

Winter 2017



This wasn't his choice.



You helped 235 teens get off the streets.

But it's not nearly enough!

On October 14, twenty-five staff and volunteers — including a brave CV trustee, pictured below — spent the night in tents and sleeping bags to raise awareness of teen homelessness.

The event took place following Dobbs Ferry's annual street fair, where visitors to CV's booth received balloons and bracelets saying "1,400 every night — Stop teen homelessness."

We work with kids every day who have no place to call home. Some jump from one friend's house to another's in what is called "couch surfing." Others have family members who take them in for a while with the understanding that the arrangement is temporary. And still others spend nights riding the trains and buses, sleeping in the park, or trading sex for a warm bed.

**1,400 teens
are homeless
in Westchester
County.**

CV Trustee David Schwartz joined the "sleepers" on October 14, trying to raise awareness of teen homelessness.

"Within 48 hours of leaving home, many kids get approached by a trafficker," said Jennifer Madera, Director of CV's Shelter.

Thanks to donors like you — and our event volunteers (see article at right) — many were helped. Some called our hotline or came to the Shelter, the only one in Westchester County for homeless teens. Others moved into our supported apartments, where they can live for up to two years while they learn to be independent.

Learn the signs of teen homelessness — and how you can help — on page 2.



Thank you for raising \$135,000 for homeless teens!

Our volunteer committees are super creative, but they also have a serious side. They understand that the money they raise is helping kids get off the streets.

The Sally Paddle Tennis Tournament, volunteer-run for over 20 years, raised \$35,000 for the Shelter. And the outrageous and fun Masquerade Gala raised an all-time high of \$100,000. (Both amounts are after expenses.)

Events may seem like too much fun to be doing good, but we want to thank every person who picked up a racquet or created an amazing costume. You changed lives.

Please join us for the Inwood House Luncheon on March 7 at the Yale Club and the Circle of Friends Dinner at Chelsea Piers on April 26.

“My history — all of it — is a beautiful thing.”



Young Anthony circa 2008

At 22, Anthony Trotter is poised, well dressed, and just landed a plum job at Hunter College. That’s a far cry from the “wild and rebellious” teenager (his words) who came to Children’s Village nearly a decade ago. He’s proud of his current successes, but doesn’t want that to be all you remember about him.

“My history — all of it — is a beautiful thing,” he says. “I was in foster care. I was in trouble with the law. I made some really bad choices. And I turned my life around. All of it has made me who I am today.”

You helped write Anthony’s story. The WAY Program would literally not exist without our generous donors.

Anthony’s history at CV began when he was 13. “That first year was challenging. There was way more structure than I was used to. It was tough, and my behavior reflected that — I got in trouble, was fighting, didn’t care about school.”

The turning point came when Anthony began playing on CV’s basketball team. His grades improved and his behavioral problems all but disappeared. He was so talented on the court that he was offered a basketball scholarship to Tomkins Cortland Community College in Ithaca.

The transition didn’t go well. Without the structure he once thought was too much, Anthony floundered and was expelled. “It was devastating. It’s one thing to let yourself down, another to let others down, too. Some people said I couldn’t hack it when I was offered the scholarship, and I hated to prove them right.”

Anthony returned to CV briefly, then left with the support of our privately funded WAY Program. His counselor helped him come up with a plan to get his own apartment, enroll in school, and work.

CV’s President, Jeremy Kohomban, personally keeps in touch with many of the kids, and helped Anthony get his current job (see sidebar). Anthony also serves alongside Jeremy on NYC Mayor Bill de Blasio’s Foster Care Interagency Task Force.

A special text message to Jeremy from Anthony:

Jeremy, just wanted to reach out to say thanks again for connecting me with this wonderful opportunity to strengthen my professional self.

And I thank you not as a former resident or a kid but as a young man trying to make it. These types of opportunities rarely come about and just wanted to tell you I appreciate it because few people would put their name out there to recommend someone. Thanks again.

