

Annual Report 2023

the children's

Lived experience belongs to people who have gained knowledge through direct, first-hand involvement in everyday events, rather than through assumptions and constructs from other people, research, or media.

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We served more than 20,800 youth and families last year!



### We believe that:

- All people deserve the opportunity to reach their full potential.
- Families belong together whenever possible.
- We should celebrate diversity and its power to enrich us all.
- The presence of at least one caring, committed adult is a nonnegotiable requirement for a child's success.
- Housing should be safe, beautiful, and affordable.
- A high-quality education empowers children to create a brighter future.
- Trusting our youth and families to guide our work is critical.

### Letter from our Chair and President

Dear Friend,

Thank you for supporting The Children's Village (CV). Together, we are helping thousands of young people and families find stability, regain hope, and build opportunities to flourish. We are fortunate to partner with young people, families, and staff who have experienced the systems of child welfare, juvenile justice, and immigration. Working with and alongside them helps us identify innovative and effective solutions because those closest to the problem are also closest to the solution.

In a year of many achievements, a few highlights stand out:

- While asylum seekers continue to overwhelm the NYC shelter system and politicians and policies dominate the headlines, CV's Legal Support and Relocation efforts continue strong. We are helping hundreds of families with their legal paperwork and relocations to their destinations in other states. Our compassionate team includes members who have experienced the immigration journey themselves, who provide the safety and authenticity that is required when helping families who are new to the USA.
- Our safety net for teen victims of human trafficking is being expanded from Westchester into NYC. This life changing program provides safety and clinical support, helping teens rebuild their self-esteem and independence. This year they held their first art show which included beautiful pieces around the theme of turning pain into purpose.
- And lastly, our proof-of-concept deeply affordable housing project, The Eliza, will
  open in Manhattan in January. Located at 4790 Broadway, The Eliza brings beautiful
  apartments, 22,000 square feet for the New York Public Library, a Community Center
  that includes a STEM Center, rooftop gardens, a sensory room, performance space
  and a teaching kitchen to the residents of our community. We recently published
  availability for the 175 deeply affordable rental units at The Eliza and applications are
  pouring in.

Thank you for making this most important work possible!

Sincerely,

Jamie Marley
Chair of the Board of Directors

Jeremy C. Kohomban, PhD President and CEO

### Kiki's Journey: From Isolation to Empowerment

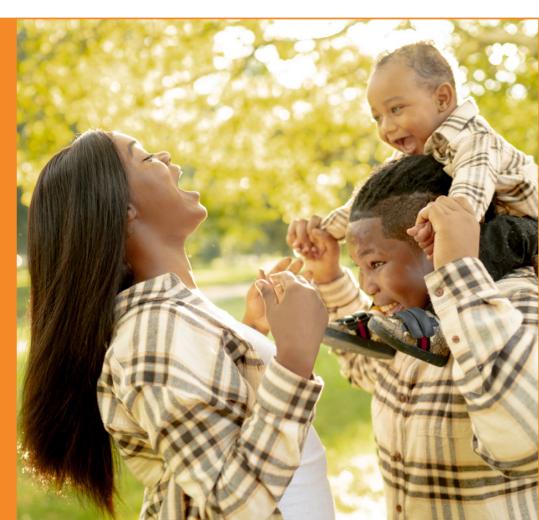
Despite being one of six siblings, Kiki felt extremely isolated growing up. Her earliest memories are escaping the chaos of screaming matches in her closet. That feeling stuck with Kiki through her teenage years, and led to her devoting much of her energy to people who only wanted to cause her harm because of her desperation for connection. From the time she was 13 to 16, Kiki was a victim of multiple sexual assaults from people she considered friends and partners, which included videos being publicly shared with no knowledge or consent. These experiences were extremely traumatic, and at times Kiki even felt responsible for what had happened. But as Kiki puts it, she decided to "refuse to let this be her demise". A counselor introduced her to the Safe Harbor Program at CV, where she lived with other survivors and support staff and developed skills to rebuild

her self-esteem, trust in others, and independence. Kiki fell in love with the program and started making incredible steps forward. The Safe Harbor staff were amazed by Kiki's ability to openly share and process her experiences, and the other residents were benefitting.

