

"As a young kid...I was taken in by somebody who wasn't my mother! Emma Culpepper gave me guidance, love, and support. She was big on discipline, and big on respect. Both values...have carried me, and prepared me, for life's obstacles."

Dante Culpepper inspires the young people at the Annual WAY Dinner.

From the Village Shares Stories and Voices of the CV Community



We're thrilled to share that *From the Village*, The Children's Village's new podcast, launched on September 19th. Hosted by Ely De La Cruz, CV's Director of Quality Improvement, this engaging and heartfelt series highlights the voices, stories, and programs that shape our vibrant community.

With new episodes released, season 1 will run every other Thursday through the end of October. *From the Village* is available wherever you get your podcasts — including [Spotify](#) and [YouTube](#). Each

episode features a casual yet informative tone, blending interviews with youth, families, and CV staff, along with dynamic panel discussions, personal audio diaries, and fun, on-trend icebreakers. The podcast has been promoted across our social platforms, including YouTube, Instagram, Facebook, and TikTok, ensuring it reaches listeners wherever they are.

The first episode featured a compelling start. In Episode One, CV youth recounted their eye-opening spring break trip to Montserrat, sharing what they

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2026 Marks 175 Years of Serving Children and Families

In 2026, The Children’s Village will observe its 175th anniversary — a milestone that speaks to generations of commitment, innovation, and care for children and families in New York with the most complex set of challenges.



Founded in **1851** as the New York Juvenile Asylum and located on Bank Street in New York City, the organization began as a partnership between state leaders and concerned citizens determined to address the crisis of juvenile crime, homeless and runaway children on the city’s streets.



The Asylum was integrated in **1861**, and the institution adapted to waves of immigration, serving children from Northern, Southern, and Eastern Europe.



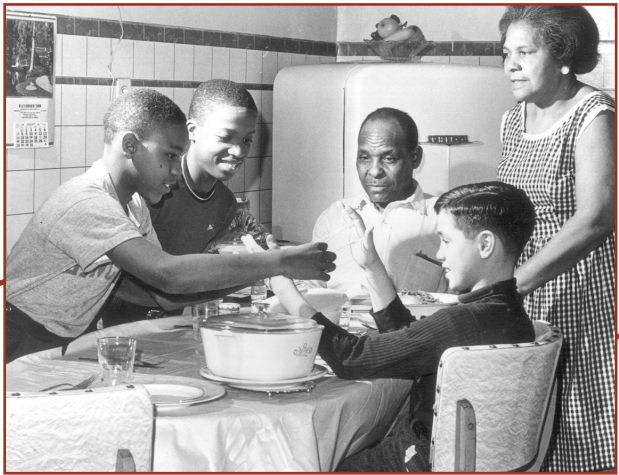
In **1901**, the Asylum’s Board of Directors sold its property in NYC and purchased a 277-acre farm in [Dobbs Ferry, New York](#), in [Westchester County](#). The new location was intended to provide a homelike environment.



To support children unable to return to their biological families, a Foster Homes department was established. CV began to offer Adoption Services in **1970**.



In **1958**, the term “Residential Treatment” was coined by CV. Our clinical care model made CV a leader in child welfare, offering psychiatric care in addition to education and vocational training. Today treatment remains the focus on supporting children’s emotional and behavioral needs and helping them create a new family.



Beginning in the **1950’s**, the method of care changed, modeled on family life, with cottages and married couples or matrons living in cottages with children. To reflect this new era, the name was changed to **The Children’s Village**.



From those early days providing shelter, education, and apprenticeships, the vision was clear: to offer young people hope, opportunity, and a chance at a better life.



Later innovations included the nation’s first long-term aftercare program for young people, the Working Alongside Youth (WAY) program started in **1984**.



In the **2000’s**, CV expanded services focusing on community investment supporting families by building affordable homes and providing in-community support services, mentoring programs, and advocacy that helped shape the landmark Family First Prevention Services Act of 2018.

Most recently, CV has expanded its impact through partnerships, supporting families and creating multi-use developments with affordable homes. We are focused on ensuring families live in vibrant, diverse communities that offer the same opportunities and quality of life we would want for ourselves.



As we celebrate **175 years**, we honor the countless lives transformed and look forward to the future—with the same spirit of compassion and innovation that has defined The Children’s Village since 1851. Stay tuned for more exciting updates, stories of alumni, events, and opportunities to engage with us as we mark our 175-year history.

Fueling First-Day Confidence

In September, our youth started back to school and they were ready with backpacks filled with new school supplies. Thanks to our donors, partners, and volunteers, more than 2,000 students and families received fully stocked backpacks, ensuring they started the year prepared and confident.

A huge thank you to the organizations and volunteers who helped collect, sort, and deliver thousands of supplies. Your support makes brighter beginnings possible for every student.

A special thank you to:

- Ashford Dental in Dobbs Ferry
- Chick Fil A Scarsdale
- Davis Polk
- Hair Dimension Salon
- Helping Hands Rye
- Mastercard
- JP McHale Pest Management LLC, an Anticimex company
- Morgan Stanley
- Robin Chaus X Elanor Brand
- Temple Emanu-El
- West Monroe

Your continued support helps us pave the way for brighter futures. Together, we made sure our students started the school year prepared to succeed.



