



One consistent and caring adult...that's what it takes!

25 Years of Wednesdays with Chuck

When Chuck bounds up the stairs to Butler cottage, the boys run to greet him with hugs and fist bumps.

"I can't come with you to dinner tonight. I didn't get my homework done this week," says one young man.

Chuck assures him that, if he works hard, there will be a spot for him at dinner next week. It's clear that the relationship between them is honest and trusting – something that only comes from consistency and caring.

Butler Cottage, on our Dobbs Ferry campus, is home to twelve boys in foster care. For many of them, the only constant in their lives has been that change is inevitable. Their

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sense of home and family is always shifting.

The boys respect and look up to Chuck. He has been volunteering at Children's Village for 25 years, taking boys out for dinner every Wednesday. The boys look forward to dinner off campus, but more importantly, they look forward to spending time with Chuck.

"I always try to take them to a place we can talk or find something interesting before we eat – sometimes a bookstore or a dollar store. I try to think of one lesson from my life I want to give to the boys, and keep it under two minutes!"

When Chuck walked into our offices in 1993, he never anticipated the impact he would make. All he wanted was to give back at a place where he was needed and could connect. He was – and remains – a humble man, and his goal is always to put the boys first.

We often say at CV that it takes just one appropriate and willing adult to transform some of our kids' lives. When you think of all the boys over the years who Chuck has met, listened to, given advice to, and been a constant for, it's amazing what an impact he has had.

The boys in Butler love and respect Chuck for being there for them, and they always look forward to Wednesdays!

How you may deduct your charitable giving

Now that state and local taxes are capped, many people will take the standard deduction on taxes. That means you can't deduct your charitable donations. But if you're 70½ and have a traditional IRA, there's still a way to ensure that you can help your favorite causes and get a break on your taxes.

You can direct that a portion of your IRA required minimum distribution (RMD) be sent directly to the charities you want to support. In this way, your withdrawal is effectively tax-free. As always, check with your tax advisor to see if this strategy is right for you.



Program that helps parents of migrant children will expand

The plight of migrant children took center stage this summer as a result of the federal government's Zero Tolerance policy.

CV has been proud to care for migrant teenagers since 2004. Whether they come to our borders without guardians or are separated from them upon arrival, our goal is always to reunite migrant teenagers safely with family as quickly as possible.

But sometimes reunification is not easy. After the joy of being together again, parents often grapple with new, unexpected struggles. Some haven't seen their children in years and have no idea how to parent. To help, we started offering workshops, support groups, and counseling in the community – open to all migrants. The program has been so successful that we will expand the number

of sites from two to twelve in January.

One mother who comes to our workshops is Maria*. She left El Salvador 14 years ago, leaving her infant son and 3-year-old daughter in the care of her parents. Working two jobs in New York, she was able to send money home for their education and living expenses. When she could, she sent clothes and gifts. Her parents and her children depended on her. But it was hard living apart from her children.

When Maria's mother passed away last year, she scraped up enough money to send for her children, who were now teens. Her son resents that she left him all those years ago and is acting out. Both children are struggling in school. Parenting teens is new to her, and she felt

there was nowhere to turn for support. A friend told Maria about the program and, since then, she hasn't missed a class.

"It's the one time during the week that I feel I can breathe," she says. "I can talk to other parents who know what I've been through and how I feel."

There are many more parents like Maria who need our help, and The Children's Village is grateful to be part of the solution.

Migrant parent workshops and support groups are funded by New York State's Office for New Americans.

** Maria's last name was withheld to protect her privacy.*



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The best volunteers ever!

Our volunteer-run Masquerade Gala is always a rollicking good time, a celebration of costumes and creativity that keeps party goers coming back year after year. But it has an important purpose--helping homeless teens in Westchester County. This year the event raised an extraordinary \$105,000 (with only \$4,000 in expenses)!

Our generous and energetic event committee pours their heart and soul into the event. They understand that the money they raise is helping get kids off the streets, so they make sure just

about everything is donated. We're so grateful to sponsors Mt. Carmel Pharmacy and Armand and Janice Paganelli, to Silvio's Italian Restaurant for donating all of the delicious food, to Roger and Joanne Paganelli for providing spirits, to Timko and Moses for their donation of beer and wine, and to the MasterCard Transactions and DJ Curtis Winchester for providing the music that kept us dancing til midnight.

A huge thank you to everyone who made this party a success.

Black Friday shopping marathon – for a cause



Carole Sinacore at 6 am (only 8 hours into her Black Friday charity shopping spree!). In addition to gifts for kids, Carole and her mom have added small appliances for families transitioning out of homeless shelters to the shopping list.

Elaine Sinacore and her daughter Carole have an unusual holiday tradition: They shop for 24 hours straight on Black Friday (starting Thursday night), but don't buy a single gift for family and friends. Instead, they buy holiday gifts for children who might otherwise not receive holiday gifts.

Elaine and Carole have adopted a CV cottage for the holidays for the past 8 years. The boys provide a wish list, and Elaine and Carole make it their mission to find absolutely everything – at a great Black Friday price! The CV kids know that these generous gifts are coming from a family that cares about them, and that means a great deal.

“We take pride in knowing that we’re getting these kids exactly what they want,” says Elaine, who often travels out of state to find the lowest prices on popular items.

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The shopping spree has grown to be more than just a family project. Elaine’s husband Paul enlisted his company, Scott Process Equipment Corporation, to help organize and fund these drives as well.