Last year Kiki was offered a Mentor position at Safe Harbor, and she couldn't say yes fast enough! "At that moment, I knew I was meant to grow up to facilitate my own groups for survivors. I want to become a social worker to ensure that anybody I cross paths with does not feel the crippling loneliness that I felt". In addition to being a mentor, Kiki is now a Human Services major in College pursuing her dream, and she is sharing her story across New York to inspire others. "I went from not having a voice to being the loudest in the room."



"Now 1 know that nothing is worth my freedom."





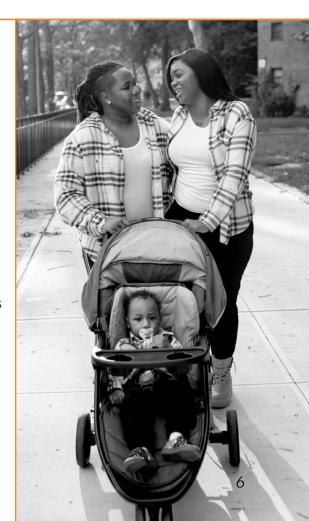
"I went from not having a voice to being the loudest in the room."

### Hazel and Krystal Build a Beautiful Family

When Hazel was facing time in jail as a teenager, she discovered CV's transformative mentoring programs, which help young adults remain out of the juvenile justice system. At first it was very difficult to trust her mentors. Hazel was closed off and determined to show that she was in charge. But over time Hazel blossomed and showed tremendous leadership potential, encouraging others to become mentees and participate in group sessions. She even persuaded her friend Krystal to join the group, explaining that she felt like her life was on the path she always wanted, and Krystal could have that too. Over time, Hazel and Krystal fell in love and had their son Hunter. They are engaged to be married and are showing Hunter that with unconditional love anything is possible.

"I want to give Hunter the love and support I didn't have when I was growing up. And if I'm incarcerated, who's going to help my wife take care of him? Now I know that nothing is worth my freedom."

Hazel and Krystal had a far too common experience with the justice system. Too many adults turned their backs on them when what they wanted most was love, belonging, and someone to believe in them. Thanks to finding a wonderful mentoring group and each other, they are thriving and excited to start their married life together as a family!





# "Because a child can never have too many people to love them."

In the coming year, WeFam hopes to create new families by certifying 20 foster homes.
Their goal is that <u>every</u> child has someone that cares.

# (We) are (Fam)ily: How the Westchester Therapeutic Foster Care Team is Making an Impact

The Westchester Therapeutic Foster Care (WeFam) Team is using their experience to put family above everything. And through their work of strengthening existing families and creating new ones, they have become a strong family themselves.

Ronald Dorsett is the Home Finder and Recruiter for WeFam, and like many other of his colleagues his passion and expertise comes from his own experiences. Ronald was in and out of the foster care system growing up, and despite its challenges he cherishes time he spent with different types of families. "There was a lot of growing and adjusting, but I fell in love with the idea of someone else being your parent when you don't have a biological parent at that time. It led me to appreciate having two families and learning that you don't have to be blood to be family."

The WeFam team consider themselves a family too. Just like the families they are creating, they value safety, trust, patience, strength, and healing. Kaylene Quinones, Director of Therapeutic Peer Led Services, says that in difficult moments, she gives the same advice to her team as she does to the families they serve. "Stick with it, use the patience, faith, and self-care that you have learned about through all your training."

The long-term goal at WeFam is to create generation impact for young people and families, and that starts right at home. As Senior Director Andrea DaCosta said at the most recent foster parent graduation, "You have to fill your cup to pour into others, so start there!".



Today, Ronald gets to handpick foster parents and help train them to be consistent and positive adult role models. Having grown up in and out of the foster care system, Ronald uses his own experience to make informed decisions on which homes and families would make a good fit.

Hear more about Ronald's journey in our most recent podcast.