The WAY Dinner Gets a Visit from the Minnesota Vikings

This fall, The Children's Village celebrated 41 years of the WAY Program, honoring the incredible youth who are the heart of our community. WAY Home supports young people in foster care—both those preparing to leave CV and those already navigating life in the community.

We kicked off the evening with an incredible lineup starting with our President and CEO, Jeremy Kohomban, who welcomed our young people and guests.

We were thrilled to be joined by Daunte Culpepper, former

NFL quarterback for the Minnesota Vikings, Miami Dolphins, Oakland Raiders, and Detroit Lions.

Beyond his legendary career, Daunte's journey from foster care to the football field inspired our youth to dream big and keep pushing forward.

He shared his incredible story of being adopted just a day after birth and growing up as one of more than 15 children, with adoptive parents who always encouraged him to pursue whatever he dreamed of becoming.



Mr. Morrison, WAY participant, and Dante Culpepper (on right) looking sharp.

We'd like to express our heartfelt thanks to our incredible staff, our inspiring guest speakers—especially Commissioner Jess Danhauser, of New York City Administration for Children's Service and the 120 young people who came together to celebrate themselves and their peers.

It was a magical night with presentations, awards, prizes, dinner, and dancing. Here's to 41 years of cheering them on—and to every step of the journey still to come.



WAY participant giving a speech to his peers.

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From the Village cont.

learned about history, discussing their favorite foods, culture, and themselves.

During our second episode, we explored healthy relationships and decision-making through Teen Choice, a CV program sparking meaningful conversations among young people.

Episode three highlighted WAY Home, a vital initiative supporting young adults

transitioning from foster care into independent adulthood.

If you missed them, all released episodes can be found on [Spotify](#) and [YouTube](#).

Upcoming episodes will explore themes that resonate deeply with our audience, emphasizing support, community empowerment, and inspiring stories from our staff, youth, and families. Along the way, we'll share unforgettable

and impactful moments that capture the heart and spirit of this special community.

These stories were made possible by your generous support. Don't forget to check out the episodes of *From the Village*, and we look forward to you joining us for future episodes.



The Countdown to Thanksgiving is on ...

Help us ensure every family has a celebration this season!

Visit www.childrensvillage.org/turkeydrive and donate today or contact Leydi Rodriguez, Director of Community Engagement, at lrodriguez@childrensvillage.org or (914) 693-0600 Ext.4992.

A Look Back at Summer!

With school in session, and the start of the Holiday Season before us, let's look back at all the fun that our young people had this summer.

From the excitement of graduation to the glamour of prom, the older youth celebrated the milestones that mark the beginning of their lives as adults. But our kids also had the chance to be kids, biking, fishing, and enjoying fun and games (and a petting zoo) at the Agency BBQ. For many of our kids, this is the first time they have ever caught a fish, pet a goat, or played a carnival game. With your generosity, we have provided them with experiences they will remember forever.



CV staff and kids try their luck at the tire toss game.



Looking his best, Anteaushannon poses at the GSA prom.



Micah meets an alpaca for the very first time.



Everyone loves a baby goat.



Biking trip on the West Side of Manhattan.



We are so proud of the class of 2025!



First time fishermen on a pier.



Nico's Pickles always sell out!

Healing Through Art

Safe Harbor, our initiative that serves youth targeted by human traffickers (who use force, fraud, or coercion to exploit individuals into sex work or forced labor), recently held its 2nd Annual Art Gallery exhibition recently held its 2nd Annual Art Gallery exhibition, highlighting the powerful work of six artists in the program, each using their creativity to raise awareness about gender-based violence.

This year's show featured a diverse collection of multimedia artwork and spoken word performances. More than just an art exhibit, the gallery served as a platform for survivors to reclaim their stories, transforming personal pain into powerful expressions of healing. The artists emphasized that they are more than their histories, and the experience of art taught them valuable coping skills.

In addition to sharing their art, the event offered the artists an entrepreneurial opportunity. Each was invited to set the value of their own pieces and engage directly with attendees. Together, the artists raised over \$2,000, with 100% of the proceeds going to them directly.

Safe Harbor's annual gallery continues to be a space of empowerment, creativity, and connection—where art becomes a voice for change.



The Village in the News: Recent Media Coverage about CV

- [State funding will support creation of The Children's Village mixed-use development with affordable homes project in downtown Peekskill](#) – News 12, September 21, 2025
- [\\$1M To Go Towards Housing For Young Adults Aging Out of Foster Care In Peekskill](#) – Peekskill Daily Voice, September 19, 2025
- [Long vacant Peekskill building to be transformed into young adult housing](#)– Mid Hudson News, September 19, 2025
- [Safe Harbor Services, The Children's Village](#), BronxNet Open, September 15, 2025
- [Opinion: NY has a student absentee crisis in our schools](#), Poughkeepsie Journal, September 4, 2025



Don't sleep on the Holidays!

This December we will be kicking off the Make A Child Smile Gift Drive and we need your help to bring the joy and cheer to the Village. Get involved today!

Contact Toni-Ann Campbell at tocampbell@childrensvillage.org or at (332) 373-4891.