Teen Homelessness: Know the Signs

Homelessness today is “hidden in plain sight,” but if you look closely, you may notice the signs:

- Homeless teens often wear the same few articles of clothing.
- They appear tired and/or fall asleep unexpectedly.
- They are vague about their address.
- They say they’re “not hungry” when friends buy food, yet eat ravenously when offered food.

If you think a teen needs help, share our hotline number: 1-888-997-1583. We’ll take it from there.



“Christmas can’t come to our house until it comes to Children’s Village.”

Our donors start calling in September — yes, you read that right! “Do you need turkeys for Thanksgiving? Can I do a toy drive? Do you need winter coats?”

You are amazing!

The Gibney family is just one of many who include CV children in their family’s holiday traditions.

Janine Gibney, a resident of Brookfield, Connecticut, measures her family’s commitment by her sons’ ages. “We’ve been celebrating Christmas with Children’s Village for as long as my sons can remember. It is our tradition. They were 3 and 7 when we started. They are 20 and 24 now, and we still say that Christmas can’t come to our house until it comes to Children’s Village.”

It’s a little early to be thanking our gift givers — we know that there will be many more! But we wanted to start with the list below of the early birds.

Thank you!

If you would like to make CV part of your holiday tradition, fill out and return the form below.



Hastings High School
High Water Woman
Hillside Church
Jennifer Hirschhorn
Jessica Iannelli
Interfaith Caring Community
Irvington Presbyterian Church
Peter Kaplan
Vikki Krebs
Legends Realtor Group
Kim Lewis
Lexington Democratic Club
Debra Lovkey

RCA Asphalt
Reformed Church of Cortlandtown
Rise Higher
Roadway Moving
Roc Nation
Roz Nixon Entertainment
Saint Anthony of Padua Church
Saint James the Less
Saints John and Paul School
ShopRite
Elaine Sinacore
Cathy Skurman
Aaliytha Stevens
Stew Leonard’s
Stop & Shop
Strang Middle School
Temple Beth Shalom
Thursday Club
Jeanne Tickell
Today Show Charitable Foundation, Inc.
Traditions 118
Westchester Correctional Facility
William Raveis Legends Realty Group
Whole Foods
Woodlands Community Temple
World Vision
Youth Mission of St. Matthias Church

Thank You to Our Holiday Helpers

(Partial list as of November 20)

Carmita Abrigo
Aldersgate United Methodist Church
Tim and Sue Allport
Al’s Angels
Silvia Alves
Ambac Assurance Corp.
Ardsley Girl Scout Troop #1673
Ardsley United Methodist Church
Beth Bienstock
Karen Blumenthal
Camuto Group
Children’s Village Leadership Council
CISCO Systems, Inc.
CLG Insurance
The Concord School
Connex International
Donna Corvelle
Jennifer DeOliveira
Dobbs Ferry Lutheran Church
Dobbs Ferry Police Department
Edgemont Schools
Mindy Farkas
Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies
Samantha Feiner
Raissa Fitzgerald
Montez Flenoury
Gateway Realty Corp of NY
Gabby Gifford
The Great Birthday Caper



Mr. and Mrs. Lubic
MasterCard
The Masters School
Mercy College
Elizabeth Moore
Tula Schapiro
Morgan Stanley
Morgan Stanley Children’s Hospital at New York Presbyterian
New York Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell
NY Metro APHON Chapter
Kathryn O’Neal-Dunham
OK Originals
Mr. and Mrs. Orlando
Pleasantville Presbyterian Church
The Pajama Program
Jen Parise
Quaker Ridge School



Cut and return in enclosed envelope



I want to give holiday cheer to children and families in need!

Make your donation go twice as far. Please check to see if your company offers a matching gift program.

Enclosed is my gift of: \$ _____

Donate securely online at: childrensvillage.org/donate

Please make checks payable to: The Children’s Village

Credit card: AmEx Visa MasterCard Discover

number _____

exp. date _____

email _____

www.childrensvillage.org

To volunteer, donate, or get involved, visit our website or follow us on social media.



