictured below hugging a young writer at The Children's Village Polo Grounds Community Center. Huffington met with members of the Girls' Club at the Center on December 14. She encouraged the girls to find their voices through writing and not to let anything get in the way of their dreams. The girls read their poems to Huffington and discussed their writing with her.

The Girls' Club, which meets weekly, was started by LitWorld Founder Pam Allyn, who also started the Books for Boys Program at The Children's Village ten years ago.



In January, the girls had a chance to visit the *Huffington Post*.

The Sky's the Limit

Sidney Weston is a senior at Iona Prep and captain of the varsity football team. Head Coach Quirolo calls him “the emotional leader of the football team” and says, “He has an opportunity to become whatever he wants to be. The sky's the limit.”

Things were not always so bright for Sidney. Growing up in Mount Vernon, he hung out on the streets, sometimes until dawn, got involved with a gang, and got into fights and ended up in court. When he was 14, a judge sent him to Children's Village instead of a detention facility as a last chance.

Sidney did well at CV and, when he was ready to go home, he got additional support through the STEP Program to make sure he didn't slip back into old habits. Social worker Kami Sabune-Sheriff believed in Sidney and made it her mission for him to succeed. She helped the family deal with some financial and medical issues and made it possible for Sidney to continue attending CV's campus school as a day student. But the most important thing she did was to get Sidney into Iona Prep.

When Kami noticed that Sidney had a passion and a talent for football, she contacted his

coach (he played afterschool for the Mt. Vernon RazorBacks) and, together, they brought him to the attention of the Iona Prep Football Coach. On his tour of Iona Prep, Sydney saw students carrying books and dressed in ties and button-down shirts. He knew this is where he wanted to spend the next couple years of his life.

“I was ecstatic to learn that the Iona Prep coach was interested in Sidney,” says Kami. “It would give him the opportunity for a great education.”

Kami worked with Sidney all summer to prepare him for the admissions test, took him to the library to study, and went with him the day he took the test.

Sidney credits coming to Iona Prep as a turning point in his life. “Being in this environment made me grow up,” Sidney said. “It made me mature and realize that, if I keep continuing on the lifestyle that I was living, I could really end up in bad places, in jail, or I could end up dead.”

Sidney will graduate in June and is being recruited by colleges such as CW Post and Stony Brook. It certainly does seem like the sky's the limit for his future.

Quotes excerpted from ESPN article, October 2010.

Happening Now

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About The Village

Founded in 1851, the mission of The Children's Village is to work 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.

Somebody Actually Loves All This Snow!

Five days a week (afterschool and on Saturday), CV students go snowboarding at Tuxedo Ridge, about an hour from campus. "Most of the guys have never been snowboarding," says Recreation Director Jen Urick. "But they pick it up quickly. They have no fear."

In addition to having fun, the boys are building their skills in preparation for a 4-day overnight trip to Gore Mountain over winter break.



"Gore has more challenging trails," says Recreation Director Jen Urick. "So we can't take them unless they can handle the runs. But they are determined not to be left back. For some it will be the first overnight trip and they are really looking forward to it."



Westchester County Executive Robert Astorino makes freinds with Assistance Dog Pumpkin on a visit to Children's Village in January. After touring the campus, he commented that he is looking to agencies like Children's Village to help the County do things better for children and families.

First Lady of Mexico Visits CV

On Thanksgiving Day, Margarita Zavala, wife of Mexican President Felipe Calderon, visited The Children's Village and spoke with the children in CV's Immigration Services Program. These children come to our borders without a guardian and CV's job, under the auspices of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Office of Refugee Resettlement, is to keep them safe and well cared for while their status is resolved.

Zavala walked the campus, spent time with the children, and greeted many CV staff members of Mexican descent. There were tears from both staff and children on meeting the first lady of their homeland.



First Lady of Mexico Margarita Zavala with CV President and CEO Jeremy Kohomban

Zavala, president of Mexico's social assistance institutio and a former member of Mexico's Congress, spoke about the challenges of child immigration and her interest in finding solutions.

After leaving CV, Zavala tossed the coin at the Jets Thanksgiving Football game.

Let Us Thank You

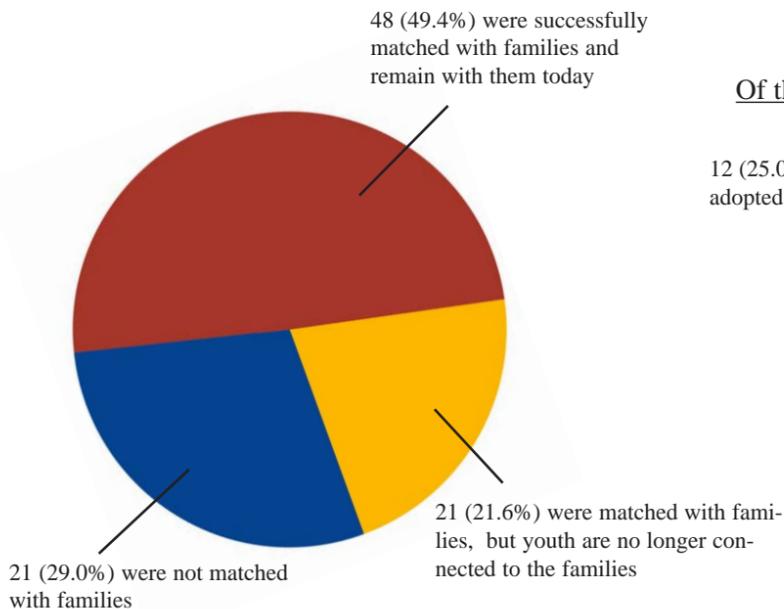
If you have mentioned The Children's Village in your estate plans, give us the opportunity to show our appreciation that you have become a partner in our future by enrolling you in The Children's Village Legacy Society. Members will have a permanent listing in our annual report of donors and have their names engraved on a Donor Wall to be erected in Wetmore Hall.

For information on the Legacy Society or CV's charitable gift annuities, please contact Linda Stutz, VP Institutional Advancement, at 914-693-0600 ext 1413 stutz@childrensvillage.org or visit www.childrensvillage.org.

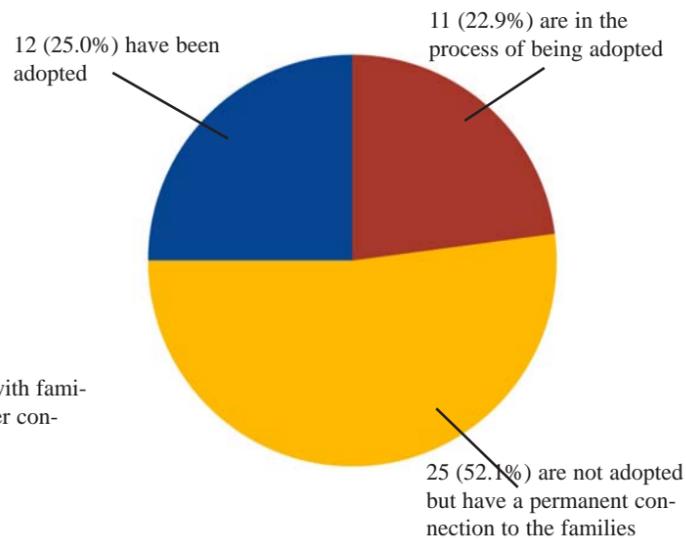
Outcomes Corner: Families for Teens

By the time children in foster care reach their teenage years, their hope for adoption is virtually nonexistent. For the troubled youth in residential treatment, the outlook is even bleaker. Six years ago, The Children's Village started a program designed to change that mindset and find permanent families for teenagers in our care. The progress was slow, and initially expectations were low. Since the beginning of the program, we have had a success rate of 50%, and 48 at-risk teens who would otherwise have gone on to what is termed "independent living" are now connected to families.

Of the 97 participants in the program:



Of the 48 participants successfully matched with families:



Cornell University Alumni Work Side-by-Side with CV Boys Beautifying Cottage

Members of the Westchester Chapter of the Cornell University Alumni Association chose Children's Village for their quarterly service project. Working with boys in Minturn Cottage, they painted the recreation room and cleared out some old furniture, making room for a new ping pong table.

After a mornings' work, the volunteers and boys ate lunch together. The boys enjoyed hearing about Cornell and some of the careers the alumni chose. They invited the volunteers to come back so they could take them on in ping pong.



Mentoring Brings Out the Best

"I don't want to talk about it." After several years and even more placements within the New York City Foster Care system, Donte had shut down and wouldn't communicate with anyone. That was until he met his Mentor Tusaret Elvi.

Like many children in the foster care system, Donte has a difficult time trusting new people. While he would seek out attention and companionship from staff, he always struggled to actually let anyone in. However, only one short month after Donte met Tusaret, staff noticed a dramatic change in him.

Donte began to answer basic questions, then he started to initiate conversations and express his feelings. "Tusaret engaged him with interesting activities," said Donte's social worker. "Then she took it a step further by getting him to talk about those experiences. It made a difference."

Tusaret, an Analyst for the FBI, has brought several new experiences into Donte's life in the past seven months. One of their favorite activities is to read the same books and then discuss them over dinner at restaurants. She also took him to a fire department tour and to FBI Family Day in Manhattan.

On a recent outing, Tusaret asked Donte what he would do if he were President of the U.S. He replied, "I would provide shelter for the homeless, lower taxes so people wouldn't lose their houses, and create a mentoring program for other kids."

Donte was recently discharged from CV's residential school into a foster home and is doing very well. He attends a community school, plays on sports teams and, of course, still sees his mentor Tusaret several times a month.



Although Donte is usually a quiet young man, Mentor Tusaret Elvi can always seem to get a laugh out of him.

Pace University Students Inspire Academic Excellence

"My Pace Tutor convinced me to take the Regents Exam when I was thinking about skipping it," said CV resident Joel D. Constantly struggling with US History, Joel had considered giving up completely, but then found the support and encouragement he needed to stick with it and take the difficult test.

Joel, along with hundreds of other CV residents, has been the beneficiary of a unique partnership between CV and Pace University. For more than 12 years, Pace students have come to CV weekly as part of a Juvenile Justice course with Professor Mario Astarita. They attend an hour lecture, then tutor CV students for an hour, getting practical experience working with at-risk kids. The program originally started with one class but was so popular that, three years ago, Pace added a second class.

One tutor noted, "Words can't describe how grateful I am that I traveled to CV every

Thursday...some days I would help my student study for his tests, and other days we would read books where we were both learning about something new."

After observing several tutoring sessions, Assistant Vice Principal of CV's campus school Elton Thomas said, "This program is terrific. This is something we should replicate with other universities." This is a sentiment that is echoed by many at CV since there is a waiting list for students to participate.

Like many of our students, Joel went on to take and pass his Regents History exam and continues to attend the program. When asked if he feels like he needs the Pace program Joel said, "It helps to know that someone is checking to see if I've done my work, and to have someone keep telling me I can do it."



Pace Student Jackie helps a CV student with Math. She is one of 50 Pace College students who come to CV every week as part of a collaboration with the college.

A Friend is Honored

On November 10, volunteer Barbara Jenkel was awarded the Rosemarie Siragusa Memorial Youth Service Award by the Westchester County Youth Bureau. The Children's Village nominated Mrs. Jenkel for her dedication to helping our young men learn new skills and build self-esteem through training assistance dogs for people with physical disabilities.



Congratulations, Barbara, you are truly an amazing friend of the Village!

Barbara Jenkel (center) with well wishers (l to r): Lu Picard, Director of Programs for ECAD; Candy Fitts, Director of Volunteers at CV; Paul Jenkel, CV Trustee; Jeremy Kohomban, President and CEO; and Blip, Service Dog.

Save the date for

*The CV Volunteer Recognition Event
& Neighbor Night*

June 7, 2011 Rain or Shine!



For more information
call Kendra Rose at
914-693-0600 ext. 1587
or email
krose@childrensvillage.org

The Best Costume Party in Westchester

CV's annual Masquerade Gala is reputedly (by attendees at least) Westchester's best costume party. Guests are greeted at the door by spotlights and a fire juggler and entertained by stilt walkers. This year's best costume award went to a table full of Chilean Miners, complete with cages. But the most important part was that this volunteer-run event raised close to \$100,000 for at-risk teens in Westchester County. The gala was sponsored by Kinray, Inc., Mt. Carmel Pharmacy of the Bronx, Silvio's Restaurant and Windows on the Hudson.



Members of CV's Junior Board and friends enjoy The Masquerade Gala. (from 1 to r) Rosario Gumpeng of Morgan Stanley, Noah Simon of Alliance Bernstein, Blake Elder of GAMCO Investors and Melissa Price of City Harvest.



CV Trustee and Event Chair James Timko of Keogh Timko & Mose LLP sells balloon raffles.

Paddle Tennis with a Purpose

On October 27th, CV supporters came together in friendly competition at "The Sally" Paddle Tennis tournament. The 30-year-old volunteer-run event raised more than \$40,000 for the Sanctuary Shelter for homeless and runaway Westchester Teens.

Thank you to the Committee who helped make this event such fun, especially Sharon Saunders and Jo Rogers. Pictured below (l to r): Sally Committee members Anna Filardi, Jinx Chapman, Kelly Dwyer, and Barbara Underhill.



News From The Village

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2011 Events



Join us to Celebrate The Children's Village and its work on behalf of Children and Families

Experience the wonder of Illusionist Mark Mitton

JVKelly Group, Inc to receive the Corporate Award

Thursday, April 28, 2011
The Lighthouse at Chelsea Pier
New York, NY

For more information
visit www.childrensvillage.org
call: 914-693-0600 ext. 1224 or email
rmagdaleno@childrensvillage.org