And when Elaine brought the idea of a holiday gift drive to her church, the Reformed Church of Cortlandtown, parishioners enthusiastically joined in. Many members of the church share Elaine’s passion for getting the kids something personal.

“This year we were able to expand the drive to families transitioning out of homeless shelters, so that means getting small appliances too. The next step is to add kids from Children’s Village going out on their own,” said Elaine.

Having become Black Friday experts, Elaine and Carole have offered to use their tradition to help even more organizations looking to plan gift drives. Year after year, their support and generosity continues to grow!

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

That’s a sentiment of many families and groups whose holiday traditions include the children at CV. When everyone is going home for the holidays, there are many kids who have no place to go. But, thanks to the generosity--and creativity--of our volunteers, all the children have wonderful gifts to open, parties to attend, and events and trips to look forward to.

For Thanksgiving, Enes Kanter from the Knicks hosted dinner for 100 children. Volunteer Lou Codella took boys to a local church to help feed the homeless.

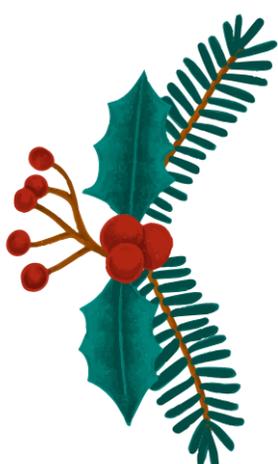
And, thanks to generous donors, we distributed 407 turkeys to needy families--the largest number ever.

Our volunteers really shine at Christmas. One of the many parties includes carols, an illusionist, and gifts for all the migrant children in our care. One of our trustees and his family is bringing Christmas dinner to a cottage. And every one of the children in all our programs will get gifts.

Thank you to everyone who helps bring the holidays to Children’s Village.



If you would like to add CV to your holiday tradition, fill out and return the form below with the enclosed envelope.



**the children's
village**

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 _____

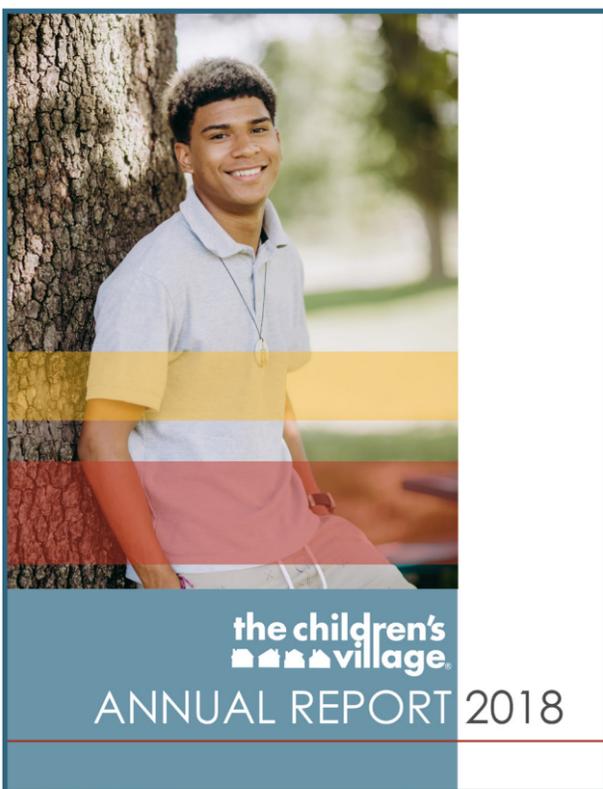
email _____

www.childrensvillage.org

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

THE NEW YORK
COMMUNITY TRUST **NY** *NEW YORK*
Nonprofit Excellence Awards
Gold Prize Recipient

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



You made a difference!

You make the most important investments in kids and families possible. Things like finding families for children who have no one. Support for older teens going out on their own. And so much more.

Read about the impact of your support at

childrensvillage.org/annualreport

SAVE THE DATE

19th Annual Inwood House Luncheon

The Impact of Family Separation

Thursday, February 28, 2019
12 Noon to 2pm

Yale Club
50 Vanderbilt Ave
New York, NY

Co-Chairs:
Katrina Dudley
Joanna Horowitz-Morgan
Caroline Williamson

Committee Members:
Christina Bost Seaton
Aisha Christian
Kathryn O'Neal Dunham
Jennifer Maanavi
Dorri Tillinghast

The Irvington Clocktower Players offers full scholarship to CV resident

"This is my dream. I always wanted to act. I'll read the book. I'll learn the part..." When Vincent L. heard about the opportunity for a CV resident to be in *Sweeney Todd*, he made it his mission to be selected. Now he spends his Friday afternoons awash in meat pies as he rehearses for his part. And staff can't wait to be the proudest parents in the audience when the show opens in February.

Break a leg, Vincent!



The 2018 Nonprofit Power 50
The most influential people in the nonprofit sector.

16. **Jeremy Kohomban**
President and CEO
The Children's Village

Dr. Jeremy Kohomban was recently featured as one of the "2018 Nonprofit Power 50: The most influential people in the nonprofit sector" by *City & State* magazine.

"Jeremy Kohomban is a recognized leader in child welfare reform. The Children's Village President played a key role in the passage of the **federal Family First Prevention Services Act, which is expected to overhaul the nation's foster care system by preventing the breakup of biological families.** Kohomban, an advocate praised for his expertise in human services as well as his pragmatism and business sense, has been honored by the Child Welfare League of America and the Alliance for Children and Families."