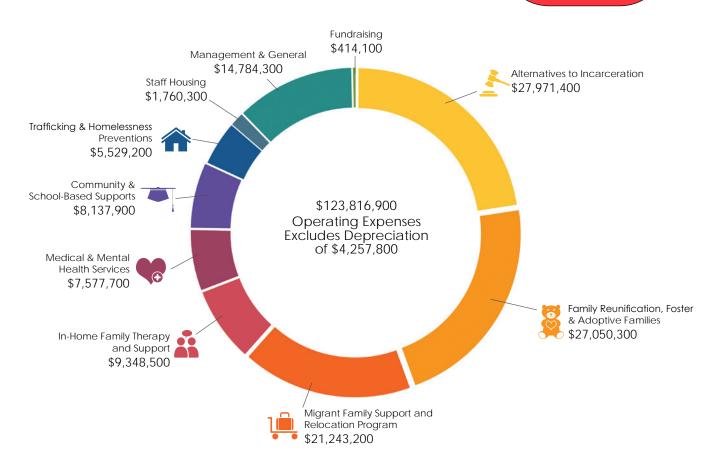
### The Children's Village Financial Highlights - Fiscal Year 2023

**Excerpts from Unaudited Financials** 

Operating Expenses: Programs Management & General **Fundraising** 

> \$123,816,900 **Total Operating Expenses** Depreciation & Amortization \$4,257,800

\$108,618,500 14,784,300 414,100 to programs



| \$117,229,300 |
|---------------|
| 3,544,500     |
| 284,600       |
| 1,622,300     |
| 200,000       |
| 218,900       |
| 1,160,600     |
| 1,774,700     |
| 242,800       |
|               |

Total Operating Revenue \$126,277,700

#### Endowment

As of 6/30/2022, The Children's Village endowment was valued at \$13,084,667.

- 1) The Consolidated Audited Financial Statements will be
- available in January 2023. 2) The IRS Form 990 will be available through a link on our website in May 2023.

### 2022/2023 Outcomes



**129 young people** found permanent housing and learn independent living skills.



**2,998 students** in over 30 NYC public schools received services including individual and group counseling, crisis services, afterschool programing, and educational support.



**90% of young people** in our child and family treatment programs prevented hospitalization.



**237 families** received support in their homes, avoiding separation.



**94% of mentees** in our transformative mentoring programs avoided re-arrest.



**217 young people** achieved permanency through foster care or adoption.



Migrant Family Support and Relocation Program

As an unprecedented number of migrant families have come to NYC, CV is making strong efforts to connect with them and help them take their next steps on what we believe is an unfinished journey. So far we have provided:

- 987 workshops
- 227 legal consultations
- 47 asylum applications files
- 37 work permits received
- 25 families relocated to their destinations in other states.

Learn more about their amazing work and how they are bringing dignity and hope to families in need.



### Donors

Your Support Is Changing Lives

Listed here are friends who supported our work during the past fiscal year (July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023).

If we inadvertently omitted your name or made an error, please bring it to our attention at JBaucom@childrensvillage.org.

#### \$500,000 and Up

Conrad N. Hilton Foundation Lone Pine Foundation

### \$100,000 to \$499,999

The Ira W. DeCamp Foundation
Garden of Dreams Foundation
Charles and Marjorie Holloway
Foundation, Inc.
Macquarie Group Foundation
Limited
The Pinkerton Foundation
Dave Thomas Foundation for
Adoption

### \$50,000 to \$99,999

Judith Biggs
Elias Foundation
Marilyn Ezzes
French-American Aid for Children
The Charles A. Frueauff Foundation
The Hagedorn Fund
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#### \$25,000 to \$49,000

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#### \$10,000 to \$24,999

Louis and Anne Abrons Foundation Adidas Alliant Insurance Services, Inc. Ambac Financial Group, Inc. E. Sherrell Andrews and Rob Kuhbach Congregation Emanu-el D. P. Wolff, Inc. Cheryl Cohen Effron and Blair Effron **Quinn Emanuel Foundation Enterprise Fleet Management EULAV Asset Management** Goldman Sachs and Co. Michael Goller Donald and Frances Herdrich JKS Family Foundation Trust Charles S. Keene Foundation Lincoln IT Jamie and Georgie Marley The Page and Otto Marx, Jr. Foundation Mayer Brown LLP Milbank LLP William Morgan and Joanna Horowitz-Morgan Yoko Ono Lennon Armand and Janice Paganelli Yvonne Pollack Rite Aid Foundation KidCents Rebecca Samberg Sunil and Sharmila Sani **Sharon Saunders** David and Martha Schwartz Peter and Linda Weiller Workforce Professional Training Institute (WPTI)

#### \$5,000 to \$9,999

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Kathryn O'Neal-Dunham and Gib Dunham President Contracting Sukh Saluja H. Axel and Sara Lee Schupf Amy Secunda Solvere Health Corporation Sabin and Beverley Streeter Barbara Stutz Valley Bank **Eddie Varmon** Bruce and Margie Warwick Whitsons Culinary Group

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Timko and Moses LLP

United Way of New York City John and Laura Viscovich



Nico, a resident on CV's Dobbs Ferry campus, is making a mark with his pickle business!

In our teaching kitchen, where young people get paid work experience and the skills and certifications they need to work in a restaurant, Nico learned how to create, jar, and sell these delicious snacks. At our 2023 summer barbeque staff and youth were lined up early and he sold out within an hour!

Westchester Arts Council
Susan Wildman Foundation
Michael and Abby Wolk

ZNO Community Service Fund, Inc.

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Amelia Coccaro Michael Coffey David and Lily Collins

Ludovica Corte Audrey S Coughlan

Dave and Sarah Cresci Miniard Culpepper

Kevin Dardzinski Nichola Davis

Peter Delfyett Barbara Delfyett Hester

Geralyn Della Cava Louis DePanfilis

Margo DeSantis Courtney DiMiero Dwayne Dixon

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Frank Thoelen
Benjamin Thorn
Rod Tierney
Stephen Tilly
Frank Titus
Stephanie Tobin

United Way of New Jersey Shane and Anna Urbas



### The Eliza

The Eliza will bring beautiful apartments, 22,000 square feet for the New York Public Library, a Community Center that includes a STEM Center, rooftop gardens, a sensory room, performance space and a teaching kitchen to the residents of Inwood. Opening January 2024!

Susan Vairo

George Elizabetht Vales

Saleen Velazquez

Jessie Velez

Alan R Viani

Suneal Vishnupad

Alan and Susan Weisenberg

Jack Weiss

David P. Wilcox

Lynn Wilcox

Curtis and Lotte

Alex Wolin

Frank and Julia Yodice

Diane Zambardi

<u>Up to \$99</u>

Safaque Afzal

Iris Ambert

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Noah Arslan

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Gary Fioretti

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Raissa Fitzgerald

**Emily Forster** 



### The Sankofa Experience

In August 2023, CV youth travelled to Ghana for a once in a lifetime trip to engage in meaningful experiential learning about African civilizations, pre and post transatlantic slave trade, Ghanaian leaders, trade industry, the arts, and the concept of pan-Africanism. Our youth were immersed in the Ghanaian culture, rituals, and heritage while traveling to Accra, Elmina, Cape Coast, and Kumasi.

Leigh Frecker
Nancy Freistein
Michael Friedman
Johanna Fuller
Talianna Furman
Christina Gamota
Gabrielle Gifford
Kimberly Gifford
Cathy Giorgi
Felicia Goodman

Jill Greenspun and Pablo

Rodriguez

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Rena Zimmerman

Justin Zukor

### Volunteers & In-Kind Donors Gifts from the heart

### Volunteer Groups

Al's Angels

Ambac Financial Group, Inc.

Central Baptist Church

Cub Scout Pack 5

Deloitte

Dobbs Ferry PBA and Youth Services

Council

Dobbs Ferry Police Department

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The Children's Village Legacy Society was formed to honor the many friends who have made a lasting commitment to children and families by remembering The Children's Village in their estate plans or purchasing a CV Charitable Gift Annuity. Thank you!

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For more information on the Legacy Society or CV's charitable gift annuity, please call Jamila Baucom at 914-693-0600 extension 1413 or email JBaucom@childrensvillage.org.

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### Our Mission

The Children's Village is committed to the wellbeing of children, teens, and families by advocating for, strengthening and reuniting families, building community partnerships, creating innovative programs, and connecting people to resources that focus on equity, basic needs, and human rights.