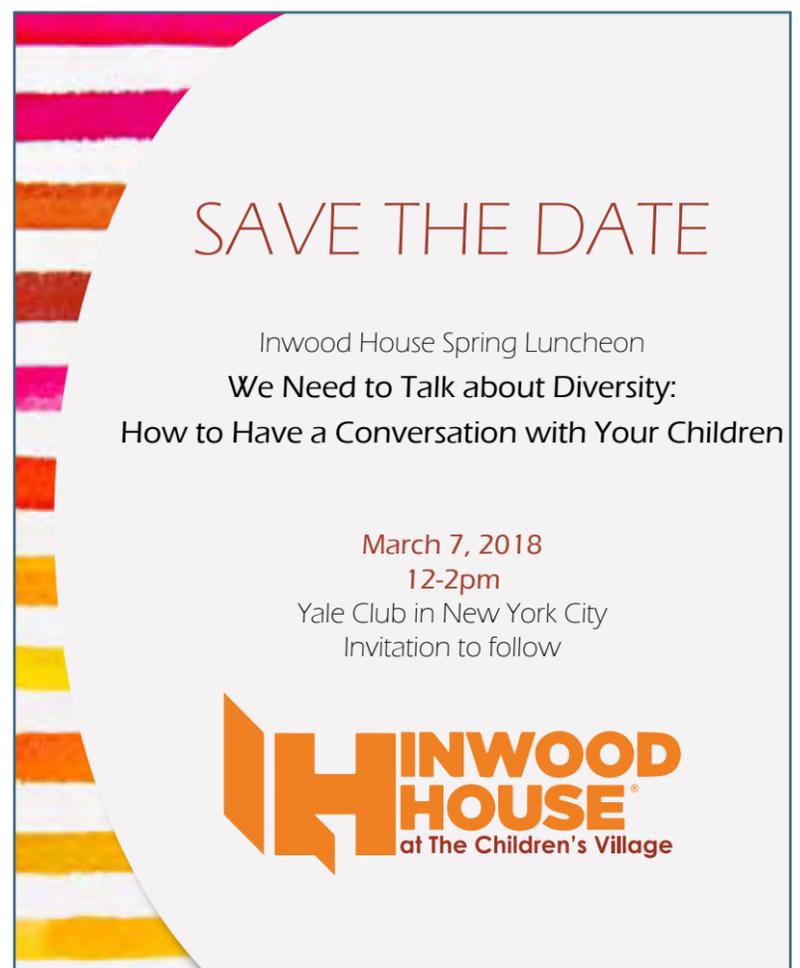
Know someone who may be interested in our work? Pass along this newsletter to spread the word!



2017 Annual Report

Our theme for the year is “The Power of One,” representing the powerful impact that each and every one of our supporters has made. Read it online today!

childrensvillage.org/annualreport



Teen Pregnancy Rate Down by 67%



As any parent knows, talking with teens about sex is uncomfortable and awkward — and vitally important. But for the counselors in our school-based programs, frank discussions about safe sex are an everyday occurrence.

We're working with both boys and girls in 26 middle and high schools throughout New York City to develop leadership, healthy relationship behaviors, and prevent teen pregnancy as part of our Inwood House program. Discussions, projects, and fun activities are designed to help students learn to make wise choices — about delaying sexual activity, avoiding parenthood until they're ready, and not smoking or using drugs. Lessons about condoms, STDs, and when “no means no” are interspersed with making videos about bullying and holding educational fairs for their fellow students.

“I learn something new every day,” says Ylani. “I've learned what to think about before I make a decision that might affect my life for a long time. Last month we did a project called ‘Spread the Word’ where we made posters about avoiding pregnancy and got to

talk to the other kids about what we've learned. I feel like I'm learning to be a leader.”

Just 38% of teen mothers get a high school diploma; daughters of teen mothers are three times as likely to become teen mothers themselves.*

The good news is that teen pregnancy rates have been dropping — 9% since 2015 and 67% since 1991. There are many factors that have led to this good news, but part of the solution is education delivered to teens in a way that is frank and nonjudgmental. Ylani has her sights on being a pediatrician. She understands that doing well in school, avoiding drugs, and not getting pregnant are critical to making that happen.

* According to the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy.